



Tech Hub News

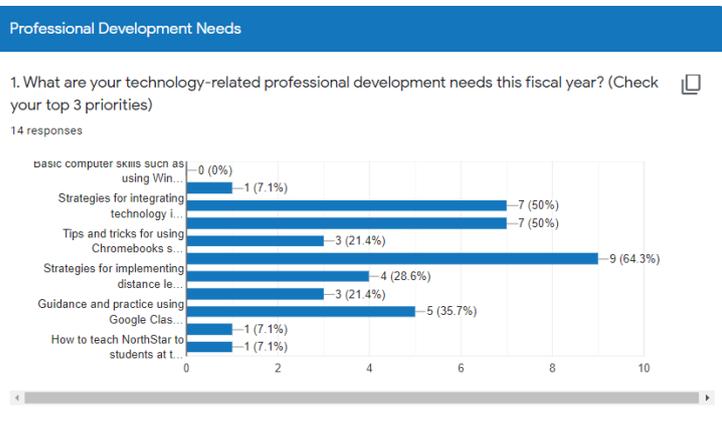
Helping Adults Thrive in a Changing World

Tech PD Needs and Interest Survey Results

In December 2019, we sent out a Technology PD Needs and Interests Survey to all RIDE funded adult education organizations. The top three priorities for technology PD are:

- strategies for implemented blended learning
- strategies for integrating technology
- guidance for teaching digital literacy skills to students.

Sherry Lehane and the Tech Hub team is scheduling one-on-one meetings with programs to discuss customized in-house PD, assistance with Chromebooks and purchasing devices. Click [here](#) to schedule an in-person or virtual meeting.



All trainings offered by the Tech Hub are free. To read more about upcoming events and register to attend, go to www.riadulted.org PD calendar.

Upcoming Tech Hub PD Events

New! Tech Talk with Teachers

The Tech Hub will begin a series of monthly meetups where adult educators are invited to come with questions, suggestions or simply just to listen. You can attend in-person or virtually. Each month, we'll have a topic planned and we'll invite practitioners to share how they are using technology related to that topic. These meetings will be unconference style, which means anyone is welcome to bring additional topics for discussion.

February Tech Talk: Mobile Learning

Our first meetup will be on February 20th from 2-4 pm. The topic will be mobile learning. We have invited Desiree Shelton and Evelyn Robertson to talk about how they integrate cell phones into their instruction. If your students use their phones or tablets to learn or access resources, please join us and share! We will be meeting at the Genesis Center, 620 Potters Ave, Providence. You can sign up [here](#) to attend.

March Tech Talk: Teaching Digital Skills to Learners

Date and Location TBD

April Tech Talk: Topic TBD

May Tech Talk: Topic TBD

May 8, 2020: Rhode Island's Annual Adult Education Conference sponsored by the RI Adult Ed PD Center at CCRI.

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A Flipped Approach to Tech PD

Personalize Your Learning Journey

In the fall of 2019, the Tech Hub's Learning Pathways program used a flipped instructional approach. Participants were given learning resources to review before attending an in-person workshop. The feedback received was that the flipped approach to learning allowed participants optimal use of face-to-face time with the Tech Hub trainers to review the learning resources and digest material in preparation for classroom planning.

This winter and spring, the Tech Hub will offer the Learning Pathways program with a self-study option. You can access Learning Pathways modules at www.riadulted.org. Simply select the Pathway and the module/s that best meets your needs. The time commitment for each module is about 2-3 hours. Everyone can access these resources at any time. For 2020, we have added the option of bringing in-person workshops and coaching to your organization upon request. The in-person training will support teachers in preparing to implement what they have learned from the self-study Learning Pathway modules.

If you'd like to book an appointment to plan for in-house training, choose a date on **this calendar** or contact Sherry Lehane at slehane@provlib.org, 401455.8016.

Flipping with Learning Circles

One way organizations can support staff is by giving them time to work through the online resources of the Learning Pathways modules together, in-person. This is the Learning Circle model first introduced by Peer 2 Peer University (www.p2pu.org) in 2015. The premise is that participants support one another as they share ideas on what they're learning from the online content, practice using the tools, and discuss how they can apply learning to their work context.

We have seen a lot of success in using this model for professional development, and it can be used for students as well. Learning Circles typically meet weekly for 1-2 hours to complete the online learning and engage in discussions and activities. If you'd like guidance on getting Learning Circles started, contact Sherry Lehane, slehane@provlib.org.

Rhode Island Adult Education Annual Conference - May 8, 2020

The Rhode Island Adult Education Conference Committee is proud to announce that this year's conference will be held on Friday, May 8, 2020 at the Community College of Rhode Island in Warwick. The conference typically brings together over 150 Rhode Island adult educators for a day of professional development and networking. In addition to fabulous food, the event will include workshops and a town hall meeting!

The Committee invites you to present at this year's conference. The deadline for proposals is February 3, 2020. We are seeking workshops on innovative work that is improving student outcomes from both local and regional adult education trainers and providers. All sessions are 90 minutes in length. We are also inviting exhibitors to showcase their latest products and services as well as apply to present a workshop.

Please let us know if you would like additional information. If your organization would like to have a table to share information about your program, please register using this **Exhibitor Link**. Registration to attend the conference will open later this spring. Contact Joan Ford for more information at jaford2@ccri.edu.

Google Boot Camp is Coming to Rhode Island

In collaboration with COABE (Coalition on Adult Basic Education), we are bringing a Google Boot Camp to this year's Annual Adult Ed Conference on May 8, 2020. This will be a 3-hour workshop facilitated by a Google trainer to introduce participants to Google's Applied Skills Curriculum. This curriculum is free and available at <https://applieddigitalskills.withgoogle.com/s/en/home>.

Registration for this training will be available when the conference registration opens in the spring. See the PD calendar for more details.

Teachers
get access to engaging, ready-to-use video lessons.

[Learn more](#)

Students
gain invaluable skills that prepare you for problem solving in a digital world.

[Learn more](#)



We Need Your Input on RIDE Policies!

This year, the Tech Hub team will make recommendations to RIDE on policies on:

- the use of technology in adult education
- blended and distance learning
- Northstar assessment requirements
- use of RIDE issued Chromebooks

We would like your input on policies and practices and will use a variety of tools including surveys and focus groups to gather information from the field. We will review existing policies and identify areas to be changed, updated, and created and consult with a variety of expert sources to identify best practices that can be applied. We plan to start this process in February so stay tuned!

Online Resources Worth Exploring!

CrowdEd Learning

<https://www.crowdedlearning.org/>: CrowdED Learning provides freely accessible learning tools that reduce barriers for adult learners' education and employment while promoting persistence and lifelong learning in the digital age. They also have a Digital Skills Library with resources for core digital hard skills in the areas of Computer Basics, Internet Use, Word Processing, and Email.

Breaking English News

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/>: Breaking English News offers leveled articles with audio options.

Ask RI.org

<https://www.askri.org/>: AskRI is designed to be a comprehensive reference resource for Rhode Island residents. Students, job seekers, librarians and educators, and the curious can all reach the information they need – with a librarian's help, by exploring their services, or through carefully curated links to other online resources.

The Change Agent

<https://changeagent.nelrc.org/>: Biannual magazine for adult educators and learners published by the New England Literacy Resource Center (NELRC) at World Education. The Change Agent provides relevant, student-written content. Audio versions of articles are searchable by level and help students practice reading fluency, pronunciation, and speaking and listening. Access cost is \$20 per teacher per year, less if you buy in bulk. Students log in for FREE using their teacher's log-in credentials.

RI PBS

<http://www.ripbs.org/education/>: PBS Learning Media offers free videos, lesson plans and a host of curated resources for teachers. Check out the link to KET's FastForward online courses for GED preparation (fee based). KET FastForward is available as a mobile app!

News from Northstar



Northstar continues to add very useful resources for teaching and learning to their website. Last fall, they released a curriculum for teaching digital skills to learners that aligns with the Northstar standards and assessments. The curriculum is complete with lesson plans, handouts and teaching resources. It can be found through your admin log in under **RESOURCES**.

In November 2019, Northstar released the **first student self-access module for computer basics**. The module is comprised of three parts with bite-sized chunks of instruction followed by interactive practice activities. This is the perfect solution for teaching computer basics to adult learners. Northstar will be rolling out more student-facing learning modules later this year.

For ESOL learners, the Tech Hub is working on slide presentations that align with Northstar standards and can be used for teacher-led instruction on basic computer and Internet skills. Once complete, they will be posted on www.riadulted.org.

Mobile Learning News

The XPRIZE Community Competition officially ended on August 31, 2019. The goal of the competition was to get the four finalist mobile apps into the hands of adults with low reading, math and English skills. There were many teams in the United States who participated in this competition. Rhode Island and about seven other states joined Team World Ed who won the Tier 1 competition!

If your learners downloaded any of the four apps: Learning UpGrade, Amrita Learning, Cell-Ed, or Codex, they have access to these apps until August 31, 2020. Codex, an app for emerging readers is free to everyone - always. You can support adult learners by checking in with them, offering support and getting feedback on what they are learning and what they like about the app.

Keeping the Momentum Going

Under the leadership of the EdTech Center at World Ed, we will keep the learning momentum going by providing resources and professional development to the field. The Tech Hub staff is participating in this mobile learning leadership program so we can share research, resources and practices for effective mobile integration with the field. The EdTech Center is currently creating a website to share resources.

What Does Technology Integration Look Like?

By Sherry Lehane

Take a moment to think about how you use technology. You might rely on email to correspond at work, MS Word or Google docs to write lesson plans and create materials for class, text to communicate with friends, etc. The goals of integrating technology in adult education are to teach our students how to use technology for personal and professional productivity and growth and provide opportunities for students to extend learning by accessing digital resources inside and outside the classroom.

If you are new to integrating technology in your classes, you can start by thinking of a few ways you use technology and begin to introduce tasks that require students to use technology as well. For example, you can share a piece of writing and show students how to comment on it using Microsoft Word or Google Docs. Or you can help students access email on their phones so they can communicate with you. These small tasks help learners use technology tools in authentic ways. To extend learning, you can use an online document or platform to house links for resources that students can access outside of class.

Susan Kelley Shares an Example

Click [here](#) to see an example from Susan Kelly and Amanda Hanley, who are both ESOL instructors at RIRAL. Last year, Susan and Amanda participated in the Tech Hub Learning Pathways program and began introducing their students to G-suite (Google) tools. Take a look at Susan's presentation for ideas on how to get students started using technology.

The skills students acquire in learning to use these technology applications are transferable to other applications and are important for academics and employment. In **this document**, Susan and Amanda summarize the skills that their students acquired throughout the semester.

There are many different ways to integrate technology and it's okay to start wherever you feel comfortable. Once you begin to introduce tasks that require technology, you can slowly add tools and strategies to your toolbox. As your skills and knowledge grows, you can share what you learn with students.

Blended learning extends learning and technology integration outside of the classroom. If you'd like to learn more about blended learning models, check out the modules in the Strategies for Blended Learning Pathway posted on www.riadulted.org website.

Support Requests

For PD requests:

Email: Sherry Lehane at slehane@provlib.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 >Connect for more information on how to join.

Questions or Comments?

Contact us:

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