



2020 Grant Recipient Presentations

Friday, October 23, 2020 9:00 – 11:00AM

9:00AM

Opening Remarks

Terry Witherell, Executive Director of First Literacy

9:10AM

Keynote Address

Beyond Content: Insights into BHCC's ELL Program Redesign

Dr. Pam Eddinger, President of Bunker Hill Community College

Dr. Eddinger is president of Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC), the largest of 15 community colleges in Massachusetts. Dr. Eddinger began her tenure at BHCC in 2013, and previously served as president of Moorpark College in Southern California from 2008. As part of a federal Title V grant for Asian and Pacific Islander Serving Institutions, BHCC recently revamped its entire ESL program (now ELL), based on research in the field and the BHCC community's own experience. Dr. Eddinger will share what they have learned through that process.

9:40AM

Getting Connected to Massachusetts through Historic Tourism

Sarah Poole and Meaghan Dutton-YMCA International Learning Center

The YMCA ILC established a summer program to look at Massachusetts' history 1620-1863 through classroom lessons, assessments, and field trips. We made comparisons to what was happening in other parts of the world at that time as well as how it can compare to our current times. Our field trips solidified the lessons and helped students to make connections to their community with trips to Plymouth Plantation, The Freedom Trail, Boston Tea Party Ships and Museum, Lexington Green, The African Meeting House, and the East Boston Immigrant Station.

9:50AM

ESOL Family Literacy

Danielle Mendola and Alicia Hsu- Brookline ESOL Program

This project engaged parent learners in weekly literacy workshops and close integration with the library, including a family/community literacy event. The project added a curricular component to increase families' understanding and utilization of the local library in addition to supporting parents' English language development, providing for print-rich home environments, and fostered cultural transmission in multigenerational homes.

10:00AM

Emerging Literacy and iPads

Laurie Millman - Center for New Americans

Center for New Americans serves an increasing number of refugees

and migrants who are pre-literate because they have had no training in their home countries. Research shows that iPads are a very effective tool in teaching literacy to students who have no reading or writing experience because they are not unlike students' phones. Center for New Americans developed a curriculum using the iPad for pre-literate students and to share curriculum and best practices with other teachers, thus building organizational capacity.

10:10AM

Hip to SMS: Helping Immigrant Parents to be Social Media Savvy

Dr. Kevin O'Connor - Framingham Adult ELS Plus

We developed and implemented a program-wide curricular initiative that helped immigrant parents learn how to guide themselves and their children through the challenges of today's social media environment. There are many extant resources that aim to inform parents on digital citizenship and raising digital natives. However, they are written for mainstream audiences, and assume higher levels of cultural and linguistic proficiency than our adult ESL learners possess. We assembled a curriculum writing team to make sheltered materials to be piloted by teachers in Framingham Adult ESL Plus classes, then revised and shared with others as well.

10:20AM

Money Talks and Your Voice Matters

Alexandra Weber and Mary Blunt - The International Institute of New England Boston

This program strengthened the impact of existing skills training and employment programming by providing refugees and immigrants with English-language learning focused, practical financial education and tools to maximize their financial health as they work toward career and educational goals.

10:30AM

College Para Ti y Para Mi!

Johannah Malone and Caitlin Shalvey - Mujeres Unidas Avanzando

This class focused on the college experience in the United States and was intended to help students decide if college is the right choice for them and then, if yes, to give them the tools required to achieve this educational goal. The curriculum spanned from an overview of the U.S. education system, to different types of higher education and college programs, to alternatives to college, to methods of paying for college, and to strategies for succeeding in college.

10:40AM

Pre-Family Literacy: ESOL for Parents and Caregivers with Low Levels of English Proficiency

Susan Bleakney - Quincy Asian Resources

For the past several years, QARI has provided a Family Literacy program with the Quincy Public Schools to provide contextualized English to help parents navigate the American school system, become involved in their children's schools, and teach their children at home. While this program has successfully empowered many parents, those with low levels of English proficiency are typically unable to access the curriculum as it stands. Our project adapted our current Family Literacy curriculum for parents with lower levels of English, allowing us to provide for this underserved population.

10:50AM

Closing Remarks

Bryan Campbell McCormick, Program Director at First Literacy