



# Tech Hub News

Helping Adults Thrive in a Changing World

## What's new in FY20?

### New RI Adult Ed Website!

You can access the new website at [www.riadulted.org](http://www.riadulted.org). The URL has not changed, but the site has moved from Google Sites to Word Press to accommodate more functionality as we continue to expand the type of resources on this site including an up-coming student-facing portal. For adult educators, we've re-vamped our resources, included a new interactive events calendar and made it easier than ever to find what you need. It's a work in progress and we welcome your ideas!

This website will host professional development information and resources for RI adult education including information from the RI Tech Hub and the new RI Adult Ed PD housed at the CCRI, Providence Campus. Here's a sneak peek at the home page:



### Fall 2019 Tech Hub PD Events

All trainings are free. To read more about the events and register to attend, go to [www.riadulted.org](http://www.riadulted.org).

Registration links are in the PD calendar. **Locations to be confirmed.**

**Northstar Proctor Training:** October 25th, 10 am-12 pm

**Chromebook Training:** October 25th or November 22nd, 1-3 pm

**Learning Pathways Program - Save the date: November 1, 2019:** Orientation for all Learning Pathways Online Courses. 10 am-12 pm

#### Nov 1st - 22nd

We will offer 2 Learning Pathway courses concurrently:

- Digital Tools for Communication and Collaboration
- Getting Started with Blended Learning Part 1: Google Classroom

#### Nov 22nd - Dec 13th

We will offer 2 Learning Pathway courses concurrently:

- Cloud Computing
- Getting Started with Blended Learning Part 2: Presentation and Sharing Platforms

See page 2 for more details.

## What's Inside?

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# Learning Pathways FY20

## Personalize your Learning Journey

In the spring of 2019, the Tech Hub launched the Learning Pathways Program. Thirteen practitioners participated and created some fantastic projects that demonstrate how technology can be integrated in their practice while teaching learners valuable digital literacy skills. We will share some of these projects on our new website in the upcoming months!

This year, the Tech Hub Learning Pathways program has been slightly redesigned to offer more learning options and flexibility in the way educators can access learning modules. The program, which will begin in November 2019, will be available on the PD website for those who would like to study independently or within a cohort at their program. The program will also be offered as a series of online courses facilitated by a practitioner Technology Coach.

### Independent Study

By November 1st, Learning Pathway modules will be available for independent study. If you choose to work independently, consider creating a learning circle and working through the online learning resources in-person with colleagues at your organization. Educators engaged in independent study are invited to attend the in-person workshops; however, completion of the online learning is a prerequisite to attending the in-person training. Micro-credentials will be awarded upon implementation and documentation of a final project.

### Facilitated Learning with a Technology Coach

In this blended learning format, educators will work through selected modules as part of an online course facilitated by one of the RI Tech Coaches. The modules provide online learning resources, discussions forums and in-person training workshops. Technology Coaches will be available to offer support and one-on-one mentoring. Each module of the Learning Pathways program includes a plan for classroom implementation and peer feedback. All participants have the opportunity to earn a micro-credential upon implementation and documentation of a final project. Time to complete each course varies, but we estimate about 15 hours including a 2-hour in-person orientation, a 2-hour in-person workshop, completion of online learning, planning time, classroom implementation, reflection and submission of documents to earn a micro-credential.

You can find a schedule and descriptions of the facilitated course offerings [HERE](#). For more information, contact Sherry Lehane at [slehane@provlib.org](mailto:slehane@provlib.org).

### Google Applied Digital Skills Curriculum

*Grow with Google* is a fairly new initiative of this technology giant. The goal of this project is to get free training resources into the hands of educators, learners, businesses and community organizations such as libraries. Google's *Applied Digital Skills Curriculum* is part of this project. This curriculum bundles video-based mini-lessons into themes that can be used for teaching and learning how to use Google tools within a given context. The themes are designed to prepare learners for jobs that require basic digital skills, such as email, spreadsheets and cloud computing. Lesson plans for teachers are available as well.

The strength of this resource is that the lessons provide practice and immediate application. Teachers can set up classes and add a series of lessons. There is also the option of earning a certificate as you complete the lessons. You can access through the curriculum at <https://applieddigitalskills.withgoogle.com/s/en/home>.

The Tech Hub Learning Pathways modules have used some of the Applied Skills curricula as options for learning resources. In addition, we are working with the RIAE PD Center and COABE to bring a customized training of this curriculum to RI adult ed. in the spring of 2020.

## Meet the Tech Hub Coaches

We are pleased to introduce the practitioner Tech Coaches that will be available for support and mentoring this year. Each of the coaches has been doing fantastic, creative work around technology use and integration. If you'd like an appointment with a Tech Coach, contact Sherry Lehane at slehane@provlb.org.

**Benjamin Miller**, a Tennessee transplant, has worked in adult education since 2012 and is the Bridge to Careers program coordinator at Progreso Latino. He has been an early adopter in technology in the field presenting at the 2017 annual conference, serving as a Technology Coach with the Tech Hub, and instructing technology classes on Northstar and office technology. Outside the office, he enjoys cooking, drawing, craft beer, and spending time with his 6 nieces and nephews. **Fun facts:** He lived in South Korea for more than four years. He has only made three adult learners cry while using technology, but is always looking for more!

**Eveyn Robertson** My happy place sits atop a mountain in Northern Arizona. I am on Cathedral Rock in Sedona, overlooking the red rock canyons that surround me. The shadow cast by the sun changes the view as clouds stream overhead. The most beautiful drive I have ever taken is Rt. 89A from Flagstaff to Sedona. I do love the scrub pine of Prescott National Forest in Cottonwood, AZ. If you were to enter my classroom, you would notice how much I love cacti, which are primarily found in Southern Arizona. The Phoenix Botanical Garden rivals the beauty of the North. I have an affinity for the Native cultures found in the American Southwest. The Heard Museum of Phoenix holds the most amazing collection of Native Art. No, I am not a tour guide, however, I do believe I would make an excellent one! I communicate this to you to express my love for nature and my love for diverse cultures. I am in the field of education to experience cultural diversity, even when I am miles away from my most happy place- 2,546 miles to be exact! I find happiness in nature and seek to communicate the beauty of our world to the students I work with. From the Saguaro in the Sonoran Desert, to the giant trees growing out of the Cambodian Temple of Ta Prohm- not excluding everything in between, I wish for my students to see the beauty of nature and culture. Both nature and culture are intertwined. It is of special importance for me to bring beauty to the lives of my students through cultural study, especially when my pupils have been largely deprived of beauty their whole lives.

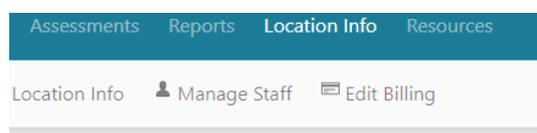
**Desiree Shelton** My name is Desiree Shelton. I am the GED instructor at the Comprehensive Community Action Program (CCAP) at the Pawtucket Youth Center. I graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a BA in philosophy in 2013. Ever since, I have been on a journey of learning through teaching. With each new class, each new student, and from my own children I am presented with the opportunity to bang my head against the wall...questioning...a philosopher's dream. "The wise man is one who knows what he does not know." This quote speaks to me because I believe in the power of 'growth mindset'. Only once I can acknowledge my weaknesses, then I can start to make a plan to improve myself. So, I spend lots of time questioning myself and others in an attempt to learn about what it is we do not know and what we can do to improve. Whether I am using a direct instruction method, a flipped model, or an inquiry based model, the most important thing I can do as an instructor/philosopher is to promote that growth mindset. I aim to empower my students with the skills of confidence and being able to see every task or outcome, whether negative or positive, as a chance to grow and learn. "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." – Helen Keller. Let's learn together!.

**Myrta Ventura** was raised in Texas and moved to Rhode Island to attend Brown University as an undergrad, and she recently completed her Master of Arts in Educational Technology online at Michigan State University in 2018. Ms. Ventura comes from a family of migrant farm workers that respects education as a concrete path for enhanced life opportunities. Because of her own experiences, she has a personal mission to serve adults striving to continue their education to enhance their opportunities for positive impact on their families and communities. She is deeply committed to using advances in technology to make education accessible and engaging for as many students as possible. Since 2007, Myrta has worked with local non-profits as an educator in the adult education field and, recently, she has taught as a technology integration instructor for adult education teachers.

## News from Northstar



Northstar has 2 exciting updates. The first is their new curricula that aligns with the Northstar digital literacy standards. To date, a series of lessons are available for computer basics, Internet and MS Word. The curricula includes instructional materials and handouts for learners. You can access the curricula under the RESOURCES tab in the admin portal: [admin.digitalliteracyassessment.org](http://admin.digitalliteracyassessment.org).



The second update is badges –they're back! Information has been posted to the AE All Staff Group.

### Update your Site Information

Please keep your Northstar organization account up-to-date by adding and deleting teachers, proctors, and administrative staff. You can do this by logging into the admin site: [admin.digitalliteracyassessment.org](http://admin.digitalliteracyassessment.org). Go to the tab: Location Info > Manage Staff. This will ensure you can pull accurate reports for student achievements.

### RIDE Requirements

All adult ed staff must pass six modules:

- Basic Computer
- Internet Basics
- Using Email
- MS Word

Information Literacy and one other module that is relevant to their work context.

Fifteen percent of enrolled students must pass Basic Computers, Internet Basics and Using Email. A passing score for all modules is 85%.

RIDE requirements for adult education providers is posted on [www.riadulted.org](http://www.riadulted.org).

## Mobile Learning Update

Thanks to all who helped learners access the XPrize/Barbara Bush Foundation adult literacy mobile apps this spring and summer. We are still waiting for the official results, however, Team WorldEd for which RI was a member along with 5 other states, led for most of the competition. It was a great experience partnering with the RI Office of Innovation, RI Office of Post secondary Education, RI Office of Library and Information Services, RIDE and of course your programs! If the apps were downloaded before August 31, 2019, they are free until August 31, 2020. You can still access the apps as follows:

**Cell-Ed** : An app for ESOL learners. A special offer for Team WorldEd members ends mid-October. Contact Tech Hub staff for detailed pricing options.

**Codex**: An app for emerging readers. This is a FREE app to everyone – always!

**Learning Upgrade** (available to RI as part of Team WorldEd): Special introductory pricing for orders received by December 31, 2019 \$30 per student for a Learning Upgrade Annual License. You can request a quote at:

<https://web.learningupgrade.com/quote-request> or send an email to Drew: [drew@learningupgrade.com](mailto:drew@learningupgrade.com) to request a quote. **Be sure to mention IDEAL or WorldEd in the request.**

**Amrita**: This app is for grade reading levels 3 - 8. We are waiting to hear back on pricing.

We welcome hearing about your experiences in using mobile apps with adult learners. Feedback so far has included the need for quite a bit of support initially, some data limitations with learners' phones and that more learners than anticipated have Apple phones. We look forward to sharing even more great news with you this fall as the team winners are announced!

## Tech Tool In the Spotlight

By Sherry Lehane

### What is a Hyperdoc?

Hyperdocs are a Google Doc that have a very intentional use and design: to inspire students to be creative, learn collaboratively and think critically. Essentially, a hyperdoc is a learning plan designed to use technology for learning using a sound pedagogical approach.

I like them because they help me to organize learning resources and allow students to do their work using one main document. You can assign them in your Google classroom, put them on a website, or simply share the link to the document. Because they include hyperlinks to learning resources, it is best if they are accessed online.

Check out this website that offers templates, examples of how teachers have used Hyperdocs and a helpful explanation about what hyperdocs are and are not: <https://hyperdocs.co/index.php>

### Meet Joan Ford the Program Director of Adult Education Professional Development

The position, funded by the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) is housed at the CCRI Providence Campus and serves the statewide adult education system. Joan is passionate about adult education work and knows that achieving educational milestones such as a high school equivalency, a certificate, a two-year degree, or stronger English skills, results in gains in self-confidence, job opportunities, and positive personal changes that impact families.

In addition to teaching for more than ten years in adult education programs in Massachusetts, Joan has worked at Bristol Community College for the System for Adult Basic Education Support (SABES). She has worked for World Education on School-to-Work curriculum and assessments for secondary education, and at Rhode Island College for the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development. Whether her role has been as an administrator, teacher, or trainer, she has focused on increasing students' ability to achieve their goals.

Feel free to contact Joan at [jaford2@ccri.edu](mailto:jaford2@ccri.edu).

## Earn a Micro-Credential

Adult Educators are lifelong learners! That's why so many of you have taken advantage of our free PD opportunities through the Tech Hub. When you participate in our Learning Pathways program, we want you to be able to track your learning and see proof of your results. The Tech Hub has partnered with ForAllSystems to allow you to do just that.

We will be introducing our new digital badging system, which will allow you to see all of our PD options, get resources, track your progress, and keep evidence of your work. If you join one of our Learning Pathway trainings this fall, you will be able to earn a badge on the new Platform by December 2019. For those who are not able to join the trainings, the platform will be available to everyone including self-paced learning options within a few months, so stay tuned!

## Support Requests

### For PD requests:

Email: Sherry Lehane at [slehane@provlb.org](mailto:slehane@provlb.org).

### For all other technology support

including help with Chromebooks, setting up teacher and students for a RIadulted account, email [support@riadulted.org](mailto:support@riadulted.org).

## Stay Connected

Don't forget to join the All Staff Adult Ed Group. This is our main medium for communicating to the field in a timely manner. We will be sending bi-monthly announcements of learning opportunities and resources as well as time-sensitive notifications. Visit [www.riadulted.org](http://www.riadulted.org) >Connect for more information on how to join.

## Questions or Comments?

Contact us:

Sherry Lehane at [slehane@provlb.org](mailto:slehane@provlb.org)

Cate Burlington at [cburlington@provlb.org](mailto:cburlington@provlb.org)