

DLAC Registration Opening Soon!

OTAN is launching Digital Leadership Academy 2 starting this fall. This two-year professional development project brings together training and resources in the areas of educational technology integration, leadership skills, and designing blended and online learning opportunities. Ideally, participating agencies work toward goals outlined in their Technology and Distance Learning Plan. The application will open by the end of April 2018. You can access more information through the OTAN web site. Select *Ed Technology & Media* and then *Digital Leadership Academy* at the top of the OTAN home page.



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Technology and Distance Learning Symposium 2018

Another Success!

This year's Symposium was held on March 9–10 at Napa Valley Adult Education (NVAE) and featured over 40 sessions on education technology topics. Dr. Barbara Nemko, Napa County Superintendent of Schools, provided a fun and informative keynote—and even included a short tap dance! Her presentation, “Changing Lives: The Power of Adult Education,” was videotaped and is available at the link listed at the bottom of this article.



We would especially like to thank the administrator and staff from NVAE for being exceptionally gracious hosts. Their organization and attention to detail—from securing classroom presentation spaces to providing access to a robust WiFi connection—was greatly appreciated by all. Next year's TDLS 2019 will be held in Southern California in early March. If you are not currently a member of OTAN, consider joining to get the most current information on all of the face-to-face and online training OTAN offers—including events such as TDLS!

The Twitter hashtag “#tdls18” was active during the Symposium and was mirrored in real time on the TDLS Web site. It was a great way to engage participants as well as adult educators who missed being at the event in person.

In addition to the Keynote Address, several workshop sessions at the Symposium were also videotaped. These videos, as well as posted resources from session presenters, are available at: <http://www.otan.us/tdlsymposium/> Enjoy! 🌟



Quizlet Changes Classroom Engagement and Flips Learning to Success

Guest Column by Mickey Obermire, CNA/MA Instructor
Clovis Adult Education

Quizlet revolutionized the way I teach my adult Clinical Medical Assistant students. Two years ago, I added Quizlet to my Moodle course as a “useful” app to help students study. Some of my students had used it in high school and were familiar with it. These students created their own class and each student voluntarily added Quizlet sets based upon what we were studying. I noticed an improvement over previous classes and was added to their Quizlet class. Subsequent classes continued to create their own Quizlet class.

A sixth grade student from our school district became the 2017 US Spelling Bee champion using Quizlet to study. I decided to more actively utilize this app and the results have been amazing.

This past August, 2017, I attended a Quizlet Unconference online. This opened my eyes to the full functionality of this powerful tool. I converted all of my Medical Terminology and Medication quiz study guides to Quizlet sets. I was able to see an improvement immediately over the prior 42 classes. Students’ grades were higher, and those who failed were fewer. Repeat testing with Quizlet usually returned 100 percent! This had never happened before. After explaining to this class the benefits of Quizlet for study, students began to volunteer to create sets for the class to use, some of them in excess of 100 questions. I shared the Quizlet sets from the previous classes with this class. They began to make sets for missing information on Tables from the textbook.

Now students are assigned as homework to contribute a minimum of two questions required to cre-

ate a set and upload it to Google Classroom. One of these questions goes into a question bank which randomizes about 30 percent of the questions into their Chapter test. So they are studying the actual possible ques-



tions that will be on their test.

Creating Quizlet sets uses a student’s critical thinking skills. I combine all of the class sets into one class set. I delete or combine duplicates, add pictures, and make corrections. I copy the set and strip out all the pictures to use for Quizlet Live.

Then I began to use the Quizlet Live feature at the beginning of class, just prior to testing. Now everyone was invested in learning, because it became obvious who hadn’t studied enough in these competitive sessions. Additionally, it gave me an opportunity to clarify concepts that were being confused. All students were actively participating in creating, studying, and competing with the learning concepts in very short time frames.

I asked my class today which benefitted them more, our class lectures or the Quizlet sets. Even though many of my students like my lectures, they admitted that they got more out of studying with Quizlet sets. Now a true transformation is happening. I send my students, through Google

Drive, a copy of the Chapter Slides and Lecture Notes. I minimize my time in lecture to answering questions, and working with hands-on skills that the topics describe.



Now instead of listening to a 2-4 hour lecture, students spend 1-1.5 hours using Quizlet Live and Kahoot prior to testing.

We have flipped the learning dynamic with improved comprehension and verifiable results.

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Quizlet (Continued from Page 2)

Our retention rate of students has also greatly improved. Earlier classes lost students due to their inability to memorize concepts and continue using them throughout the program. These students loved the class but could not manage the academic rigor. Now students are actively studying, learning the materials, and helping each other collaboratively.

Each class is now building on the work of previous classes. They are able to study in a form that works with their individual learning style. I'm able to provide each student with not only the written text, but its correct pronunciation with my voice, and a graphic that relates to the concept. Once they have downloaded the set, they do not need WiFi access to use it. They are able to use their smartphone, tablet, or computer to study. They are able to key in answers in an identical format to their Moodle Quizzes. 🌐



Nominations for CAESS

Nominations are now being accepted for California Adult Education Students Succeed! We are looking for outstanding students who are adults with significant life responsibilities, who have made positive contributions to the community, established and met life goals by attending



an adult education program, improved the life situations of self and others, and overcome difficult circumstances in order to pursue adult learning experiences. Please consider nominating a deserving adult education learner, who will be honored at ACSA's Leadership Summit in November. This is also a

wonderful opportunity to highlight the great work going on at your adult education agency! The Nomination Form is online at <http://adulthoodlearners.org>. The deadline to submit is Tuesday, May 1. If you have any questions, please contact Anthony Burik at (916) 228-2357 or aburik@otan.us 🌐



Changing Faces of OTAN

Anthony Burik is OTAN's new Project Specialist II, Technology Projects. Anthony was previously with Mt. Diablo Adult Education for 15 years, most recently as the ESL Coordinator. He was an OTAC participant, DLAC coach, and an OTAN trainer for over three years. In Anthony's words: "I have been following OTAN since I began attending conferences over ten years ago and have always been interested in the work that OTAN has been doing for the field. I also have met so many interesting colleagues through the years by being associated with OTAN. It is such a unique opportunity to be able to actually work every day for OTAN!"

Welcome to OTAN, Anthony! 🌐



Anthony Burik
Project Specialist II, Technology Projects

Motivate Staff with OTAN Training

As the current school year winds down and planning for next year begins, consider having OTAN be a part of your fall back-to-school event! OTAN offers a wide variety of technology-based workshops that model the skills needed to integrate technology into an adult education setting, including digital literacy, mobile technology, using media, online/blended teaching, web-based apps and tools, and more! With a large selection of face-to-face, hands-on workshops, OTAN can cover the professional development needs of almost any adult education program.



To inquire about scheduling OTAN workshops at your back-to-school event, call 916-228-2580 or e-mail a request to support@otan.us. We look forward to being a part of welcoming your staff back-to-school in the fall and training staff on integrating technology in your adult education program! 🌐



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“Fake” news is a real problem. Here are some online resources to help learners distinguish between what is true and what isn’t.



1. **Fake News! A Game of Facts and Falsehoods.** This free app is currently available only for iOS devices. Your job is to identify the most fake news before time runs out. <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/fake-news-the-game/id1249442283?mt=8>
2. **Factitious** is an online game that tests your news sense. Read the article, check the source, and then swipe right if the news is real or swipe left if the news is fake. <http://factitious.augamestudio.com/#>
3. Fact-checking sites: **Snopes:** <https://www.snopes.com/>; **FactCheck.org** <https://www.factcheck.org/>; **PolitiFact** (for U.S. politics) <http://www.politifact.com/>; **Hoax-Slayer** (focused on e-mail and social media hoaxes) <http://www.hoax-slayer.com/>
4. To determine if an online photo is real: While on Chrome or Firefox 4+, click the image you want to search. Then, while holding down the mouse button, drag the image into the Google search box at <https://images.google.com/>. 🌐

Joyce Hinkson

From the Director