The LARAEC Insider

Week of February 20, 2023

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Thursday's Lunch with LARAEC

Practical Strategies for Creating Equitable Schools

Thursday, February 23, 2023
12:30 - 1:30 PM FREE!
On ZOOM
Karyn Ruiz
CALPRO Facilitator, Visalia USD Adult Education, National Senior Academic Specialist, Aztec

In need of a bit of sunshine and fresh air? Then sit down, relax and enjoy Lunch with LARAEC with Justin and Michele on Thursday, February 23rd at 12:30pm. They'll welcome *Karyn Ruiz of CALPRO and Visalia USD.* She'll be discussing different **blended learning best practices** and how their addition to programs will assist instructors in meeting their students' needs, increase their persistence, and actively engage them in their learning activities. Don't miss this exciting episode of Lunch with LARAEC!

For registration and zoom link, go to to https://laraec.org/lunchwithLARAEC/

Coming soon to Lunch with LARAEC...

Project Based Learning
Thursday, March 16, 2023
12:30 PM-1:30pm FREE! On ZOOM
Presenter: Kristi Reyes
CALPRO Facilitator, Visalia USD adult education, and National Senior Academic Specialist, Aztec

Projects that integrate technology are a powerful way to give students real-world work preparation. Students can build their knowledge in many topics while developing oral and written communication skills. Carefully-planned projects address standards, have students develop critical soft skills, give them a sense of empowerment, and not to mention build tech skills. Attend to learn about projects

you can use next week in your class.

Grab your lunch and join Justin and Michele for another Lunch with LARAEC zoomcast.

For registration and the zoom link go to https://laraec.org/lunchwithlaraec/

All Lunch with LARAEC sessions are recorded and are available for viewing at Lunch with LARAEC go to https://laraec.org/lunchwithlaraec/

Research Shorts

Connecting you with some educational articles and studies to see how they might connect to our programs. Try on some of these *Research Shorts*, keep what fits, and return the rest.

What Happens When AI meets Adult Ed?

ChatGPT is a form of artificial intelligence that can assist in teaching English to adult immigrants living in the United States by generating responses to prompts that simulate real life conversational situations. It can be used to generate idiomatic expressions, responses to common questions or complete dialogues. It can also be used to generate quizzes and exercises that test students' understanding of grammar and vocabulary. However, it's not without its **limitations and controversy**. When first introduced in November of 2022, it was **decried by many teachers and experts as a tool for plagiarism** because ChatGPT could produce work that plagiarism checkers like Turnitin might not detect. Furthermore, representatives of ChatGPT recommend that it **be seen as complementary to learning with an experienced human teacher** and other more traditional learning approaches.

That said, Kristi Reyes and Ryan Detwiler, in their article, "ESL Meets AI: How We Can Make Our Lives Easier with ChatGPT" outline a number of benefits for ESL teachers employing this technology. They point out that it is **simple and easy to use**, but that it is not Google. It doesn't just search an index of results. Instead, its **answers are intelligently paraphrased, using concepts that it "understands"** after identifying them in a query. Search questions can be tailored and refined for results that can be expressed in different tones and for a specific audience. Responses can also be written from a specific voice, perspective, or format. It can also be used to generate conversations within specific parameters.

Reyes and Detwiler brainstormed multiple ways teachers might use ChatGPT to supplement and enhance work done in the classroom, including:

- Writing model dialogs with target vocabulary and grammar
- Comparing formal versus informal tones
- Generating conversation questions for class topics, vocabulary and grammar
- Punctuating and formatting text
- Scanning text and listing Academic Word List Vocabulary
- Generating multiple quizzes
- Rewriting texts for different levels
- Generating cloze and gap-fill activities
- Generating a list of vocabulary words and definitions from a text
- Asking students about their interests and needs and then creating individualized materials
- Generating sentences, paragraphs, and stories for vocabulary and grammar introduction
- Defining vocabulary and idioms with examples
- Answering complex grammar or vocabulary questions that a teacher may not be prepared to answer in the moment
- Writing scenarios for discussion and problem-based learning
- Writing lesson plans

The article provides a nice introduction to ChatGPT with practical applications that ESL (and also basic skills) teachers can implement in the classroom easily. It also includes additional ideas that should have a direct impact on engagement and persistence in the classroom as well as a link to other AI tools and resources for further research. It's a fairly compact article with a high degree of return for the time invested.
To read the full article, go to our Research Shorts page

To read the full report, go to our ***Research Shorts*** page here.

Preparing Students for What's Next...

LARAEC Edge: When You are Ready for What's Next!

Teachers!

The LARAEC Edge virtual college and career resource fair is coming soon to your classroom!

Sign up now at https://laraec.org/conference/ , bring your class, and **you'll be eligible to win amazing LARAEC prizes!** Yes, by **preregistering your class and bringing them (ONLINE) to the LARAEC Edge**, you'll not only help prepare your students for What's Next, but also give yourself a

chance to win a set of classroom whiteboards, classroom journals, bulletin board supplies, a magnetic KWL chart, pocket charts, classroom timers, motivational mini-posters, and more!

Again, go to https://laraec.org/conference/**,** and you'll be able to register your class and find the teacher toolkit in one convenient location! Or, check out our new, easy to remember student portal, ***WHATSNEXT.LA*** to reach the conference page!

See you on Wednesday, March 8th from 6:00pm to 9:00pm and Thursday, March 9th from 9:00am to 1:00pm!

Resource Spotlight

'The Incredible Tool You'll Wish You'd Started Earlier '

During a Lunch with LARAEC session, Dr. Manyweather (West LA College) shared about how she uses journaling with her entrepreneurship classes. Not only does it help with building communication skills, but Dr. Manyweather says that it is a great way for students to tap into who they are, reflect on life and learning, and think about some of the topics related to class. She also includes reflection activities with her finance classes.

I know when I think of journaling in adult education, I often think of ESL or teacher-directed classes. However, reflection activities are great for any subject area and perfect for educators as well. Thinking about it, some of our best consortium innovations have come spending time reflecting on pressing problems and sharing with educator teams.

A FluentU blog post, *Journal Writing: The Incredible ESL Tool You'll Wish You'd Started Using Earlier*, shares some strategies to get your class started with journaling. They include some great starter prompts, ways to create a writing mood, and how to focus on what you want students to get from journaling. Check out the full article.

As Dr. Manyweather shared, this is not just for ESL students.

Check out this full article and other resources at https://laraec.org/teacher-resources-class/

If you got this newsletter as a forward and would like to have it sent to your email directly, you can register by clicking the button below!

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*If no one has told you today, **thank you** for what you do to improve the lives of adults in Los Angeles*

Profundus Collaboratus

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