



2026

NYS AIEP CONFERENCE

May 12–May 15, 2026 | Saratoga Springs, NY



It is my great pleasure to welcome NYS Association of Incarcerated Education to one of America's great small cities, Saratoga Springs. We are so pleased your group has chosen Saratoga Springs for your conference. If you've been here before, you know what a wonderful place Saratoga Springs is, and you've hopefully been looking forward to coming back. If this is your first visit, we think you'll be astonished at the beauty, charm, welcoming nature, sophistication and remarkable wealth of attractions, restaurants, museums, retail shops and fine accommodations Saratoga has to offer.

Saratoga's award-winning, walkable, and vibrant downtown is a jewel among destination cities. Our springs are a treasure worth celebrating and you'll find several mineral springs with their unique waters flowing freely all-around town. Horses are at the heart of Saratoga. When people talk "track" they only mean one thing – the Saratoga Racecourse – a cultural icon and one of the world's top 10 sports venues, according to Sports Illustrated Magazine. And while it isn't racing season, you can still get a sense of our rich equine history at the National Museum of Racing & Hall of Fame, located on Union Avenue across from the Race Course. The arts and cultural scene remains vibrant during the winter months too! Catch a performance at Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Café' Lena or any of the terrific live performance venues downtown. Or peruse any of the cool galleries and exhibit spaces in our Beekman St. Arts District, downtown or at Skidmore College.

If you're hungry, there's no place better to grab a bite. In fact, Saratoga boasts more restaurants & bars per capita (over 220 at last count) than any other place in the country other than San Francisco, pretty good company I would say. And there are fun-facts abound in Saratoga...the Potato Chip was first created here, as was the Club Sandwich and Pie à la Mode. Combine these with a bottle of Saratoga Water (or a beer from one of our breweries or glass of wine from our local wineries) and you have a great meal! Saratoga is also famous for the Battle of Saratoga, the turning point of the American Revolution and is also the spot where Standard Time was first recognized.

It's amazing that a city the size of Saratoga (approximately 30,000 year-round residents) can welcome millions of visitors each year, but our satisfied "customers" return again and again because Saratoga has always been someplace special. Health, History and Horses is a catchphrase that's almost too simple in summing up all that is Saratoga. It's much more than that, as you'll soon learn if you're a first-timer, and you'll quickly recall if you're returning to this wonderful "city in the country."

So, welcome to Saratoga! We're so glad you're here and we extend our best wishes to you for an enjoyable stay and successful conference and please come back and see us again soon!

Cheers,

Darryl Leggieri
President

Saratoga Convention & Tourism Bureau

60 Railroad Place, Suite 301, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 | **Toll Free:** (855) 424-6073 | www.discover-saratoga.org



Office of the
SARATOGA COUNTY SHERIFF
Jeffrey R. Brown, Sheriff

6012 County Farm Road, Ballston Spa, 12020

518-885-6761

Good Morning/Afternoon!

On behalf of the Saratoga County Sheriff's Office, it is my pleasure to welcome attendees to Saratoga County for the 4-day conference presented by the NYS Association of Incarcerated Education Programs.

This conference brings together people who want to grow in their profession, share important ideas, and grow their network of colleagues. It is important that those involved participate in continuing education so they can best serve this population and we are delighted that it is done so in our own backyard.

I hope you enjoy your time here in our beautiful county and walk away feeling more empowered to bring positive change to those who wish to change their lives through education.

Warm Regards,

Jeffrey R. Brown

Jeffrey R. Brown, County Sheriff

WELCOME!

Welcome to the 38th Annual Conference. The Board and I are so grateful to be able to have our annual conference once again in Saratoga Springs. We are certain this will be our best conference ever, celebrating thirty-eight years of our Association. I sincerely want to thank Gretchen Napier who is our conference chairperson. Once again she has done a wonderful job of coordinating all the various aspects of our conference so you will enjoy a valuable professional experience. I want to thank our Finance Chairperson – Joe Powlina who has coordinated the financial aspects for this event and coordination of our Sponsorship / Scholarship Raffle in addition to his primary responsibility to the organization as our Finance Chair. I want to thank Karen Weidman who has facilitated the conference registration and coordination of the Scholarship opportunity. Finally, I want to thank the Conference Committee who has taken on various additional responsibilities to ensure a successful conference.

You will notice a few changes that we hope will add to the total conference this year. We also extend a welcome to our Sheriffs and Jail Administrators who are attending this conference this year. Your support and dedication to the enrichment of educational programming in our jails is commendable. We look forward to future initiatives that will strengthen the relationship between corrections and education.

I would like to give a brief update regarding the website. I encourage you to keep up to date with our Association through our site at www.nysaiep.org. The website is a vibrant dynamic that offers information that is helpful to educators in a correctional setting. We continuously post updated information from our regions and affiliates. The website is an ongoing project, so if you have a promising program or project, please advise us so we can place it on our site and keep it current. Also, the regional reports will be placed on the site for your review.

Thank you so much for your expertise and continued dedication to our students and professionals across the state. Please take a moment to introduce yourself to me and our Board members. We are always very receptive to new ideas and suggestions. Remember, we are able to implement a Scholarship fund for a family member or member of NYSAIEP who will be attending higher education. Please refer to the website for information on next year's opportunity.

In conclusion, I continue to enjoy all aspects of NYSAIEP and look forward to the future. It is a privilege to work with colleagues such as all of you. Together, we will continue to move the incarcerated education programs forward and address the very unique needs of our students as they transition back to their families and our communities.

Sincerely,

Signe Nelson
President

WORKSHOPS WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE ROOMS BELOW



*Thank you Holiday Inn Saratoga Springs
for another year of wonderful hospitality*



TUESDAY, MAY 12

1:00PM – 4:00PM SESSION

CAPITAL REGION/NORTH COUNTRY RAEN

NYSED-AEPP Turnkey Training: MATH • WIN

Daniel Hale

The GED testing service has highlighted ratios, percents, and scale factors as High Impact Indicators, foundational skills that serve as building blocks for other math topics that appear on the GED exam. In this workshop, participants will delve into instructional strategies that harness the power of visual mathematics to build conceptual understanding of these critical concepts. The workshop will include interactive activities, collaborative learning, and technology integration. Participants will investigate problem-solving through visual reasoning and acquire practical strategies for integrating visual mathematics into instruction.

3:00PM – 4:00PM SESSION

Corrections Roundtable • QUINELLA/EXACTA

John Mack

Join moderator John Mack and colleagues in a discussion of issues, interests, and best practices within your facility. Share ideas and network with individuals sharing your same concerns. There will be a follow-up session on Thursday morning.

DINNER • BOOKMAKERS • 5:30PM–7:30PM ENTERTAINMENT TO FOLLOW

NETWORKING RECEPTION

Join us before dinner to network with your colleagues with complimentary beverages and snacks.

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY NIGHTS AT 6:00PM

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

BREAKFAST • DAILY DOUBLE 7:30 – 8:30AM

8:45AM – 10:15AM GENERAL SESSION

Keynote • DAILY DOUBLE

Sheriff Apple

For over 38 years, Albany County Sheriff Craig Apple has devoted his energy to developing safer communities with justice-focused solutions. He has implemented numerous community-focused, rehabilitative, and social service programs, including but not limited to the SHIP Homeless Improvement Project at the Correctional Facility, SHARP Addiction Recovery Program, the Sheriff's Inmate Fire Training Program, Veterans Assistance Program, Parenting/Family Education Program, Hilltown Christmas, and Active Shooter Preparedness Training. Sheriff Apple is proud to announce a new initiative that will be opening in Spring 2026 in Albany! LEASH is a joint project with the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society to give vulnerable animals a second chance at life. Animals are placed here to help with overcrowding at MHHS as every year countless animals are abandoned, lost or rescued from unsafe conditions. This facility will allow the animals to be brought in safely and have a safe, stress-free environment to prepare for adoption. Staff and volunteers working with the animals will have the opportunity for training in safe handling, cleaning and enrichment, ensuring each animal receives compassionate, quality care. For more information about some of the dynamic programs offered, please check out craigapple.com.

Vendor Spotlight • DAILY DOUBLE

We'll be introducing our vendors that you'll have the chance to meet throughout the week. From innovative programs and educational services to essential supplies and cutting-edge technologies, each vendor brings something unique to the table. During this time you'll get a brief introduction to the people, products, and missions behind the booths.

POKER RUN AROUND TOWN

**SARATOGA
TROT**

**WEDNESDAY AT 9PM
START IN HOTEL LOBBY**



10:30AM – 11:45AM SESSIONS

Incarcerated Women: Challenges and Change • WIN

Jennifer Howell

This workshop examines the unique challenges faced by incarcerated women, with a focus on the intersection of trauma, substance use, mental health, and systemic inequality. Participants will explore the pathways that lead women into incarceration, including the criminalization of poverty and addiction, and the disproportionate impact on mothers and primary caregivers. The session will highlight critical gaps in care—such as limited access to healthcare, medication-assisted treatment, and gender-responsive programming—while also examining promising practices and existing women’s programs within Erie County jails. Emphasis will be placed on the importance of gender-responsive approaches and the role of community-based alternatives in reducing recidivism. Attendees will leave with a deeper understanding of these issues and practical insights to inform policy, programming, and advocacy efforts aimed at improving outcomes for justice-involved women.

Lieutenant Jennifer Howell is a 19-year veteran of the Erie County Sheriff’s Office, Jail Management Division in Buffalo, NY, currently serving in the Community Reintegration Division. She holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology and master’s in counseling and human services. With a strong background in both law enforcement and human services, Lieutenant Howell is dedicated to fostering positive community reintegration strategies and supporting individuals as they transition into society.

GED Test Mastery • PLACE

Greg Stultz

In this interactive session, explore this comprehensive series with its scaffolded instruction, test-taking strategies, and targeted practice questions modeled after the exam, that earned 100% alignment to the GED Assessment Targets and Practices as determined by ProCert. Discover, by participating in lesson activities, how its instructional approach reminds/models that it’s more than what you teach, but how you teach it. Spoiler alert: each participant will leave the session with a free student book!

Since 2008, Greg Stultz has served as an educational sales consultant and product trainer for New Readers Press, the publishing division of ProLiteracy. Greg’s prior work experience in adult education includes eight years in Japan as a teacher-trainer and ELL instructor.

Experiences as a Paranormal Investigator • SHOW

Frank Kupka

During past presentations, Frank has described various out of the ordinary experiences he has had at several corrections facilities. He has described, explained and demonstrated several tools and pieces of equipment that paranormal investigators use. This year Frank will have some audio, pictures and video to help you make a determination about your feelings on such phenomenon.

Frank is a retired Corrections Officer and founder of Buffalo Phantom Hunters. He has investigated numerous historical sites including the Buffalo Central Train Terminal, USS Sullivan, USS Little Rock, Iron Island Museum, Burlington County Jail Museum, and many more across the United States. He feels that paranormal investigations are about helping others cope with what is going on in their lives as well as solving the mystery as to why phenomena is happening. Frank lives in Depew, NY with his wife and two bulldogs.

Monroe County Probation & Youth Services • EXACTA

Kristine Durante

Monroe County Probation has been committed to working collaboratively with other County Departments to provide the best services for our youth. We have a long history of decreasing congregate care placements despite the increase in more violent juvenile delinquency offenses. We achieve this through our new Juvenile Enhanced Diversion Stabilization program (JEDS). We leverage funds through STSJP and RTA to pay for an "Educational Liaison".

Kristine Durante is the Chief Probation Officer for the Monroe County Office of Probation-Community Corrections. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from the State University of New York at Albany, and earned her Master's Degree in Counseling from the Warner School of Education, at the University of Rochester. Kristine has over 29 years with the Monroe County Office of Probation-Community Corrections, serving in various capacities in both the Adult Criminal Services and Family Services Divisions of Probation.

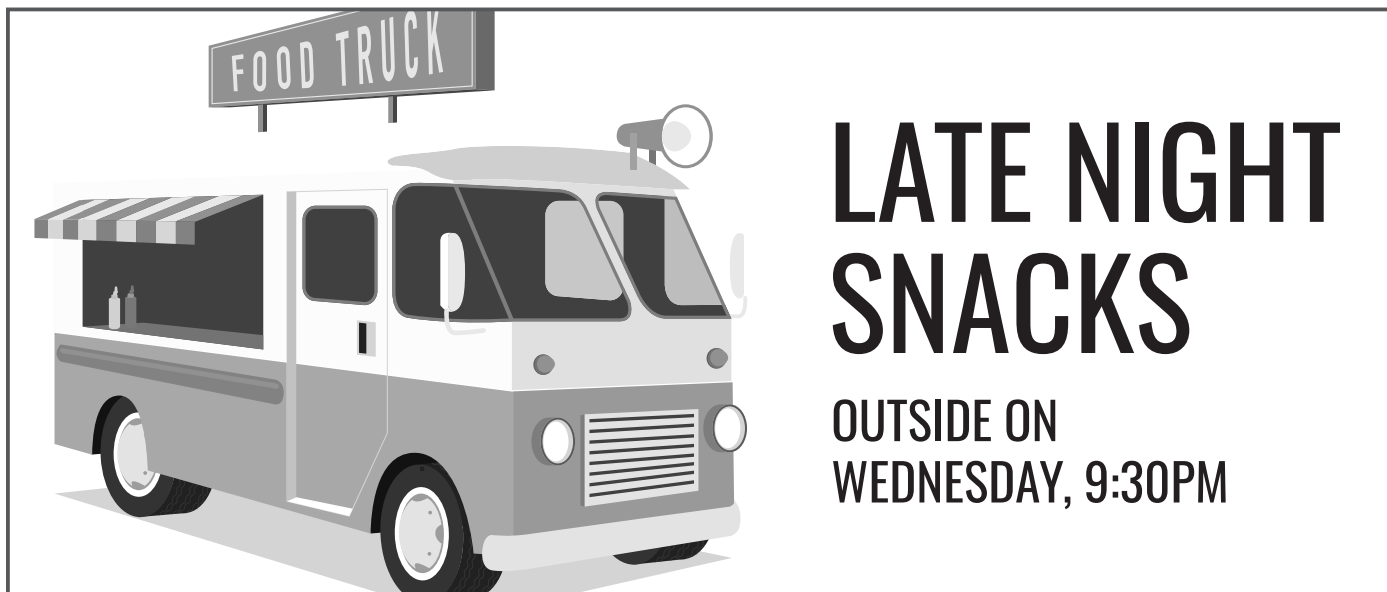
Pass the Math GED: TI-30xs Calculator Strategies • QUINELLA

Brett Mosier

Teach your students to find the slope and Y-intercept for a function using two coordinate points, determine mean, median and range (calculator won't do mode). Use the (sto>) key and (X) key to substitute variables into expressions and equations; use the (table) key to find solutions and coordinate points from a linear equation. This can be especially useful for students with learning disabilities but an affinity for technology.

Brett started his teaching career in Peace Corps Paraguay as an environmental educator in the sub-tropical rainforest. Upon returning to the US, he worked at Bishop Grimes High School teaching science and math. Currently, he is working as an HSE Instructor at the Onondaga County Justice Center.

LUNCH • DAILY DOUBLE 12:00PM – 1:15PM



1:30PM – 2:45PM SESSIONS

GED Testing in the Incarcerated Setting • WIN

Jesse Fosmire

The High School Equivalency Office, along with GED Testing Service, support test takers seeking to earn a High School Equivalency Diploma. This session is designed for correctional educators, and test administrators, to enhance their knowledge on resources, tools, technology and the latest updates the GED testing program offers. Session will focus on where to find valuable teaching resources and classroom materials to help your students pass the GED test and earn their credential. In addition, we will spend time reviewing our GED Manager tool for correctional staff.

Jesse and his colleagues (Cily, Courtney, and Amanda) support NYS HSE advocates and candidates. Contact HSETC@nysed.gov to communicate directly with our leadership team to advocate on behalf of those you support. Candidates are encouraged to contact our office through our general inbox HSE@nysed.gov. Scott Salesses supports adult education programs, GED testing centers, correctional educators as well as state leadership and other stakeholders involved with GED testing. Scott resides in Boston, MA.

Let's Talk TABE 13&14 • PLACE

Greg Stultz

The new TABE 13&14 assessments have been updated with new standards and redesigned domains—changes that require fresh instructional strategies. In this session, we will call out major test changes, then look at two new products designed to help adult educators prepare learners for TABE 13&14 assessments with confidence. Discover how these materials align with the new blueprints, reduce reading load, and connect learning to real-life and workplace contexts.

Since 2008, Greg Stultz has served as an educational sales consultant and product trainer for New Readers Press, the publishing division of ProLiteracy. Greg's prior work experience in adult education includes eight years in Japan as a teacher-trainer and ELL instructor.

STAC & Maximizing Resources: Effective Use of Title I, Part D • SHOW

Andrew Kitzrow and Stephen Chodkowski of the STAC and Medicaid Unit

David Coffey, Office of ESSH Funded Programs

Title I, Part D of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides support for improving education and transition services for youth who are neglected, delinquent, or at risk. This presentation introduces educational programmers and facility administrators to the core purpose of Title I, Part D and clarifies how these funds can strengthen instruction, reentry planning, and overall student success within delinquent facilities. Attendees will learn about allowable and effective uses of funds, explore examples of program enhancements, and gain insight into how to collaborate productively with Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) that administer the funding. The session aims to build understanding & empower facilities to make the most of available resources to better serve youth in their care. Andrew and Stephen will also provide an overview of the Incarcerated Youth reimbursement process, including details about the amount of State aid available to school districts, as well as guidance regarding how districts can utilize the STAC Online (EFRT) System for funding.

David Coffey works in the New York State Education Department's Office of ESSA-Funded Programs where he serves as the State coordinator for the Title I, Part D program, which supports prevention and intervention initiatives for children and youth who are neglected, delinquent, or at risk. He has spent three years in this role, following his work as the ELA representative in the Office of Curriculum and Instruction. Stephen is an Education Finance Specialist 1 in the NYSED STAC/MEDICAID Unit. He is the training coordinator for the unit and oversees reimbursement processes for students enrolled in the 4201 State-supported and State-operated schools across New York. Andrew is an Education Finance Specialist 2 in the NYSED STAC/MEDICAID Unit. He assists school districts and counties in securing reimbursement for a variety of school age placement types. He oversees the reimbursement process for students who are in the care and custody of other state agencies, students who are incarcerated, and homeless or runaway youth.

Practical Topics in Correctional Education Part 1 • EXACTA

Alisa Smedley

This extended workshop will provide valuable foundational knowledge for correctional educators. The workshop is designed for those new to the field or experienced professionals wanting to sharpen tools in their toolkit. The session is limited to 15 attendees. Participants are encouraged to share current challenges they face on the job. The small group format will provide a suitable environment for brainstorming and problem solving.

Topics covered include: What makes a good correctional educator? • Developing a Customer Service Mindset in Correctional Education • Student Recruitment and Retention: What We're Doing Wrong! • The One Room Schoolhouse: 3 Strategies for Holding Everyone's Attention • The Magic File Cabinet (organizing classroom resources)

Each participant will receive a copy of Coach Smedley's book, Practical Topics in Correctional Education.

Coach Alisa Smedley is an educational consultant with extensive experience in community and facility-based reentry programs. She has led or consulted reentry programs at the federal, state and local levels across the country. Coach Smedley managed the American Jobs Center located inside a maximum-security facility in Maryland for ten years. As the child of an incarcerated parent, Coach Smedley brings insight, relatability, and creative energy to her conference presentations on the national stage.

Speed Networking • QUINELLA

Lisa Zurek

Join fellow conference participants for a round-robin style session designed to foster connection and collaboration. This is an opportunity to learn more about one another's roles, experiences, and perspectives. The session will be facilitated by Lisa Zurek and will offer a fun, engaging, and fast-paced environment.

3:00PM – 4:15PM SESSIONS

Post Release Return to Learn: Transitioning Our Youth Back to School • WIN

Buffalo Transition Team

This workshop focuses on supporting youth as they transition back into school following release from detention or residential placement. Participants will learn about the Buffalo Public Schools strength-based model that bridges gaps, assists in establishing expectations and provides guidance and support for students, guardians and school officials. The "Return to Learn" process has been an integral part of our transition program for the past 2 years with success. We hope to share some practical tools you can take back and use in your districts.

The presenters of this session include Trish Lamb Walker (Transition Advisor), Theresa Sirdevan (Transition Counselor) and Ronique Workman (Community Resource Leader). This team has been working collaboratively for eight years supporting students and families with transition planning, navigating educational services, and bridging the gap between facilities, court and schools.

Probation 101 • PLACE

Kristen Jackson

This session takes a practical look at what happens after someone leaves a structured classroom or program and transitions into community supervision. From a probation perspective, we'll explore why progress in one setting doesn't always translate to another, what signals real behavioral change, and where gaps between systems can impact outcomes. Attendees will walk away with a clearer understanding of how to align efforts, share meaningful information, and better support long-term success beyond the classroom.

Kristen Jackson is the Commissioner of the Onondaga County Probation Department. She oversees adult and juvenile probation, pretrial services, and specialized supervision units, with a focus on balancing public safety and behavioral change. With experience at the intersection of law enforcement and social services, she is committed to strengthening collaboration across systems and improving outcomes for individuals involved in the justice system.

MORE 3:00PM WORKSHOPS ON THE NEXT PAGE

Community Reintegration in Erie County • SHOW

Nicholas Handel and Jason Puelo

The Erie County Sheriff's Department Forestry division works with multiple non-profit organizations in a variety of programs. This session will highlight some of those agencies and their horticulture program.

Nicholas Handel has been a Corrections Officer working for the ECSD for 13 years. For the last year and a half he has been working with the Community Reintegration/Forestry Division for the dept. Due to his prior experience working as a horticulturist and owning/operating various businesses he has gathered a tremendous amount of knowledge that he is able to pass on to his team of incarcerated individuals. He trains them on various growing techniques to successfully produce crops to help them support their families and communities after release back into their community.

Jason Puelo is a dedicated forestry officer with the ECSO, serving within the Community Reintegration Division. He plays a vital role in supporting rehabilitation efforts by overseeing environmental work programs that promote responsibility, skill-building, and community engagement. With a strong commitment to public service, Jason helps individuals successfully transition back into society while contributing to not for profit organizations.

Practical Topics in Correctional Education Part 2 • EXACTA

Alisa Smedley

This extended workshop will provide valuable foundational knowledge for correctional educators. The workshop is designed for those new to the field or experienced professionals wanting to sharpen tools in their toolkit. The session is limited to 15 attendees. Participants are encouraged to share current challenges they face on the job. The small group format will provide a suitable environment for brainstorming and problem solving.

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Use The TI-30XS Calculator to Pass the GED • QUINELLA

Brett Mosier

Our students are disproportionately learning disabled or traumatized. A calculator can make these students feel safer and more successful with math, helping them to pass the GED Math Subtest. This can also be useful in the Science and Social Studies subtests where statistics questions are common.

Brett started his teaching career in Peace Corps Paraguay as an environmental educator in the sub-tropical rainforest. Upon returning to the US, he worked at Bishop Grimes High School teaching science and math. Currently, he is working as an HSE Instructor at the Onondaga County Justice Center.

DINNER • DAILY DOUBLE • 6PM–8PM
ENTERTAINMENT TO FOLLOW

THANK YOU TO OUR GOLD SPONSOR



Singularly focused on providing comprehensive, high-quality health care services to county jails, prisons, and juvenile detention centers throughout the United States with several decades of success in the industry. Dedicated solely to correctional health care, our company is designed for our clients, advocates for our patients, and understands our most important resource is our health care team members. We are a proven leader in correctional health care, continuously improving standards of care through evidence-based best practice in all areas to foster positive patient outcomes.

PRIMECAREMEDICAL.COM

THURSDAY, MAY 14

BREAKFAST • DAILY DOUBLE 7:30 – 8:30AM

8:45AM – 10AM SESSIONS

Empowering Futures: Understanding LLCs and Their Benefits for Re-Entry • WIN

David Reed

During this session, David will discuss an alternative to a roadblock that can happen upon release – inability to find a job. Starting an LLC and being self-employed is straight-forward, and focuses on individual skills. Starting your own business can avoid many employment issues and provide services to the community.

David Reed has been practicing law for nearly 40 years. Over the past 16 years he has helped over 600 clients form new companies in over 18 states. These clients include students, retirees, full-time workers, foreigners, and felons. All have gone on to find personal, professional and/or tax benefits from owning their own businesses.

Erie County Sheriff's Department Horticulture Program • PLACE

Nicholas Handel

Nicholas will present on the ECSO Community Reintegration/Forestry Division's horticultural program focusing on some of the non-profits they partner with and the benefits received by the local community as a result.

Nicholas Handel has been a Corrections Officer working for the ECSD for 13 years. Due to his prior experience working as a horticulturist and owning/operating various businesses he has gathered a tremendous amount of knowledge that he is able to pass on to his team of incarcerated individuals. He trains them on various growing techniques to successfully produce crops to help them support their families & communities after release back into their community.

Let's Talk TABE 13&14 • SHOW

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Since 2008, Greg Stultz has served as an educational sales consultant and product trainer for New Readers Press, the publishing division of ProLiteracy. Greg's prior work experience in adult education includes eight years in Japan as a teacher-trainer and ELL instructor.

Discussion On Youth Detention Services and Issues • EXACTA/QUINELLA

Damian Pratt

Join Damian as he hosts a session regarding youth detention centers. He will answer questions and give a general overview of the status of youth detention programs.

Damian Pratt is the Associate Commissioner for the Division of Youth Development and Partnerships for Success. He has an extensive background in juvenile justice and detention services, beginning his career in 2009 as the director of Onondaga County Youth Court for New Justice Services. He was also a probation officer for Onondaga County where he provided support and supervision for youth involved with criminal and family court.

10:15AM - 11:30AM SESSIONS

Pre-Employment Transition Services and Transition to the World of Work • WIN

Laurie Barnes-Holden, Mallory Downar, Audrey Mangan, Jonathan Santiago, Betsy Raguse

According to ACCES-VR, Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) for Potentially Eligible (PE) Students with Disabilities (SWD), "are designed to address the career development needs of students with disabilities who are not already receiving vocational rehabilitation services. Pre-ETS prepares students with disabilities for employment, explores their post-secondary education options, develops their employment related soft skills and assists them in obtaining work experience. Pre-ETS provides a meaningful way to enhance the development of a student's career direction. The goal is for Pre-ETS to prepare students to become engaged in their own transition and vocational planning as well as for successful long-term employment consistent with their individual strengths, abilities, interests, and informed choice." We want to share how educators of incarcerated youth can engage in these vital services and make the connection to ACCES-VR as part of a re-entry plan before students leave an incarcerated setting.

Jonathan Santiago is the Executive Director of Transition and Postsecondary Initiatives at the Central Special Education Office for the NYC Public Schools. Laurie Barnes Holden has worked for many years at NYC Public Schools across all five NYC boroughs. Her career has spanned from being a Special Education Teacher, Special Education School Improvement Specialist, and Citywide Transition Specialist to her current role as an Instructional Lead at the Queens Transition and College Access Center. Betsy Raguse is a dedicated Education Administrator supporting Special Education within District 79, the NYC Public School District for Alternative Schools and Programs. Audrey Mangan has enjoyed many years with the NYCDOE as a Teacher and School Leader in Districts 75, 4, 7, and 79 in the Bronx, Manhattan and Southern Westchester BOCES. Mallory Downar has worked closely with various organizations to provide necessary resources in her community in hopes of bringing comfort to those in need.

Corrections Roundtable Follow Up • PLACE

John Mack

As requested from past conference participants, this session will be a follow-up from Tuesday afternoon. Once again, John Mack will lead the discussion surrounding issues within the correctional world. This session can be a lead in to the Commission of Corrections session after lunch.

Ignite at the Chautauqua County Jail, Working to Improve the Lives of Others • SHOW

John Clark

This presentation will highlight the Inmate Growth Naturally and Intentionally Through Education (IGNITE) program, designed to reduce recidivism through education and job training. IGNITE was initiated by the National Sheriff's Association. We will discuss why the program is important and provide some outcomes that have been reported during the program process.

Corrections Officer John M. Clark is a US Marine Corps veteran (Semper Fi) and currently serves as the I.G.N.I.T.E. Program Coordinator. In this role, he supports rehabilitative and educational programming designed to promote personal growth and reduce recidivism among incarcerated individuals. He earned a BS degree in Childhood Education from SUNY Fredonia in 2010, bringing a strong educational foundation to his work in corrections and inmate programming.

MORE 10:15AM WORKSHOPS ON THE NEXT PAGE

Support our sponsorship & scholarship funds with

PRIZE RAFFLES

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY AT DINNER



Transforming Correctional Education: The Power of Promethean Boards & Tech • EXACTA **Maria Nethaway & Shirley Ross**

Explore how modern instructional tools can reshape learning inside correctional facilities. This workshop highlights the unique challenges educators face in secure environments and demonstrates how interactive Promethean Boards, paired with thoughtfully selected technologies, can expand access, engagement, and instructional quality. Participants examine practical strategies for delivering standards aligned lessons, supporting diverse learning needs, and fostering digital literacy while maintaining safety and compliance. Real world examples illustrate how interactive displays encourage collaboration, increase student motivation, and create more dynamic, hands on learning experiences. Attendees also gain insight into implementation considerations, from staff training to content adaptation, ensuring technology enhances rather than complicates instruction. By the end of the session, educators will understand how these tools can help bridge learning gaps, promote rehabilitation, and empower learners with skills that support successful reentry.

Maria Nethaway is HS Special Education teacher of 13 years, guiding students, fostering inclusive learning and individualized growth. She also has 4 years of experience as Mental Health Education Coordinator and 3 years as HFM BOCES Adult educator and case manager, empowering learners through academic, career readiness, and community resource navigation. Shirley Ross has 5 years of experience as HFM Boces Adult educator and case manager with credentials in alcohol and substance abuse counseling and a background in social work, supporting diverse learners through guidance, advocacy, and recovery focused education.

LUNCH & ANNUAL MEETING **DAILY DOUBLE • 11:45AM–1:15PM**

CARICATURES

BY PHIL SINGER

Available all week in the lobby



1:15PM - 2:30PM SESSIONS

NYS Commission of Corrections Citizen's Policy & Complaint Review Council • WIN

Elizabeth Gaynes, Deborah Slack-Bean and Signe Nelson

Join for a discussion on the responsibility of the Council. They must investigate, review or take action as it deems necessary with respect to grievances regarding any local correctional facility. The Council consists of 9 persons who are appointed by the governor, with the consent of the senate. The nine must include a veteran, an attorney admitted to practice in New York, a former incarcerated individual, a former correction officer, a person who is a former resident of a division for youth secure center or a duly New York licensed health care professional, one person who is a former employee of OCFS who directly supervised youth in a secure center, and two at large members.

Elizabeth Gaynes has been appointed as one of the three Commissioners on the Commission of Corrections. Deborah Slack-Bean is on the NYS Commission of Corrections Legal Counsel. Signe Nelson is the President of NYSAIEP.

GED teaching with AI • PLACE

Penny Darrah

Discover how artificial intelligence can transform your GED instruction by helping you create high-quality, individualized learning materials in minutes instead of hours. This workshop will demonstrate practical AI tools that correctional educators can use immediately to develop customized worksheets, reading passages, practice problems, and assessments tailored to students' specific skill levels and learning needs. We'll explore real-world examples of AI-generated resources successfully used in classrooms. Attendees will leave with a curated list of AI tools, ready-to-use prompts for generating GED content across all subject areas, and a practical implementation guide for integrating AI into their existing curriculum. No prior AI experience required—just bring your creativity and willingness to explore innovative approaches to meeting your students where they are.

Penny Darrah is an Adult Literacy Teacher and Community Re-entry Specialist at CV-TEC in Plattsburgh, New York. She provides GED instruction at Clinton County Jail and recently launched her program's first online GED class for the community. With NYSED Adult Education Certification and experience in curriculum development across multiple teaching environments, Penny's goal this year has been integrating AI tools to create customized instructional materials that meet the diverse needs of adult learners in both correctional and community settings.

Embodied Elevation: Strategic Guidance for Leaders • SHOW

Leah Gooch

This interactive workshop combines ancient wisdom with modern, evidence-based practices, accessible to leaders at every level – leaving participants informed, uplifted, and empowered. Drawing on her research demonstrating significant improvements in psychological wellbeing among incarcerated individuals, Leah shares tools to strengthen resilience, enhance wellbeing, and deepen impact when serving students and families affected by incarceration.

Leah Gooch has over eight years working in correctional facilities, guiding participants on transformational journeys of inner exploration, fostering profound external shifts in their lives. She facilitates intuitive healing classes that integrate yoga, meditation and creative writing to help individuals cultivate a deeper awareness of themselves. Through these practices, participants learn to alleviate frustrations and transmute anger and sadness into creative expressions.

Community Reintegration with White Whiskers Sanctuary• QUINELLA

Jason Puelo

This presentation will highlight the Community Reintegration program through the Erie County Sheriff's Office. One of the programs served by the inmates is the non-profit White Whiskers Senior Dog Sanctuary.

Jason Puelo is a dedicated forestry officer with the ECSO, serving within the Community Reintegration Division. He plays a vital role in supporting rehabilitation efforts by overseeing environmental work programs that promote responsibility, skill-building, and community engagement. With a strong commitment to public service, Jason helps individuals successfully transition back into society while contributing to not for profit organizations.

Paint & Sip

THURSDAY • 3PM

Join our caricature artist, Phil Singer, to create a piece of artwork to bring home.

Whether you are a beginner or an experienced artist, Phil will guide you through the process from start to finish!

**\$10 | LIMITED TO
15 PARTICIPANTS**



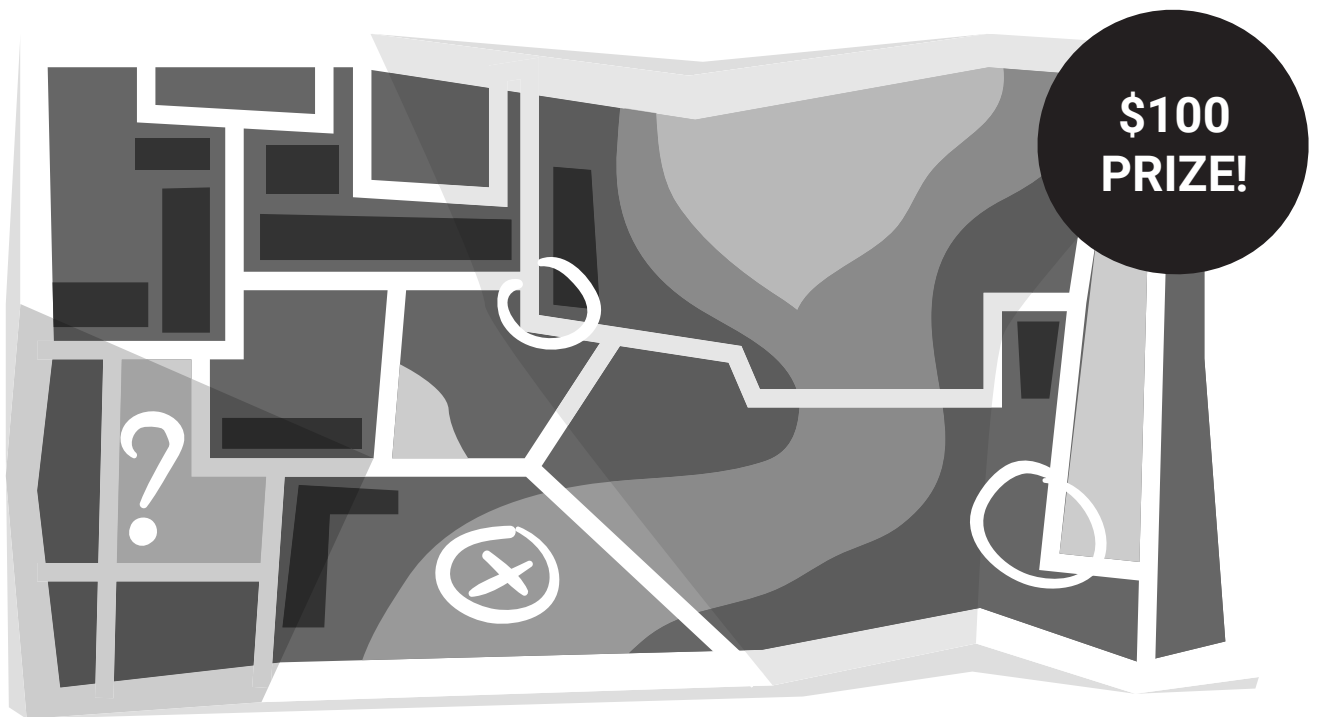
The Intuitive Edge: Insight Activation

THURSDAY • 3PM

This session will offer an exploration into managing stress. It will include small Reiki energy treatments and brief intuitive readings for participants who would like to receive them.

\$10 | LIMITED TO 9 PARTICIPANTS

HOTEL CLUE QUEST



**WORK IN A TEAM OF TWO TO COMPLETE
THE PUZZLE FIRST AND WIN \$100 EACH**

PICK UP YOUR CLUE PACKET AT 9PM
ON THURSDAY IN THE LOBBY

FRIDAY, MAY 15

BREAKFAST • DAILY DOUBLE 7:30–8:30AM

FINAL SEMINAR 8:30 – 10:30AM

Secure Tomorrow: Smart Saving, Investing, and Retiring for New York Frontline Professionals

Kara Koenig

Are you making the most of your benefits and planning effectively for your financial future? This session is designed specifically for New York public employees at all stages of their careers—from those just starting out to those approaching retirement. We'll cover how to maximize 457 plans, understand and plan around your pension, and build a strategy that balances retirement goals with other priorities like tax efficiency, protection planning, and college funding. Attendees will walk away with practical, actionable strategies to help them make informed financial decisions and feel more confident about their future.

Kara Koenig is a Financial Planner who works with individuals and families to create personalized strategies around retirement planning, investment management, tax-efficient planning, income protection and college funding. She is passionate about financial education and helping clients make confident, informed decisions at every stage of life. Kara frequently hosts workshops and seminars for professionals and organizations, with a focus on making complex financial topics clear, practical, and actionable.

DEPARTURE • 10:30AM



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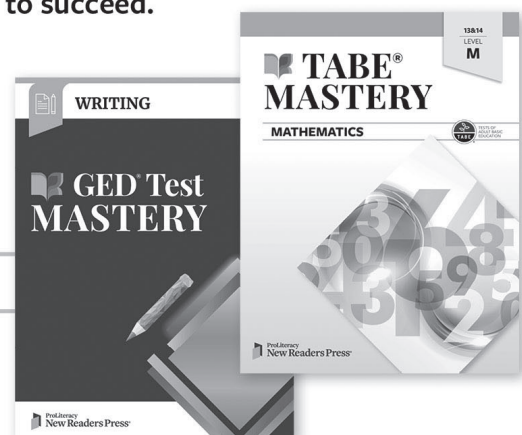
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- Targeted instruction with guided and independent practice
- Pretest and practice test with custom action plans



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NOTES

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