

Transforming Learning at SVAE: Our DLAC Midterm Oral Presentation

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DLAC TEAM Introductions



Arezoo Miller (Team Leader)

Professional Experience

- 18 years as an ESL and GED teacher
- Currently serving as a Transition Specialist at **Silicon Valley Adult Education (SVAE)**
- Union President at **MetroED**

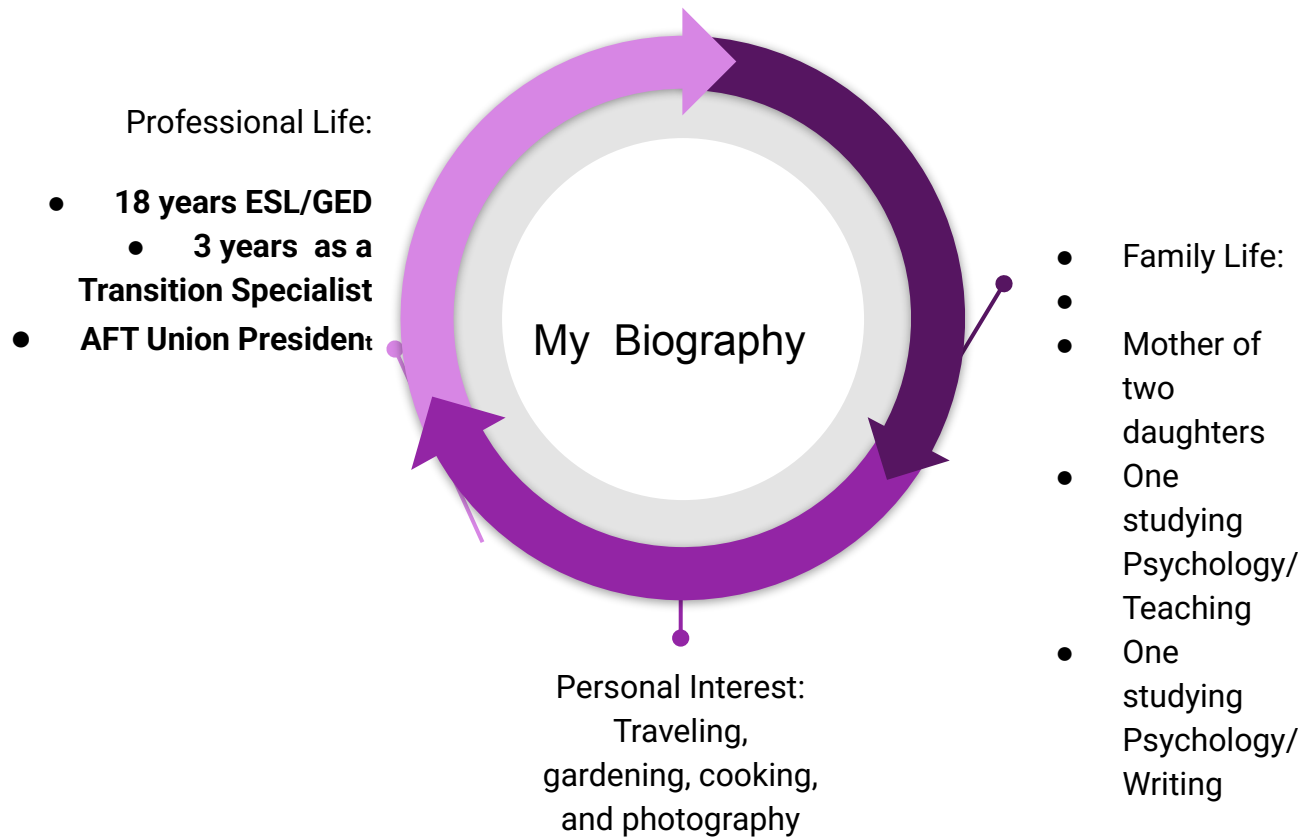
Family

- ❖ Parent of two daughters
 - Elder Daughter studying **Journalism and Psychology** at **Oregon State University**
 - Younger Daughter majoring in **Writing and Psychology** at the **University of Iowa**

Personal Interests: Traveling, Gardening, Cooking, Photography



Arezoo Miller (Team Leader)



My Role as a Transition Specialist

- ★ Support ESL students' transition to post-secondary/vocational paths.
- ★ Organize field trips to explore community opportunities.
- ★ Facilitate student leadership classes and development.
- ★ Coordinate workshops based on students' resource needs.
- ★ Promote volunteering through community events and ceremonies.



My Role as a Transition Specialist:

1 Support ESL/ASE To Transition to Post-secondary/Vocational paths

2 Organize field trips to explore community opportunities

3 Facilitate student leadership class and development

4 Coordinate workshops based on Student's resource needs

5 Promote Volunteering through community events and ceremonies

Aruna Subramanian (ESL Teacher)

- Currently teaching Beginning High ESL
- 8 years of teaching and Second year in SVAE

Taught several areas including

- High School Chemistry
- Alternate High School Math and Science
- Middle School Math and Science.

Henry Mulak (ESL Teacher)

- **Silicon Valley Adult Education Advanced ESL Teacher**
- **20 years teaching experience**
 - Advanced CTESOL San Francisco 2008
 - Berlin - three years
 - Los Angeles - three years
- **Emmy-award Winning Writer**
 - NBC Bay Area News
 - KCBS Radio News
- **Languages:**

German, French, Swedish & Polish



Henry Mulak (ESL Teacher)

California State University Humboldt - Bachelor's

- Major - Journalism
- Minor - German

Stanford University Continuing Studies

- Computer Science
- Emphasis - Artificial Intelligence

Transworld Schools San Francisco

- Advanced CTESOL

University of San Diego

- Adult Education Credentialing



Henry Mulak (ESL Teacher)

Programming languages

- ❖ Python
- ❖ R
- ❖ HTML5
- ❖ CSS

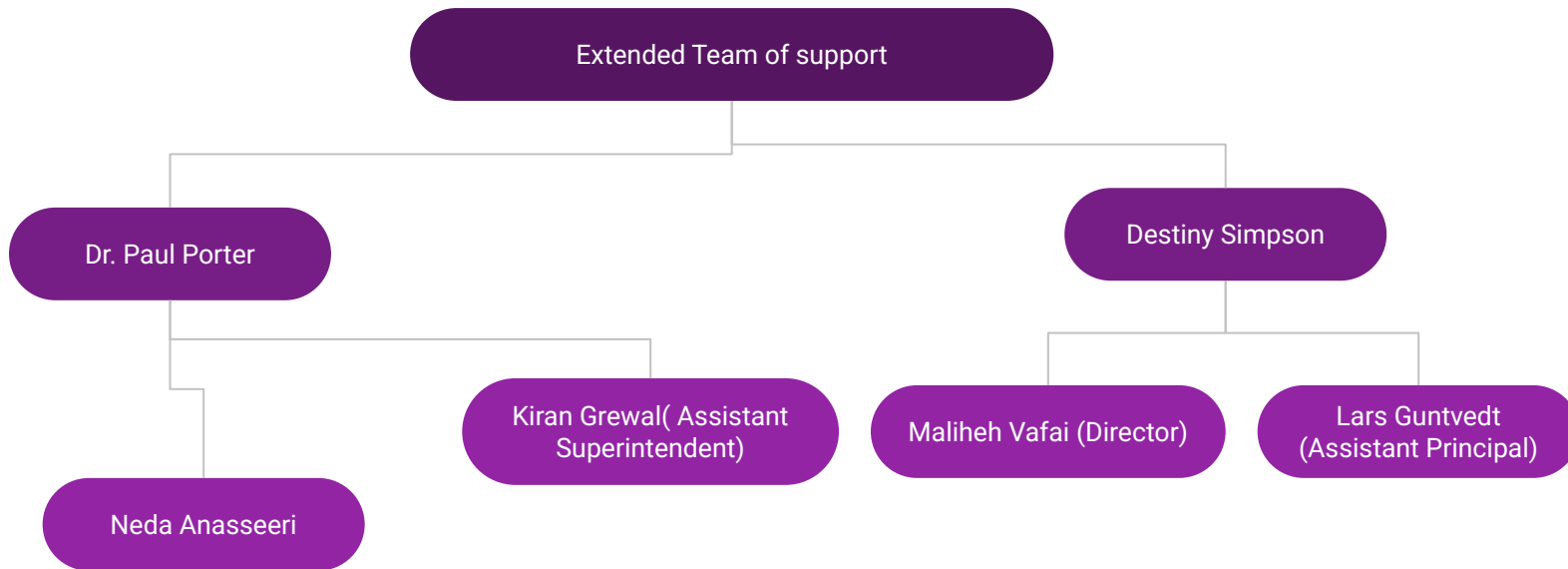
Intercultural Competence Training

- ❖ Common European Framework of Languages
- ❖ 40+ years of Political and Civics News Reporting
- ❖ RIAS Berlin Commission Fellow
- ❖ Associated Press Television News Association

Extended Team of Support:

- ❖ **Dr. Paul Porter**
- ❖ **Destiny Simpson**
- ❖ **OTAN team**
- ❖ **Kiran Grewal (Assistant Superintendent)**
- ❖ **Maliheh Vafai (Director)**
- ❖ **Lars Guntvedt (Assistant Principal)**

Extended Team of Support:



Our Legacy, Our Mission

- A proud history with a bold future
- Founded in 1870 as a night school for Young men
- Became SVAE and relocated to its permanent San Jose Campus in 1968
- Today serving 710 ESL & 210 ABE/GED/HSD students annually
- Lifelong Learning central to our vision



Metropolitan Adult Schools
Class of 1968



Silicon Valley Adult Education Today- May 2025



DLAC team with superintendent and Admin.



A few of our ESL Teachers



ESL CLASS



The Power of Partnership

Title: IDEAL-101 : Lighting the Way

- IDEAL -101 helped structure our vision
- Provided tools for actionable Site Plan
- Guided alignment with SVAE's digital transformation goal
- With support from Dr. Paul Porter, Destiny, Coach Susan, Neda, and OTAN, we aligned around a shared vision.



From Vision to Action

Our site plan in motion:

- Focus on CANVAS usability for both teachers and students
- Using our strengths in mind when delegating task to our team
- Developing our outline steps for our pilot program in ESL



What We have Achieved So Far:

- Completed IDEAL-101
- Finalized our Site Plan
- Conducted Teacher Survey
- Met In-Person weekly with our DLAC team to strengthen our team



Turning Challenges into Team Strength

- Initial difficulties: Communication gaps, unclear expectations

Solutions:

- Clear agendas and assigned tasks
- Strength-based delegation
- More regular check-ins and reminders

Result: a more cohesive, collaborative team



Challenges, Barriers, and Setbacks

Challenges: Time constraints, part-time/full-time team mix

Barriers: Learning how to function autonomously as a team

Setbacks: No major ones, but team development required patience and flexibility



Adapting for Impact:

Changing Course, Yet Staying True

- Original Vision: CANVAS for all programs
- Refined focus: ESL department first
- Remote to In-Person meetings: a game-changer for collaboration



Our Roadmap Ahead:

Next Steps: From Planning to Practice

- Analyze teacher survey results
- Use data to shape ESL digital curriculum
- Attend CANVAS regional Summit (May 9, 2025)
- Develop training materials(Summer 2025)
- ESL PD (August 6, 2025)
- Pilot Launch (Spring 2026)



Support That Powers Change

What We Need to Succeed:

- Otan-led CANVAS PD
- Admin support for CANVAS Integration
- Help with third-party tools(e.g.Venture Shell)
- Collaboration with other adult ED schools
- Being allowed to observe our teacher for our PD design purposes



Why what we are doing matters

Empowering our ESL- teachers & our adult learners through Canvas:

- Standardized digital tools create better learning experience
- Confident teachers=Engaged students=Retention
- Students will be able to transition seamlessly to college or workforce



Q&A:

Questions?

Comments?

Our contact information or QR Code

