



TDLs 2025

OTAN's Technology and Distance Learning Symposium is back this year, but with a new name: the Technology and Digital Learning Symposium! Join us at the Long Beach School for Adults on March 7th and 8th, 2025 for two full days jam-packed with informative edtech presentations, collaboration and networking with hundreds of your colleagues. Also available will be the Tech Playground to try different AR/VR tech and experience the popular Tech Slam.

If you enjoyed the hybrid option one of these last two years, then you're in luck! With the success of the hybrid format, OTAN plans to make TDLs a hybrid event every year from now on.

All the information you need about registering or submitting a proposal for this year's Technology and Digital Learning Symposium can be found at tdls.otan.us!



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Collaborative Leadership to Strengthen Adult Education

OTAN's vision is, *Leading adult education through support for and the effective application of technology.* We take a collaborative approach to leadership in the ways we partner with adult education agencies around California.

Recognizing the unique challenges faced by adult education agencies in sparsely populated areas, OTAN launched the Rural Coaching Project, which pairs rural educators with dedicated OTAN coaches, providing crucial resources and technical support to address technology-related goals.

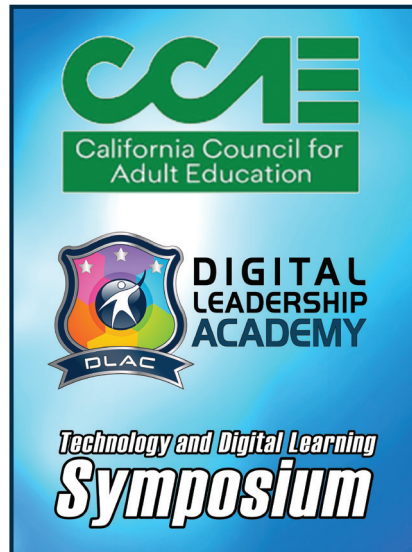
This spring, OTAN partnered with the California Council for Adult Education's (CCAEE) Northern California sections and together convened adult educators from the far north to explore ways of providing support for often-overlooked agencies. The success of these meetings has led to OTAN presentations for two consortia, opening new avenues for collaboration between OTAN and rural education providers.

Now in its fifth cohort, the Digital Leadership Academy (DLAC) continues to be a cornerstone of OTAN's commitment to leadership and innovation. This intensive two-year program is designed to equip adult education agencies with the tools and knowledge needed to revolutionize digital learning opportunities for both students and staff, as well as create new adult education leaders.

DLAC 5 includes teams from Long Beach School for Adults, Jefferson Adult Education, Fontana Adult School, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation/ Folsom State Prison, Silicon Valley Adult Education, Porterville Adult Education, Proteus Inc., San Diego Continuing Education, and Burbank Adult School. These diverse teams, comprising both administrators and instructors, will embark on tailored technology integration projects that address specific needs, including developing blended learning programs, integrating learning management systems like Canvas, digital skills for learners and staff, and enhancing distance learning options.

Participants will benefit from comprehensive support, including face-to-face meetings, online sessions, and attending the annual Technology and Digital Learning Symposium (TDLs). The impact of DLAC extends far beyond their agencies. DLAC graduates often emerge as local leaders and mentors, sharing newfound expertise and inspiring other adult education providers to embrace digital innovation.

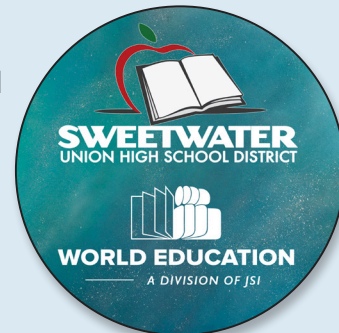
By providing initiatives like the Rural Coaching Project and DLAC, OTAN ensures that adult education agencies of all sizes and in many locations have access to high-quality, technology-enhanced educational opportunities, advancing technology integration across California adult education. 🌟



Professional Development Success: Sweetwater Adult Ed, OTAN, and World Education Collaboration

In the 2023–2024 school year, the Sweetwater Union High School District’s Division of Adult Education (SUHSD Adult Ed) completed a one-year professional development program focused on HyFlex training and technology integration. This initiative was made possible through a partnership with OTAN and World Education, equipping adult educators with essential skills for using technology effectively in their classrooms and in online instruction.

The training sessions were twice a month for one hour for each meeting. The sessions emphasized collaboration and connection among educators, the use of AI tools, HyFlex equipment such as touch screen smart boards and OWL cameras, and student engagement strategies for both in person and online students. Staff were given hands-on activities and the opportunity to learn from OTAN trainer Kristi Reyes and World Education trainer Destiny Simpson who provided real-life examples and best practices from their own experience in HyFlex teaching. Feedback from participants highlighted the need for more time to explore the tools, leading SUHSD Adult Ed to create accessible resource documents and plans for ongoing collaborative support among HyFlex instructors.



Moving into the 2024–2025 academic year, the focus has shifted to implementing these new skills and fostering continued collaboration among educators. This successful partnership between SUHSD Adult Ed, OTAN, and World Education demonstrates the power of working together to enhance HyFlex and technology integration strategies to give students more options to overcome barriers and obtain their goals. 🌐

*Submitted by
Audrey Dierdorff
SUHSD Division of Adult Education Resource Teacher and OTAN SME*



MDAE Collaborates with OTAN for Monthly Professional Development and Beyond!

Mount Diablo Adult Education has a Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) strategic plan goal of expanding professional development for teachers to enhance student learning. To achieve this goal, we have established the perfect partnership with OTAN! They provide monthly onsite trainings on several applications including Canva, Canvas, Google Suite, and others. In addition, they recently partnered with the Adults with Disabilities program to provide an AI training at a back-to-school professional development day.

OTAN trainer Susan Gaer provided an excellent AI training for our instructors and support staff as well as staff from the High School, ABE, and ASE programs. Staff had an opportunity to use several AI applications including Chat GPT for computer and cell phone, Suno AI, and Microsoft Copilot. The instruction was very detailed and allowed plenty of time for staff to practice creating prompts. Step-by-step guidelines presented were extremely helpful in ensuring more detailed results.

Currently, several of our instructors are using AI on a regular basis and look forward to another training at our next PD day in November to build upon the knowledge and skills they have acquired. Susan was a wonderful trainer and encouraged staff to follow up with her if they needed further help or support.

We are tremendously grateful for our partnership with OTAN and so impressed with their trainers and how receptive they are to tailoring their trainings to our staff needs. Thank you OTAN!! 🌐

*Submitted by
Karen Lingenfelter-Carman
Adults with Disabilities Coordinator
Mt. Diablo Adult Education*





OTAN offers technology integration sessions in the form of in-person, virtual, and hybrid events. These professional development events can be scheduled as hands-on workshops or presentations and are provided to adult educators and staff throughout California at no cost.

Series sessions are also available for workshops. Where workshops can be scheduled individually, a series is a succession of workshops where skills are gradually built in or around specific topics, apps, and/or digital tools.

All OTAN sessions are customizable to fit the needs of the requesting agency and staff.

Sampling of topics includes:

- Using AI in Adult Education
- Applied Digital Skills
- Creating Accessible Documents for Adult Ed
- CK12 - Digital Textbooks
- Engaging Instruction
- Google Apps and Tools
- Internet and Digital Safety
- Microsoft Apps and Tools
- Triple-E Framework
- and much more!

Session Requirements

For in-person (3 hour min.)

- Sufficient notice for scheduling.
- A minimum of 10 registered participants one week before the event.
- One device for every participant at the host site OR
- Ability to connect to site WiFi with sufficient bandwidth to support all devices.
- A projection system.

For virtual (1-1.5 hour min.)

- At least 1 week scheduling notice.
- A minimum of 8 registered participants 3 days before the event.
- All participants must be able to connect to a Zoom session.

For presentation (min. time dependent)

- In-person: 2 week notice before event and at least a 60 minute session.
- Virtual: At least 3 day notice before event and at least a 20 minute session.
- A projection system.



For more information about customizing or scheduling, or more information about OTAN Professional Development, contact OTAN training staff at support@otan.us.

OTAN.US
916-228-2580

The Outreach and Technical Assistance Network (OTAN) provides electronic collaboration, information, and support for instructional technology and digital learning to adult education and literacy providers in California. Here is a list of some resources and the path to locate them on the OTAN website:

Teaching Tools and Resources

California Adult Education Digital Learning Guidance - The Guidance is designed to identify, document, and disseminate practical information for classroom teachers, classified and support staff, counselors and transition specialists, and school administrators to support effective implementation of digital learning within adult education.

Accessibility Resources - You will find OTAN-developed resources as well as resources you can use to learn more about accessibility and create your own accessible content and presentations.

OTAN Canvas - OTAN Canvas is a partnership between Instructure, the Sacramento County Office of Education, and OTAN to provide access to the Canvas Learning Management System (LMS) for in-person, blended, and distance learning.

Teaching with Technology - A robust searchable database to help adult education teachers and staff locate web resources and other technology related to a specific lesson topic. You can filter your search by program areas, keywords, and standards.

Web-based Class Activities - Web-based activities are monthly technology-based activities organized around instructional themes and topics as well as edtech tools, with ideas on how to get started and how to use in the classroom.

Curriculum Offers - OTAN works to negotiate the best free or reduced-cost special offers for online curriculum licenses and professional development resources suggested by our OTAN Advisory Committee and adult educators in the field.

Lesson Plan Builder - Create, share, and publish lesson plans that follow the WIPPEA format and the Triple E Framework.

California EL Civics Exchange - The California EL Civics Exchange is a repository for original EL Civics instructional materials created by California WIOA, Title II: AEFLA/EL Civics agencies which can be used to teach EL Civics content to English language learners.

Video Presentations

Watch our recordings on the following topics:

- Teaching and Working Online, Academic and Workforce Training, and Equity and Inclusion
- Google Tools, Microsoft Tools, and Digital Tools
- Devices and Using Video
- OTAN Tech Talks
- And more!

Stay Connected

Adult Education News - Catch up on recent and past news items about OTAN events and services as well as issues of interest to the field regarding technology and tech integration.

OTAN Digest - Items of interest to adult education staff members, including new resources, training opportunities, and recent news, published monthly.

Newsletter - OTAN's Newsletter is full of news, stories, tips, and helpful information, published three times a year.

Social media - Follow us on X, Facebook, LinkedIn, and our YouTube channel and stay up-to-date with OTAN.

Other Items of Interest

Technology and Digital Learning Symposium - OTAN's annual conference with presentations that show participants how to integrate technology to enhance the learner experience, extend the classroom to learners through blended/distance learning, and help adult education programs be more effective and efficient.

Adult Education Students Succeed - Every year, OTAN invites nominations of adult education learners who are successful as a result of the education received at California adult education agencies.

Digital Leadership Academy - DLAC is a two-year program designed to be flexible in how agencies can best use the resources offered by OTAN to support their technology integration, distance learning, or blended teaching agency goals.



California Adult Education Students Succeed 2024

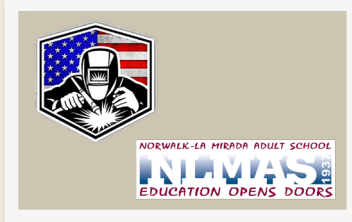
This year, OTAN honors the sixteen newly added adult learner honorees to the total [list](#) of 332 *California Adult Education Students Succeed* adults nominated by adult educators, administrators, and support staff. These students met the criteria to be eligible for this honor. This [collection](#) of inspiring stories and pictures are available to inspire hope and motivation for your students and staff. Additionally, these serve to educate not just the public but legislators about the great impact of adult education programs in California.



It is OTAN's privilege to recognize four students of the seventeen for exceeding the minimal CAESS requirement. This year, two students will be celebrated at the *California Adult Education Program (CAEP) Summit*, October 30 in Oakland and two more will be honored at the *Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Leadership Summit*, November 14, in San Diego. Congratulations to all adult education programs who have changed the lives of so many. 🌟



Jazzmyn Williams
ACSA 2024 Honoree



Stephen Hughes
ACSA 2024 Honoree



Angeline Guzman
ACSA 2024 Honoree



Ana Laura Romo
ACSA 2024 Honoree

Please Welcome Two New Members to the OTAN Family!

OTAN's long time Administrative Assistant Cheryl Young retired at the end of June 2024. We're excited to introduce Wendy Exzabe!

Her previous experience in Early Childhood Education focused on supporting families and children through comprehensive services. Her responsibilities with OTAN will include daily account management and tracking expenses. She will also assist in collaborating and planning meetings, trainings, and conferences.

Wendy is eager to continue adding skills that will help her be more efficient and resourceful to our team. With a passion for lifelong learning and professional growth, she will excel in this role!

Outside of work, she enjoys family time, especially activities with her two young children, ages 4 and 6. She enjoys reading, watching comedies, and playing card or board games. We're thrilled to have Wendy join our team!



Our new Senior MIS Specialist, Angela Komendant, joins OTAN after two years as Business Development Manager at African American Expressions. In that role, she managed the company's online presence, online stores, and relationships with wholesale clients.

In her current role, she manages and updates content on the OTAN and CA Adult Ed Students Succeed websites, provides client supports, and assists with ensuring accessibility for department documents.

She was drawn to OTAN's impact on adult education, particularly its support for educators through FREE training and integration of technology to improve classroom experiences. Her connection to adult education stems from personal experience—immigrating from Ukraine and seeing how adult education helped her parents.

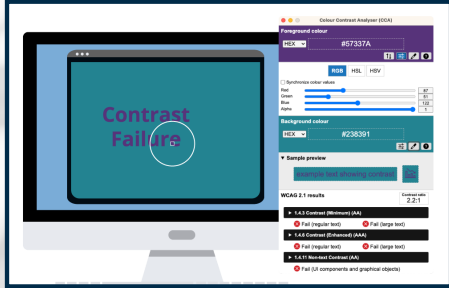
In her free time, Angela loves spending time at the beach with her husband and daughter, as well as reading seasonally-inspired books. We're excited to have Angela on board! 🌟



Wendy Exzabe and Angela Komendant

Accessibility Tip

Let's say you've just finished designing a beautiful, visually pleasing lesson for your students. Well, unless it's completely designed in black and white, you really should check all the information and pictures you've added with



TPGi Colour Contrast Analyser Tool

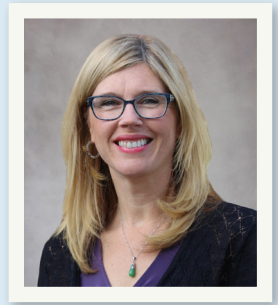
a color contrast checker! This is best practice to help ensure that all your students (including those with mild visual difficulties you may or may not know about) are able to see all the information that you intend!

There are myriad options out there for color contrast checkers, but OTAN recommends the ones developed by WebAIM, TPGI, and Level Access; these are compliant with the newest WCAG 2.2 standards.

Links for all three of these and many other accessibility guides and programs can be found at otan.us/Resources/Home/AccessibilityResources

From the Adult Education Director

The California Adult Education Program leadership recently released a report that offers promising practices to better meet adult students' needs and close persistent equity achievement gaps. Twelve local adult education sites (six adult schools delivered by K-12 education systems and six community colleges) from more than 400 sites were selected for this research study, [Closing the Equity Gap for Adult Learners in California: 7 Promising Practices to Advance Student Outcomes](#). The study captured why and how student performance and employment outcomes at these 12 sites, especially for students of color, far exceeded state average metrics.



The report suggests responding to digital equity gaps by: providing personalized support to ensure access to digital tools, fostering partnerships to offer comprehensive digital literacy training, integrating digital skills into workforce readiness programs, using data to address digital access gaps, offering flexible online and hybrid learning options, developing culturally relevant curricula that include digital literacy, and engaging with communities to meet their digital needs. These strategies collectively aim to bridge the digital divide and ensure all adult learners are equipped for success.

Looking ahead, OTAN will partner with CAEP to provide professional development that further assists in eliminating the digital equity gap.

Renee Collins
Adult Education Director



Scan these QR codes to learn more about these exciting OTAN resources!



Technology and Digital Learning Symposium 2025, March 7 and 8, promises enriching professional development. Keep up to date on the latest information about Presenter Proposals and Registration.



OTAN offers in-person, virtual, and hybrid professional development for California adult educators. For more information, consult OTAN's Titles and Topics list.