National Speakers

**Margaret Patterson**

Dr. Patterson has 15 years of research administration experience at the state and national levels, ran a statewide research and data analysis consulting business for seven years, and presents extensively around the country. She partners with non-profit organizations, postsecondary institutions, and state agencies, applying research to support adult educators and learners. She also has many years of experience as an adult educator and local and state administrator.

**Jayme Adelson Goldstein**

As a teacher educator, specializing in adult ESOL, Jayme Adelson-Goldstein provides workshops, institutes, online courses and webinars across the U.S. on topics ranging from ESOL methodology to visual literacy to standards integration. From 2015-2016, Jayme coached a cohort of Florida ESOL professionals as they integrated contextualized ESOL instruction for work and career pathways into their programs. Prior to that, her work with Florida focused on the integration of rigor in EL Civics instruction. Jayme is co-author of The Oxford Picture Dictionary 3e (2016), the series director of Step Forward 2e (2017) and is the host of the new podcast Oxford Adult ESL Conversations.

**Lupe Ruvalcaba**

Guadalupe Ruvalcaba is an Independent Education & Training Consultant working with both instructors and program managers to assist with enhancing program improvement initiatives. She has trained for the National Leadership Excellence Academy, Cambridge ESL, Texas TRAIN PD, Ace of Florida and various other organizations. She brings 40 years of experience in the education field, with 10 years as Director of the San Antonio ISD Adult Education Department, 25 years in the K- 12th section and 20 years as a trainer. She previously served on various boards including Workforce Solutions-Alamo, Literacy Texas, Texas LEARNS State Advisory Committee, and was President/Conference Chair for the Texas Council of Adult Basic Education Administrators.

**Jerry Parrish**

Dr. Jerry D. Parrish is the Chief Economist and the Director of Research for the Florida Chamber Foundation. In that role, he is responsible for conducting in-depth analyses on the Florida economy and on solutions to help secure Florida’s future.

Dr. Parrish previously was the Chief Economist and Director of the Center for Competitive Florida at Florida TaxWatch. Prior to that position, he served as the Associate Director of the Center for Economic Forecasting & Analysis (CEFA) at Florida State University and has many years of experience in the private sector in management roles at international manufacturing companies.

Dr. Parrish is currently an Adjunct Instructor in the Masters in Applied Economics Program at Florida State University. He earned a B.S. in Agricultural Business and Economics from Auburn University, an M.B.A. from Bellarmine University, an M.S. in Economics from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and a Ph.D. in Economics from Auburn University. He regularly publishes research reports and articles on the Florida economy and Florida’s competitiveness.

**Jeri Gue**

Jeri Gue is the curriculum coordinator for adult and prison education for the Delaware

Department of Education. Throughout her 28 plus years in education, she has taught students at various levels of school – elementary, special education, high school, postsecondary, and corrections. Jeri spent six years in the field of adult education teaching adult basic education (ABE), GED, English as a second language (ESL), and college classes within a correctional setting. As a curriculum coordinator since 2012 she has worked to develop all levels of curriculum that align with the College and Career Readiness Standards, the Next Generation Science Standards, and the English Language Proficiency Standards.  As a state staff member, she is responsible for professional development for ABE, GED, ESL, and James H. Groves Adult High School teachers. Jeri has been a LINCS trainer for about six years and has presented Learning to Achieve modules at several state conferences.

**Marie Cora**

Marie Cora is a national Adult Basic Education consultant. Her areas of expertise include working with Adult English Language Learners, assessment and accountability, evidence-based professional development, and program management. Marie teaches online courses and provides technical assistance in professional development for a variety of clients nationally. She is a presenter at workshops and conferences on issues including classroom assessment, data use, English language literacy, and program development. Marie’s experience includes work as a classroom teacher, program director, professional developer, and project manager for local and nationwide initiatives. Marie holds a bachelor’s in Spanish linguistics and a master’s in teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

**Jenny Root**

Dr. Jenny Root is an Assistant Professor of Special Education in the School of Teacher Education at Florida State University. She teaches courses on assessment and instruction of students with disabilities. Dr. Root is a board-certified behavior analyst (BCBA) and the Director of the General Curriculum Access lab at FSU. Her research focuses on instructional methods to promote academic learning for students with autism and intellectual disability.

**Indera Demine**

Ms. DeMine is a resident of Southwest Florida and a solo practitioner located in downtown Fort Myers. Ms. DeMine started her immigration law career immediately after graduating Ave Maria School of Law in 2012. She began working for a local firm in Fort Myers, Florida for almost 4 years. As an immigrant herself, Ms. DeMine has always been passionate about Immigration law and welcomed the opportunity to help her clients navigate the often confusing, immigration process. She has represented clients in immigration court throughout Florida and has successfully defended clients in removal/deportation trials. Ms. DeMine has also represented clients before the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and has guided her clients as they pursue petitions through the U.S. consulates around the world.

In September 2016, Ms. DeMine opened her solo practice focusing on immigration and nationality law. Ms. DeMine started the firm with the idea of having an immigration-only law firm in Fort Myers, Florida. She realized that there was a strong need for an attorney who specializes in immigration law and decided to open her own firm.

Ms. DeMine comes from a very supportive family. Her parents and two brothers live in New Jersey but maintain a close relationship with Ms. DeMine. Ms. DeMine's family immigrated in 2002 and since then, has worked hard to assimilate in the United States. Her father, who was once a small rice farmer in Mahaicony Creek, Guyana, is now a small business owner in NJ. Ms. DeMine credits every ounce of her success to her parents.

In her spare time, Ms. DeMine is very involved in the local bar association, the young lawyers division and the American Immigration Lawyers Association. She also volunteers her time on the weekends, giving free immigration consultation at local churches and community centers. Ms. DeMine is married to attorney Thomas DeMine who is a local criminal defense attorney in Fort Myers, Florida.

**Vania Llovera**

She received a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Multilingual/Multicultural Education from Florida State University. Ms. Llovera has been teaching for Adult and Community Education (ACE) in Tallahassee since 2005 where she has taught evening classes to English learners from around the world.  At this time, she is the lead teacher for the on-line ESOL classes at ACE. She conducts classes for adult students in which she incorporates information about services and remedies for victims of various crimes including human trafficking.

Ms. Llovera is also a program manager at Florida State University Center for the Advancement of Human Rights (the Center), where she oversees the administrative work of the Center. She has been working with the Center since 2001. She conducts trainings on human trafficking for various groups in the community and at conferences for educators. In addition, she oversees the Center’s case management and service provision for human trafficking victims and victims of other crimes. She has developed curriculum for the Florida Department of Education and Florida Department of Children and Families on human trafficking. She was granted BIA Accreditation in 2013 and is assisting clients with their VAWA, DACA, Adjustment of Status, asylum, Cancellation of Removal, SIJS, TPS, U and T visa application submissions. In addition, she provides pro bono legal representation to the Center’s clients who are in removal proceeding in immigration court.

She has established direct connections with prosecutors, victim advocates and law enforcement officials throughout the state. She works very closely with them to secure the necessary documentation to apply for immigration relief for clients who are victims of crimes and to apply for any other forms of relief under the Victim’s Compensation Program.

She serves as a co-chair for the Big Bend Coalition Against Human Trafficking Social Service Committee. On behalf of the coalition, she has written co-eds, has participated on radio show interviews to discuss how Florida is affected by human trafficking, conducted presentations and outreach initiatives. In addition, she serves on the board of the Survive and Thrive Advocacy Center, a non-profit that assists victims and survivors of human trafficking in the second judicial circuit.

**Neil Sturomski**

Neil Sturomskiisthe former Director of the National Adult Literacy and Learning Disabilities Center.  With more than forty years of experience in education and adult education, including supporting individuals with disabilities and other special learning needs, he has worked in a variety of capacities including direct service, diagnostics, administration, curriculum design, research, information management, data collection, evaluation, and graduate-level teaching.  In 1996 Mr. Sturomski formed Sturomski & Associates, a consulting firm whose primary mission is to help adult educators, literacy practitioners, employers, and job training program instructors better meet the needs of adults at-risk and those with disabilities.  He recently wrote two professional development books; one on reading and the reading process, and the other on the use of advance organizers in adult education. Both are available on his website [www.neilsturomsk.com](http://www.neilsturomsk.com/).  He continues to train for and consult with various states and organizations.