

Technology & Distance Learning Symposium March 9–10, 2018

An increasingly popular event over the years, the ninth annual Technology and Distance Learning Symposium will be held at Napa Valley Adult Education this year. The TDL Symposium is for all CA adult education teachers, coordinators, and administrators at WIOA-funded agencies.

This year's event will have over 40 different presentations that cover everything from using new and emerging technology in the classroom to building and growing a blended/distance learning program. Titles include: "Mobile ESL Enrichment," "iOS 11: iPad Tips & Tricks You Should Master!," and "Learner Persistence in an Online or Blended Learning Environment." The crowd-pleasing "Tech-Slam," where all those in attendance are encouraged to give quick 2-3 minute tech demos, will also be back!

Register today while there is still room!

www.otan.us/tdlsymposium

Inside This Issue:

- ★ Newslea Pro for Adult Educators
- ★ Staff Changes at OTAN
- ★ TDLS Keynote Spotlight
- ★ OTAN Students Succeed Stories

Adult Education helps their own: Fund raising helping learners/teachers affected by disasters

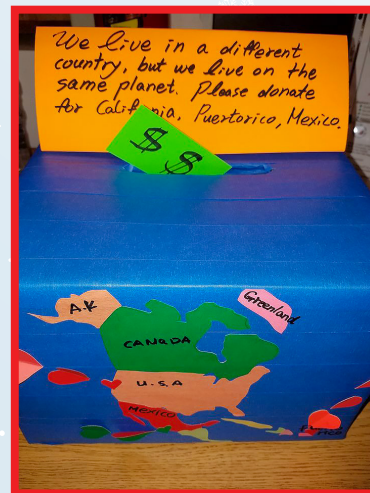
After the devastations caused by the fires in California, hurricanes in Texas and Puerto Rico, and earthquake in Mexico, adult educators and students actively raised funds to support those impacted by the recent tragedies.

The Houston Center for Literacy supports about 70 non-profit adult literacy providers in the greater Houston area. These centers provide their communities with basic literacy skills, ESL, HSE preparation, and workforce training. The center assisted with recovery efforts by providing families with supplies, food, clean up, and financial assistance. Marian Thacher from CALPRO established a GoFundMe account that raised over \$1800 from adult educators and students. "Each of these flood victims, along with many others, are connected to adult education as a student, teacher, or tutor. Each lost so much due to the devastating force of Hurricane Harvey."

Staff and students from San Mateo Adult School held two bake sales, with a portion of the proceeds going to Marian's GoFundMe account. The first bake sale, benefitting the victims of Harvey and Irma, raised \$2201.66 which was donated to the Red Cross, Houston Humane Society, Catholic Charities Relief, and many others. Funds from the second

bake sale raised \$2400.87 for victims in Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Sonoma County, and were distributed to The Puerto Rico Hispanic Federation, Red Cross, and Sonoma County. Together, the school raised more than \$4600 to help natural disaster victims worldwide.

Thank you and way to go Marian Thacher and San Mateo Adult School staff and students! Marian's hope is that her colleagues around the globe continue to give to www.gofundme.com/adult-ed-hurricane-harvey-fund so that many more can receive help. 🌍



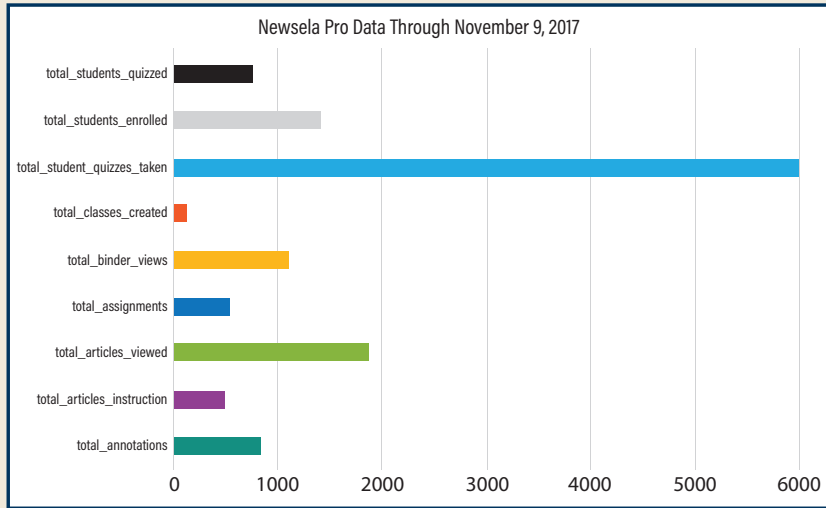
Adult Educators using Newsela Pro

Last July, OTAN purchased 200 licenses for Newsela Pro to support reading levels, including ESL. This was at the recommendation of the OTAN

Advisory Committee to support reading in the adult education field. Newsela is an online service providing current event and news articles that can be scaled for different reading levels. This allows learners to read the same article, but at different reading levels. The system includes comprehension checks to assess prior knowledge before an article is read, as well as understanding after the article is completed. Teachers can track student progress and adjust reading levels based on learner comprehension scores. Teachers began using Newsela in August 2017 and will con-

tinue through June 30, 2018. The figure shows some significant uses of Newsela; for example, almost 800 articles were annotated for learners by teachers,

but over 2600 articles were annotated by learners. There were 1400 learners enrolled in Newsela classes, and they took over 5900 quizzes on reading materials presented. Additionally, learners viewed over 8200 articles on their own. It is clear that learners are engaged in the materials and independently reading articles. As the pilot



continues, it will be interesting to see if these trends continue, and if increases in reading comprehension can be measured through CASAS testing. But that will be a future article! 🌐

Staff Changes at OTAN

In the past months, OTAN lost two integral staff for the very best of reasons. Branka Marceta, Coordinator of Technology Projects, accepted a promotion as the director of Capital Adult Education Regional Consortium (CAERC) and Blair Roy, Project Specialist II, retired to travel and spend time with her new granddaughter. Both are missed. Fortunately, OTAN has two new team members to carry on our important work.

Marjorie Olavides, Project Specialist I, started in October 2017. Marjorie worked at Sacramento County Office of Education before joining OTAN. She provides technical support (including accessibility and e-mail support) and assists with Moodle. Marjorie just created a face-to-face presentation on troubleshooting technology. If you visit OTAN, look for the office space adorned with penguins to find her. When asked about why she wanted to be part of the OTAN team, she was quick to respond with, "At OTAN, nobody lets anybody else fail."

Neda Anasseri is OTAN's new Coordinator of Technology Projects, bringing her knowledge of ASE, ESL, and data accountability to the team. Neda's nine years in Adult Education include work as both a classified and a certificated employee. Her most recent classroom experience as an ESL teacher was with Elk Grove Adult and Community Education. She previously

worked as a temp exempt contractor for OTAN and assisted with several projects, including Training of Trainers, Digital Leadership Academy, and Technology and Distance Learning Symposium. As the parent of a high school daughter, Neda spends her free time visiting potential universities.

Welcome Marjorie and Neda! 🌐



Marjorie Olavides and Neda Anasseri

Technology and Distance Learning Keynote Spotlight:.....

Dr. Barbara Nemko, Napa County Superintendent of Schools, was selected by the Center for Digital Education as one of the “Top 40 Innovators in Education.” Dr. Nemko describes herself as passionate about ed tech, even though she bravely admits to sometimes struggling with her own technology devices. She is a strong advocate of curriculum materials with embedded media that engages and motivates learners and content that can be instantly updated. Two “ed tech” programs of which Dr. Nemko is particularly proud are the “Footsteps2Brilliance” early learning for pre-schoolers (especially helpful for ESL learners and their parents) and “Tech Tutoring” where Court and Community School students teach residents of the Senior Center how to use their mobile devices.



“You don’t have to be a tech master yourself to understand the power of ed tech for learning.”

Working in education her entire life, Dr. Nemko started as a teacher in New York City, then took a position at U.C. Davis evaluating California Department of Education programs. Later, when Dr. Nemko was Curriculum Director at Napa County Office of Education, she was appointed Interim Superintendent when the current Superintendent retired. Now in her fifth elected term, Dr. Nemko continues to use her ed tech enthusiasm to promote positive programs for over 21,000 students at five districts within Napa County. Her favorite role, however, may be the one she has with her two granddaughters, ages 7 and 9.

Dr. Nemko’s keynote address, “Changing Lives: The Power of Adult Education,” will focus on how Adult Education occupies a unique niche in California’s educational system and provides an entry point for the acquisition of marketable skills. She will share how the lives of families have been transformed by this essential program. 🌐

2017 OTAN Students Succeed Stories.....

Jagroop Kaur has persevered through linguistic, cultural, and gender limitations to become a highly valued, contributing member of our adult education community. Originally a high school teacher in India, Jagroop set everything aside to support her family. She was forced to leave her children in India, while she and her husband came to America. She was unable to find work due to language and culture barriers. Resolute in bringing her children to America, Jagroop enrolled in ESL classes in 2005 at Elk Grove Adult and Community Education. Through continued effort and determination, she has become a full-time office worker at EGACE and a part-time ESL teacher. She is now a U.S. citizen who gives back to her community every day. Her next goal is to become a full-time adult education teacher!



Jodie Hoffman was an award winning Regional Occupational Program student, excelling at typing and shorthand. She worked part-time jobs while raising her children. When her marriage ended and her kids were in school, she found her skills had become outdated. She enrolled at Golden Oak Adult School and quickly upgraded her skills. Jodie began

working at the local community college and quickly realized she’d found her calling. She eventually graduated with her Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership and was appointed principal of Golden Oak Adult School in January 2017. “I would not have achieved this level of success without the support of amazing mentors who believed in and encouraged me.”



Nominations are currently being accepted for the 2018–2019 awards until Tuesday, May 1, 2018. For more information, including the nomination form, please visit <https://www.adultedlearners.org>. 🌐

OTAN Workshops—Making a difference in adult education classrooms!

Technology integration is a key component in any learning environment. OTAN offers a wide variety of technology-based workshops that model the skills needed to integrate technology into an adult education setting including digital literacy, mobile technology, using media, online/blended teaching, web-based apps and tools, and more! With a large selection of face-to-face and online workshops, OTAN can cover the needs of almost any adult education program. All of OTAN's current workshop listings can be found at www.otan.us/training. Not finding what your staff needs? Give OTAN a call, we can customize and recreate workshops per request.

To inquire about scheduling an OTAN workshop at your adult education site, call 916-228-2580 or email a request to support@otan.us



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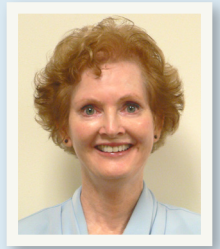
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New Year Time-saving Tech Tips

If you made a resolution to save time or to be more productive in 2018, these tech tips may help!



1. Accidentally close a tab while Web browsing? Pressing **Ctrl + Shift + T** will reopen the most recently closed tab. Use **Cmd + Shift + T** on Macs.
2. To switch among multiple open tabs on your PC computer, press **Ctrl + Tab**. Use **Cmd + Tab** on a Mac computer.
3. To move backwards among open tabs, use **Ctrl + Shift + Tab**.
4. Pressing **Ctrl + Z** will undo any change. For example, if you delete text, pressing this key combination will undo the cut. Pressing **Ctrl + Y** will redo the undo. Use **Cmd + Z** and **Cmd + Y** on Macs.
5. Holding down the **Ctrl** key while pressing the **Left** or **Right Arrow** will move the cursor one word at a time instead of one letter or character at a time.

Joyce Hinkson

Director, OTAN

From the Director