



**Pop Up PD**  
for Literacy Educators

learningnetworks.ca

## Presenter Bios for the Pop Up PD Webinars

You can learn more about the Pop Up PD initiative and register for our webinars at <https://learningnetworks.ca/resources-publications/popuppd/>

### Webinar #1

#### Literacy and Essential Skills as a Poverty Reduction Strategy



**Angela Briscoe** is the Director of Program Development at Frontier College, Canada's original literacy organization. Frontier College recruits, trains and supports thousands of volunteers to deliver literacy programs. They help children, youth and adults reach their full potential. Together with her team, she leads program and revenue development with governments, corporations and foundations in Canada. She holds degrees from Trent University (BA Native Studies) and Concordia University (MA Sociology).



#### Webinar Moderator

**Annemarie Wesolowski** has been working in the adult literacy field for 27 years. She has been the Executive Director of Literacy Northwest for the past 19 years.



## Webinar #2

### **Better Research for Better Practice: Understanding the Characteristics, Experiences and Trajectories of Ontario Works (OW) Clients in Toronto**



**Christine Carrasco** is a Policy Development Officer with the City of Toronto's Employment and Social Services division. She has worked on a number of qualitative and mixed methods research projects in the academic sector. She has focused on immigration status and precarious work and health. At the City, Christine has worked on practice-related research projects, service reviews, program design initiatives and a range of public policy files. She is passionate about serving low-income and underrepresented groups. She works to advance policy and research initiatives that have real-world application.



**Yuna Kim** is interested in finding ways to bring together research and practice to make good public policy. She has experience working in public service at the municipal and provincial levels. She conducts policy analysis, research, and evaluation of programs and policies. She focuses on social assistance, public health, substance use and homelessness. She really likes research design and econometrics and thinks qualitative data are just as great as quantitative data.



#### **Webinar Moderator**

Since 1996 **Tamara Kaattari** has been the Executive Director of Literacy Link South Central. She has an Honours degree in English and further credentials in Teaching English as a Second Language, Adult Education as well as Editing and Evaluation. Tamara recognizes the changing nature of literacy and education. She is committed to building a dynamic and effective literacy system.



## Webinar #3

### Skills Upgrading Programs Supporting People Living in Poverty



**Lori Bruner** is the Executive Director of the Brant Skills Centre. Lori is known for her innovative program delivery and her ability to develop targeted programming to meet emerging community needs. Lori is especially known for the creation and delivery of occupational-specific curriculum related to the workplace. Her targeted programming ranges from digital literacy to apprenticeship to customer service. Recently, this includes the integration of virtual reality to promote workplace skills.



**Elizabeth Debergh** has worked in literacy as the Executive Director of the Wellington County Learning Centre (WCLC) for 18 years. The Learning Centre is located in a rural area and serves 4 townships. WCLC programs are moved from township to township in order to promote their services. Elizabeth has found that there are some key ingredients that strongly increase learner recruitment and retention. In this webinar, Elizabeth will share the unique programming that the WCLC has created to serve Ontario Works (OW) clients.



**Jane Tuer** has been working in adult literacy and upgrading since 1990. She is currently the Executive Director of Project READ Literacy Network. Jane is known for her knowledge of assessment tools and for her training in Bridges Out of Poverty and Laubach. Jane also holds a Volunteer Management Certificate from Conestoga.



**Wendy Olson** has been the Program Manager for Bridges: Dryden & Area Adult Learning Centre since 2005. Wendy co-developed the “Common Assessment for the OALCF Goal Paths Resource Package” and delivered training sessions to the LBS field. Wendy sits on the Dryden Urban Indigenous Homeward Bound Training Program committee. It is a holistic training program that provides wraparound services to unemployed or underemployed Indigenous families that are mother-led. It helps them earn college diplomas, start careers and achieve self-sufficiency.

**Webinar Moderator – Tamara Kaattari** - see bio for Webinar 2.



## **Webinar #4**

### **Demystifying Apprenticeship Training**



**Barb Glass'** teaching career began in the (then) York Region Board of Education. In 1990, she relocated to North Bay and spent 23 years at Canadore College. There she taught and coordinated adult upgrading and pre-apprenticeship programs. From there, Barb moved to Conestoga College as Chair, Preparatory Programs, followed by a 3-year tenure at Niagara College as Associate Dean, Access Programs. In 2016, Barb began her current position as Executive Director of the College Sector Committee for Adult Upgrading.

## **Webinar #5**

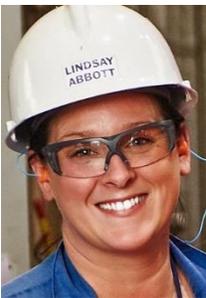
### **How I became a Journeyperson**



**Melissa Burger** - I grew up on a small farm and always enjoyed working with my hands. After 13 years off of school I attended Georgian College in Owen Sound and graduated from the Welding Techniques program. I worked as a welder at a farm equipment manufacturer. The business was sold so it was then that I applied to the posting for a millwright apprentice with Bruce Power. I had always been interested in millwrighting and this was a great opportunity for me to really advance my career and personal fulfillment. I was fortunate enough to get hired and start my new career in a very rewarding trade. I am now 2 years into my apprenticeship and will be writing my certificate of qualification next year to obtain my red seal.



**Diane Williams** - I waitressed and bartended in my early 20's having this idea in my head that I wasn't smart enough to do anything else because school was so hard for me. At the time I didn't know that I had ADHD. What I did know is that I am a visual learner. While waitressing next to a power plant I got up the nerve to ask some female customers what they did for a living because I'd never seen women in coveralls before then. They said crane operator, pipefitter and electrician - I was so impressed! They advised me to look into a course called W.I.T.T. (Women in Trades and Technology). I applied to Sarnia Millwrights, wrote the aptitude test and was hired after my interview. I started my apprenticeship at a car plant in Windsor and proceeded to complete my hours and became a Journey person. I am now a mechanical planner with Bruce Power.



**Lindsay Abbott** is an Electrician at Bruce Power, working for Bremar Construction through the Canadian Union of Skilled Workers (CUSW). Lindsay joined CUSW in August 2011 and started her Electrical Apprenticeship as one of 7 women in her trade alongside 300 men. Her quick wit and outgoing personality helped her make it through working in a predominantly male workforce. She wants to make it known that women can do the same quality work as men can, and that we all share the same end goal of doing interesting work, making a great living, having opportunities to advance our careers, and coming home safely. She is proud to show her daughters that anything is possible if you put the work in.



### Webinar Moderator

Sara Gill is the Executive Director of the Adult Basic Education Association in Hamilton.



## Webinar #6

### LBS Resources for the Apprenticeship Goal Path



**Gay Douglas- Broerse** is in her 23rd year at Literacy Link Niagara. She came to the organization knowing nothing about adult literacy and has since become a vocal advocate for the cause. Gay's work focuses on strategic partnerships and linking literacy with issues it strongly influences. This includes justice, employment, health and citizenship. Gay has great admiration for front line literacy instructors. Their quiet, committed efforts make such a vital difference in the lives of learners.



**Debera Flynn** is the Executive Director of QUILL Learning Network. She has worked in the literacy field for 25 years. She has worked as a practitioner in community-based programs in New Liskeard and then in Timmins. There she supported learners in small group or 1 to 1 settings and monitored volunteer tutor-learner matches. Debera has seen the literacy field evolve into the system we work in today. Working now at a Literacy Network she supports program managers and staff to build their capacity in supporting learners to meet their goals.



This *Employment Ontario* project is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario and through the Canada-Ontario Job Fund Agreement.