



TDLs Meeting the Challenge

Marking its 30th year, OTAN returns to its roots for the Technology and Distance Learning Symposium at Hacienda La Puente Adult Education - Willow Center.

Integrating technology into adult education can be challenging. OTAN helps adult educators meet that challenge by organizing the TDLs with dynamic presentations and hands-on workshops. Experts in their fields present on a wide variety of technology topics including implementing tech plans, devices to use, online learning tools and apps, and enhancing instruction using technology.

Held on March 1 and 2, 2019 visit www.otan.us/tdlsymposium for information regarding registration, archived presentations, and future dates.



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OTAN Curriculum Pilots

OTAN is offering two programs this year to help learners achieve their learning goals. Both Revolution English and i-Pathways are available to adult schools to pilot with learners.



Revolution English is a free English coaching and immersion technology utilizing Facebook messenger to deliver activity and practice sessions on a variety of topics. With daily practice, learners accelerate English language acquisition outside of the classroom and go through the materials at their own pace. Usage statistics show that learners spend, on average, an additional 8 hours or more per week practicing English!

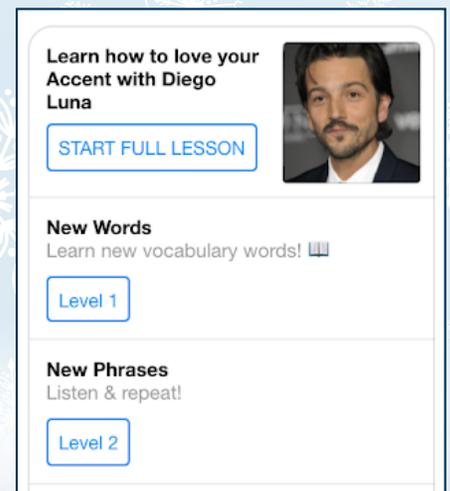
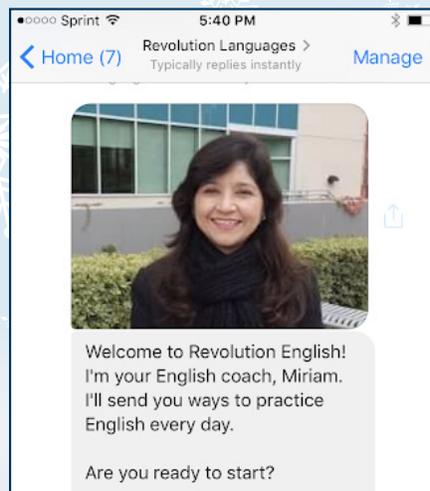
The i-Pathways pilot provides online curriculum from adult basic education through secondary education. With over 20 years of history

delivering high quality content, this pilot offers agencies Basic Writing, Basic Math, Math, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and Consumer Education for learners. In addition to the curriculum, learners have access to other tools such as worksheets in math and writing glossaries, relevant web links, and graphic organizers.

i-Pathways

Learning Pathways in Adult Education

Each pilot project requires a basic commitment from agencies to share data with OTAN. Support for both teachers and learners are offered by the programs. For additional information and the required sign up forms, please check out further details on the Curriculum Offers page on the OTAN website. From the OTAN homepage, choose Teaching Tools & Resources, then Curriculum Offers. 🌐

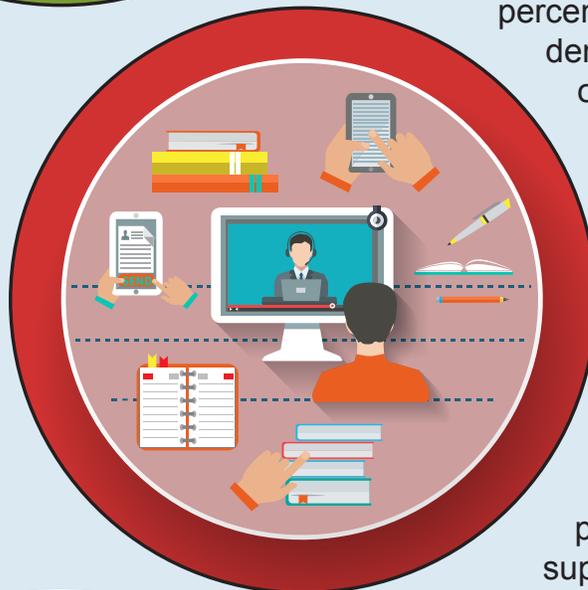
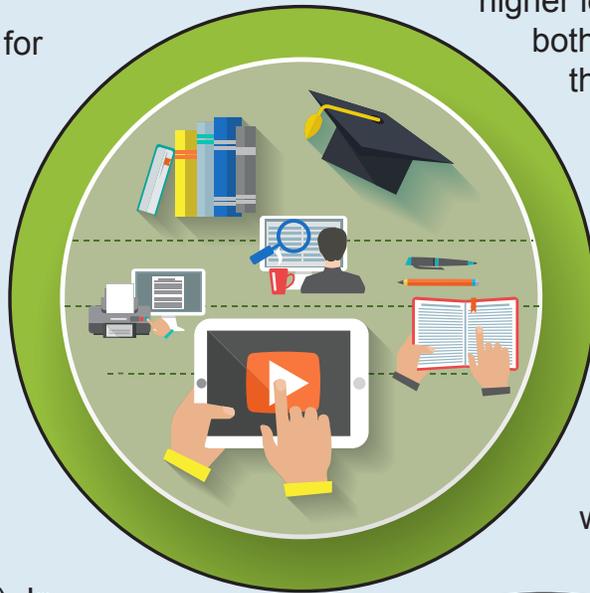


Revolution English Application Screenshots

Do You Distance?

Last year, California provided instruction for over 300,000 adult learners including ABE, ASE, and ESL. (See [CASAS Table 4.](#)) Of this total, 11,468 were reported as participants in Distance Education. This figure of serving adults in distance education has steadily fallen since a high of 73,000 in 2008–2009 (the year of flex funding). In OTAN’s latest annual report on the Technology and Distance Learning plan (TDLP), data indicates that more than 53 percent of the federal distance learning enrollments came from only four (4) adult schools: Sweetwater Union High School District (2,032), Stockton Unified School District (1,296), Torrance Unified School District (898), and El Monte Union School District (747). Fifty-eight adult schools represent 78 percent of the remaining enrollment. These schools typically reported between 100 and 700 learners in their distance learning programs.

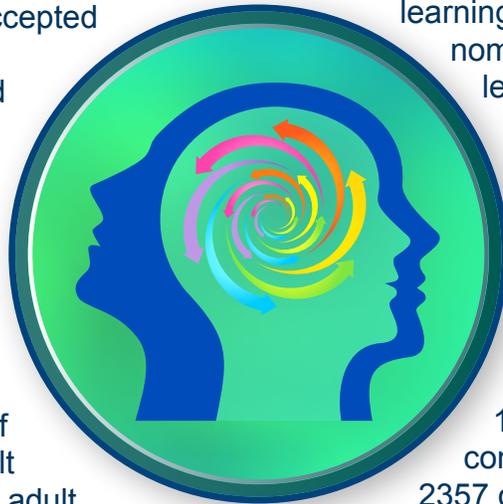
However, in this year’s TDLP report, 49.2 percent of the agencies described the modes of instruction for their goals as Blended Distance Learning or Distance Learning. It begs the question that more agencies would report



higher learner participation and gains in both of these instructional modes. Why the discrepancy? One reason could be the difference between “blended” learning and “distance” learning. In order to qualify as a distance learner, the National Reporting Service (NRS) criteria states “only learners having distance learning more than 50 percent of the time” are reported. This effectively leaves out all other forms of “blended” instruction where such online instruction represents less than 50 percent. This discrepancy denies the inclusion of learners who are benefiting from the use of distance learning to supplement, support, and enrich the instruction offered in the classroom setting. Currently, CASAS provides training and support to agencies to identify classes that offer instructional modes that are traditionally classroom based, blended learning (less than 50 percent at a distance), and distance learning (more than 50 percent) at a distance. As agencies refine reporting for these instructional modes, it is likely California will see higher participation and learning gains in blended and distance learning classes. (For more on reasons to implement Blended Learning, see the [Jan. 24, 2019 OTAN Top Story](#))

Nominations for Students Succeed

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2019 California Adult Education Students Succeed program! 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. The top two nominees 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 <https://adulthoodlearners.org/>. The deadline to submit is Monday, April 15. If you have any questions, please contact Anthony Burik at (916) 228-2357 or aburik@otan.us.



Wendy Samayoa
2018

Students Succeed Winner



Patricia Holmes
2018

Students Succeed Winner



Jagroop Kaur
2017

Students Succeed Winner



Jodie Hoffman
2017

Students Succeed Winner

Changing Faces of OTAN

If you've called the OTAN office recently, you may have heard a new voice on the other end of the line. That voice belongs to OTAN's new Staff Secretary, Brandon Wilson! When asked what made him interested in becoming a part of the OTAN team, he replied that he has wanted to become a teacher, yet hasn't been sure why. The answer came while researching his family history. His grandfathers, both WWII Veterans, took advantage of their GI benefits to go to school, education being their reward for risking their lives. As the first in their families to advance past 8th grade, one became a doctor, the other an engineer who helped put people on the moon. He is currently enrolled in the Masters' program for history at CSUS and hopes to become a teacher. Knowing first-hand how difficult it can be to try to pursue higher education, he thought working in education in any capacity should be a first choice. "Here I can help, in my own way, other people who may be in a

similar situation as myself, while gaining a different perspective on the world of education that I hope will make me a better teacher when the time comes."



Brandon Wilson
Staff Secretary

When he is not at work, you're likely to find him giving a demonstration on the longbow at a Renaissance Faire in northern California, with his wife of 20 years and two kids somewhere close by.

Please join us in welcoming Brandon to OTAN! 🌐

Seize the Opportunity!

Getting the information needed to integrate technology into an adult education setting can be challenging. Technology is always changing and, even if you are able to find information online, it may be outdated. Take the opportunity to increase skills and understanding of technology by contacting OTAN to schedule your own professional development.

Adult education sites have a wide variety of both online and face to face workshops led by OTAN subject matter experts and trainers at their disposal. Participants are guided into technology topics, online tools, and websites that increase productivity, engage learners, and make discovering new technology resources exciting and fun. Workshops include Using Tech Tools to Present to and Assess Learners, Tech Troubleshooting for Teachers, Gamify Your Classroom, and Google for AE. All of OTAN's workshops can be tailored to fit the needs of the requesting agency and can be found at www.otan.us/training. To schedule or ask questions about OTAN workshops call 916-228-2580.

From the AE Director

Every so often we challenge ourselves with new ideas or plans, and then later, take time to pause and reflect upon these goals or resolutions. We tend to think of our expectations, asking if progress was made toward these goals. Whether it be the new school year or New Year's resolution, I offer this as an opportunity to reset, refresh, and revive what you hoped to accomplish. Now is the best time to direct your efforts toward your technology goals. Why not get started with your own personalized learning plan? What tools will motivate your students and have you considered how they would inspire you to learn?



Here is a plan for you to get started and OTAN is ready to help. Set aside some time and visit the <https://www.otan.us> website. There you will find inspiring articles and resources. Set a **SMART goal**, start with short term and take a chance to review, analyze, and implement what motivates you. Where? How or What? Connect with OTAN and create short personal challenges using items on the website. It can be as easy as coordinating an onsite training, or attending online training such as an "OTAN Tech Talk" or a webinar. Review the Curriculum Offers or Web based class activities. Attend the Technology Distance Learning Symposium and share with colleagues what you have learned. You may discover they have similar goals and you can participate in TDLS 2020 as a team. Now is the chance to get started. What will your challenge be?

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