

ALLIES ESL Provider Network Meeting  
April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Foothill College, Sunnyvale

## I. Meeting Overview

ALLIES held its 14<sup>th</sup> bi-annual ESL Provider Network meeting on Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Foothill College in Sunnyvale. The meeting was attended by 72 ESL instructors, counselors, and administrative staff representing 8 Community Colleges, 9 Adult Schools and 19 Community Based Organizations in the bi-county Silicon Valley area. Also in attendance were guests from the California Department of Education and Stanford Immigration Policy Lab. The outcomes for the meeting were to update attendees on recent ALLIES, AEBG consortia and public policy developments; and to demonstrate implementation models for the ALLIES and South Bay Consortium for Adult Education (SBCAE) Immigrant Integration Framework project, along with providing a networking opportunity for ESL practitioners.

## II. Take-Aways / Themes

- **Strong Network of Partners:** A diverse group of CBO, educational and local government partners affirmed collaboration as a key factor in realizing ALLIES' mission of supporting English-learner adults in achieving success in their educations, careers and communities.
- **Improved ALLIES communication channels:** to promote information sharing and collaboration among ESL providers and community partners, ALLIES invested in a website upgrade, established a social media presence and created enhanced email distribution lists.
- **AEBG consortia are strong partners for regional collaboration:** the 4 AEBG consortia in Silicon Valley continue to build a 'No Wrong Door' network of service providers. Consortia are working internally to create seamless transitions for students between public adult education schools and community colleges and are seeking to increase partnerships with local government agencies and community based organizations serving the ELL population.
- **Data will be a key policy driver:** ongoing policy decisions impacting adult English language learners will be driven by data. After 3 years of AEBG implementation, the state legislature wants to see return on investment.
- **The ALLIES Immigrant Integration Framework is a blueprint for regional integration efforts:** the Framework aspires both to validate existing immigrant integration services and to serve as a blueprint for a coordinated response to the need for expanded and deepened immigrant integration service delivery models.

## III. EPN Shout Out

The EPN Shout Out segment on the agenda offers a chance for EPN attendees to share successes, innovative projects or collaboration efforts with the EPN community. In addition to inviting attendees to share at the meeting, there was an opportunity to share best practices by using an EPN Shout Out form, collected at the end of the meeting.

**Burr Guthrie, Jenni Parker-Adib, Karen Weldon, Campbell Adult and Community Education (CACE)**

- CACE partnered with Rosemary Elementary School (Campbell Union School District) and the Mexican Consulate in the inauguration of Plaza Comunitaria. Plaza Comunitaria began in the United States through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Mexican and U.S. governments. Sponsored by the Mexican Instituto Nacional para la Educación de los Adultos, Plaza Comunitaria serves as a transitional program into English and Adult Basic Education classes and establishes an academic foundation for Spanish speaking immigrants.
- New project: mapping ALLIES Immigrant Integration Framework with California EL Civics, identifying gaps and curriculum needs to support students' integration into society and being able to participate in civic life
- CACE and San Jose City College (SJCC) collaborated on defining exit criteria for CACE advanced level ESL students wanting to transition to SJCC. Test scores will be shared between CACE and SJCC to ensure a seamless transition.
- CACE will hold its 3rd annual resource fair on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Open to the community.

**Carla Macchello, Santa Clara Adult School**

- Santa Clara Unified School District held an Immigrant Parent Conference in April. The conference aimed to connect parents of children in the district with adult education classes and community resources available to them.
- Santa Clara Adult School opened a staffed parent resource center on the adult school campus. The center is open 3 days a week and functions as a one stop resource center for immigrant parents.

**Ellie Clelland, PARS Equality Center**

- The Santa Clara County Refugee and Immigrant Forum (RIF) established a subcommittee focused on skilled refugee and immigrant professionals. The primary goal of this subcommittee is to create pathways for refugees and immigrants who have foreign degrees and credentials.
- In April 2017, the RIF organized a successful career fair, bringing together 22 employers and 142 immigrant/refugee job seekers.

**Elsie Chandler, Thanh Nguyen, Lisa Lau, Nahil Ireiqat, Milpitas Adult Education**

- Bypassing the Accuplacer test to place high advanced students into ESL classes at San Jose City College
- Collaborating with the K-12 school district and Project Community Cornerstone to pilot a project called 'Project Promise'. High advanced ESL students are placed in elementary schools as paraprofessionals, serving as mentors for 6<sup>th</sup> graders who are currently struggling in school.
- Jennifer Gagliardi, citizenship teacher, has published her first book: U.S. Citizenship Bootcamps
- Building a project-based learning class and a leadership class for advanced ESL students

- Plans to merge credit recovery classes to an online program for Independent Studies and GED programs
- Offered a workshop on Universal Design to raise awareness for students with disabilities. Teachers are trained to help identify needs.
- Partnership with Evergreen Valley College and San Jose City College to offer bridge classes for ESL students. Co-located classes with credit for college.

**Tim Doyle, San Mateo Adult Education**

- Partnership with College of San Mateo on 'clear ESL pathway' project

**Andrea Jesse, Stephanie Tang, Francisca Wentworth, Jefferson Adult School**

- Gateways to Health Careers class, implementing the I-BEST model, teaching team from Jefferson Adult and Skyline College / delivered training to AEBG consortium in Stockton, adult education/job skills conference in Sacramento upcoming, available to present at other consortia
- Started Northstar Digital Literacy certification class. Students learn computer skills and become certified after passing assessments. The class is open to students from South San Francisco and Skyline College
- Created a checklist of exit criteria for students wanting to go to Skyline College. Included are CASAS, grammar and writing test scores, and the students do an online writing course.

**Liz Derr, Upwardly Global**

- Implementation of a language assessment (via partnership with Education First) during onboarding process which helps better direct job seekers to the appropriate support resource
- Support services for English language learners at Upwardly Global include: English for professionals (WeGlo curriculum), English for professional communication (WeGlo curriculum), Volunteer Language Coaching Program, Coursera for Refugees

**Charana Binford, Puente**

- Launched a Citizenship Campaign
- Piloted small study groups
- Partnership with Cañada: ESL to Workforce Pathway – Early Childhood Education

**Kishan Vujjeni, Workforce Institute**

- SparkPoint Center at the Workforce Institute, open to all SBCAE students, model of community partnerships to provide integrated services. Anticipated start date in June.

**Lionel DeMaine, Sequoia Adult School**

- Cañada college and Sequoia Adult School hosted North Alameda Consortium for AEBG related training
- Sequoia Adult School Scholars (SASS) event on June 3rd

**Grazia Mora**, *Building Skills Partnership*

- Mobile App – Pilot program to deliver cellphone-based vocational ESL to immigrant workers as well as personalized career coaching via phones with the goal of accelerating English and digital literacy skills, and open pathways to career advancement.

**Leslie Takei, Dorothy Pucay**, *San Jose City College (SJCC)*

- SJCC is now offering noncredit courses and has MOUs with Milpitas Adult Education and CACE
- New programs include:
  - o Career Pathways: ESL for Health Care Settings, ESL for Computers, ESL for the Workplace
  - o Academic Pathways: ESL Academic Reading/Writing, ESL Listening/Speaking, ESL Advanced Grammar

**Jenny Castello**, *Cañada College*

- Partnership with Sequoia Adult School
  - o Disability Resource Specialist from Cañada met with Cañada and Sequoia Adult team, presentation to larger group of Sequoia Adult teachers and staff is forthcoming
  - o Basic Skills English/Reading faculty at Cañada will meet with Sequoia Adult GED, ABE, ASE teachers and staff to begin to discuss and align curriculum and classes
- Partnership with La Costa Adult School
  - o Early Childhood Education (ECE) and ESL learning community discussions with 4 ECE classes in Spanish w/ESL support classes leading to Assistant Teacher permit
  - o Technology Jams discussions to take some basic technology workshops to Half Moon Bay and Pescadero

**Ofelia Chavarin**, *San Jose Public Library (SJPL), Hillview Branch*

- SJPL Branch Libraries are hosting Naturalization Information sessions, including a step by step description of the naturalization process, mock naturalization interviews featuring USCIS officers and free DVD with current test prep materials
- The Hillview Branch has a women's support group, facilitated in Spanish, that links patrons to community resources, library programs and resources and provides a safe space for people to come together and connect with other members of the community
- Most SJPL library branches have ESL conversation clubs
- Nutrition classes presented at the Hillview Branch, 8 weeks, facilitated in Spanish and English
- Free summer lunch program for children and teens

#### IV. Updates

##### A. ALLIES Updates – Ilse Pollet

###### *Website and Communications*

ALLIES invested in upgrading its website and setting up new communication infrastructure. The website ([www.allies4innovation.org](http://www.allies4innovation.org)) was developed with the EPN audience in mind and features past and current ALLIES work areas, EPN reports, EPN partner information and a resource page with links to useful reports and websites. Interactive features include a news and events page, contact form, donation page and sign up form for the quarterly ALLIES newsletter. Social media pages were created on Facebook and LinkedIn: [www.facebook.com/allies4innovation](http://www.facebook.com/allies4innovation), <https://www.linkedin.com/company-beta/17913482/>

All are encouraged to connect with ALLIES on social media and share news and events with Ilse.

Going forward, email communications will be sent through Mailchimp, make sure to add [ilse@allies4innovation.org](mailto:ilse@allies4innovation.org) via [mail150.suw14.mcdlv.net](mailto:mail150.suw14.mcdlv.net) to your contacts to ensure delivery to your inbox.

###### *Strategic Planning*

A formal strategic planning process for ALLIES is planned for the second half of 2017. The goals of this project are to redefine ALLIES' mission, work areas, programs and services; as well as develop recommendations for organizational development. Input from stakeholders will be sought throughout the strategic planning period.

###### *Core Work Areas*

ALLIES' core work areas for the remainder of 2017 will be dissemination and promotion of the Immigrant Integration Framework, convening the ESL Provider Network, policy advocacy and supporting ELL workforce development projects.

##### B. AEBG Consortia Updates

All four AEBG consortia in the bi-county Silicon Valley area updated the EPN on their latest projects and developments. Highlights from the presentation are listed on the meeting presentation slides.

- San Mateo County ACCEL – Jennifer Castello, Anniqua Rana
- North Santa Clara County Student Transitions Consortium – Alex Scott
- South Bay Consortium for Adult Education – Bob Harper

- Gavilan Regional Aces – Mary Ann Sanidad

### C. Policy Updates – Bob Harper

Bob Harper gave an overview of policy developments related to adult education, adult English language learners and immigration:

- AB104 (Adult Education Block Grant, AEBG) is entering its third year. The legislature wants to see results of their investment in 71 consortia across the state. Data and reporting of student outcomes will play a crucial role going forward.
- At the federal level, there is uncertainty about future funding for the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA), funding may be cut by 20%.
- There is continued interest and momentum around combining WIOA Title I (workforce development, job training) and Title II (adult education, ESL/Basic Skills) services.
- Immigrant Integration is an increasingly important topic in policy conversations
- At the State level, it is worth mentioning SB68 which would allow undocumented adults to register at community colleges as California residents

### V. Immigrant Integration Framework

Ilse Pollet provided an overview of the ALLIES Immigrant Integration Framework project (see meeting presentation slides for details) and hard copies of the executive summary of the Immigrant Integration white paper were distributed to all attendees.

Following the project overview, a panel conversation showcased examples of how goal areas from the Immigrant Integration Framework may be integrated with programs serving adult English Language Learners. Panel participants discussed program design, community needs, outcomes and lessons learned.

Panel Participants:

**Roberto Gil**, Education Program Manager, Sacred Heart Community Services, San Jose  
robertog@sacredheartcs.org

The Parents of Preschoolers program at Sacred Heart Community Service works in tandem with parents and children (3-5 year-olds) to create a foundation for lifelong learning for families with young children in San Jose. Parents of Preschoolers who are English learners commit to a nine-month course, four days per week, where they learn English together, practice growth mindset, and mindfulness to support their children's healthy development as

well as their own. From engagement to graduation, the entire family unit is supported through developmental assessments, basic needs and self-sufficiency resources and services, and opportunities to become more engaged and connected with their local community.

**Nancy Ducos**, Multilingual Community Outreach Coordinator, City of Mountain View  
Nancy.Ducos@mountainview.gov

The Spanish Language Civic Leadership Academy is an eight week program designed to improve residents' understanding of government and City services, and increase civic engagement, leadership, and volunteerism in the City of Mountain View. Each session is led by representatives from Mountain View City Departments and is translated simultaneously in Spanish and English. The program's objectives are to educate and increase awareness of City functions, services, activities, and issues; develop residents' understanding of their role in City government, prepare individuals to serve on Council Advisory Bodies and Committees.

**Sheryl Munoz-Bergman**, Director of Programs, International Institute of the Bay Area, Redwood City  
smbergman@iibayarea.org

The International Institute of the Bay Area (IIBA) is a non-profit organization that provides high-quality low-cost legal immigration services to community members who need them most. IIBA's Redwood City Office offers immigration consultations, citizenship workshops and classes. IIBA has a long standing partnership with Sequoia Adult School and Cañada College in offering on site legal rights workshops for English language learners.

**Attachment:** List of Attendees

**Community Based Organizations, Public Agencies:**

Accelerate Change: Eli Andrews, Steve  
Building Skills Partnerships: Christian Valdez, Ariana Hoyt, Adriana Garzon, Grazia Mora  
El Concilio: Aurelio  
Immigrantinfo.org: Franci Collins, Eman Ghanna  
International Institute of the Bay Area: Sheryl Munoz-Bergman  
Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley: Zoya Lazer, Natalie Lazar  
Mountain View Day Worker Center: Carol Broderick  
PARS Equality Center: Ellie Clelland  
Partners in Reading: Catherine McBain  
Puente: Charana Binford  
Redwood City 2020: Matthew Reeves  
Redwood City Public Library: Derek Wolfgram  
Refugee Transitions: Sonia Wong  
Rosalie Rendu Center: Sister Trinitas Hernandez  
Sacred Heart Community Services: Roberto Gil  
San Jose Public Library: Lisa Giannotti, Ofelia Chavarin  
San Mateo County Office of Immigrant Support and Relations: Jasmine Hartenstein  
SIREN: Sandra Cruz  
Upwardly Global: Liz Derr

**Adult Schools:**

Campbell Adult and Community Education: Bob Harper, Leslie Johnson-Tatsuta, Karen Weldon, Burr Guthrie, Heather Simonovich, Jennifer Parker – Adib,

Jefferson Adult School: Francisca Wentworth, Audrey Wittig, Stephanie Tang, Andrea Jesse, James Vogt

Milpitas Adult Education: Thanh Nguyen, Elsie Chandler, Lisa Lau, Nahil Ireiqat, Usha Narayanan

Palo Alto Adult School: Alexandra Scott, Sharon Hampel, Elizabeth Bales-Stutes

Puente de la Costa Sur: Lizeth Hernandez

San Mateo Adult School: Patricia Brown, Tim Doyle

Santa Clara Adult Education: Carla Macchello

Sequoia Adult School: Lionel DeMaine, Jonathan Fu, Nooshin Vassei



Silicon Valley Adult Education: Gloria Curd

**Community Colleges:**

Cañada College: Jennifer Castello, Gerardo Pacheco, Anniqua Rana

Evergreen Valley College: Gina Riccitelli, Kathy Jasper

Foothill College: Dawn Girardelli, Moaty Fayek, Paul Starer

Gavilan College: Mary Ann Sanidad, Blanca Melchor

Mission College: Amelia Ackers

San Jose City College: Dorothy Pucay, Leslie Takei

West Valley College: Ellen Goldman

Workforce Institute: Kishan Vujjeni, Lynette Gray

Guests:

California Department of Education: Chris Nelson, Carmen Martinez-Calderon

Stanford Immigration Policy Lab: Michael Hotard