Professional Development Course for
New England ABE, GED/Adult Secondary, ESOL and College Prep Instructors on
Designing Career Focused Basic Skills Instruction

June 2012—November 2012

This course will introduce educators to sector-focused curriculum and program design strategies that
develop adult learners’ academic competencies and professional awareness in preparation for post-
secondary education. Recent research suggests that contextualizing basic skills and literacy instruction
is an effective instructional approach. Initial findings from a small-scale, random assignment
evaluation of LaGuardia’s GED Bridge to College and Careers Program being conducted by MDRC
suggest that preparing students to earn the GED with academically rigorous, career-focused content
combined with postsecondary transition support services leads to higher rates of persistence in the pre-
college preparatory phase and increased transition to college and occupational training among program
participants.

Course Description: GED and high level ESOL instructor participants will explore best practices in
career-focused basic skills instruction and develop their own contextualized lessons during this four-
month hybrid training. This course is taught by faculty from LaGuardia’s GED Bridge program, and
offered in partnership with the National College Transition Network and the New England Literacy
Resource Center/World Education.

Designing Career Focused Basic Skills Instruction participants will:
• Join an informational webinar on March 21, 2012, 2:00-3:15 PM to learn more about
  participating in the Designing Career Focused Basic Skills Instruction course,
• Participate in a Kickoff webinar on 26 June 2012, 2-3:30 PM
• Attend an interactive Career Pathway Builders Workshop in Boston, Massachusetts on August 1 & 2, 2012 to examine career focused classroom materials, participate in activities used in the GED Bridge Program classrooms and begin developing contextualized lesson plans,
• Participate in the Career Pathway Builders Virtual Community of Practice between August – November 2012 to share contextualized curriculum practices and resources,
• Participate in two phone coaching sessions with instructors from LaGuardia Community College to discuss development and implementation of contextualized lesson at program site, and
• Attend pre-conference event to present lessons and celebrate with colleagues at the National College Transition Network Conference on November 7-9, 2012 in Providence, Rhode Island.

The Designing Career Focused Basic Skills Instruction course will address issues and ideas important to a
variety of adult education practitioners, including: instructors, program managers and curriculum
developers. All workshop participants will receive a curriculum workbook and a variety of materials and resources.

1 Perin, Delores (2011) http://cerc.te.columbia.edu/Publication.asp?UID=882
2 http://www.laguardia.edu/pcap/for_educators/
3 http://www.mdrc.org/project_32_113.html
Designing Career Focused Basic Skills Instruction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March 21, 2012 2:00-3:15 PM</th>
<th>June 26, 2012 2:00-3:30 PM</th>
<th>August 1-2, 2012 10 AM – 5 PM &amp; 9 AM – 5 PM</th>
<th>August-October 2012</th>
<th>October 2012 Date TBD</th>
<th>November 7, 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Informational Webinar</td>
<td>Kickoff Webinar</td>
<td>Workshop Boston, MA</td>
<td>Two coaching sessions by phone</td>
<td>Follow up Webinar</td>
<td>Wrap Up and Celebration NCTN pre-conference Providence, RI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Virtual Community of Practice: All Program Participants  
Hosted By LaGuardia and NCTN/World Ed Professional Developers

**Modes of Delivery:**
- 1) 1 Informational Webinar (1 hour)
- 2) 2 Day, Face to face interactive training (2 x 6 hours = 12 hours)
- 3) 2 Webinars (2 x 1.5 hours = 3 hours)
- 4) Readings (2 hours)
- 5) Virtual Community of Practice, including sector focused coaching sessions (5 hours)
- 6) Pre-Conference Institute (5 hours)

**TOTAL COMMITMENT:** 28 hours (2 CEUs)

**Cost:** MetLife Foundation generously underwrites all trainer and materials costs, valued at $800 per participant. Participants and/or sending programs will be responsible for their own travel and accommodations in Boston and Providence. No NCTN pre-conference fee.

**Participants:** Priority will be given to GED and higher level ESOL teacher applicants from the same program interested in attending the course as a pair and collaborating on the development of lessons that can be implemented at their work site. Maximum 24 participants (12 programs); slots are distributed between New England states based on demand.

**Staff Bios**

**Amy Dalsimer** is the Director of Pre-College Academic Programming at LaGuardia Community College. She directs a variety of adult literacy, workforce development, and postsecondary transition initiatives including the *GED Bridge to Career and College Pathways Project* and several integrated basic educational and career training programs designed for adult learners (NYBEST).

**Wynne Ferdinand** is the Assistant Director of Pre-College Academic Programming Department and directs the GED Bridge to College and Careers initiative at LaGuardia Community College. She also develops professional development materials for adult educators and administers an instructor internship program for Master’s students from the City College of New York. She has a BA in Philosophy from the University of Oregon and an MA in Language and Literacy from the City College of New York.

**Viktoriia Dudar** works as a curriculum developer and instructor in Pre-College Academic Programming Department at LaGuardia Community College and teaches a Freshman Inquiry Composition Seminar at
the City College of New York. She received her MA in Language and Literacy at the City College of New York in 2011. She is interested in contextualized basic adult education and composition fields.

Elizabeth de La Garza Vargas is a curriculum developer and basic skills instructor in Integrated Career Pathways courses at LaGuardia Community College. She received a BS in Communications from Texas Christian University and an M.S.Ed. from Bank Street College of Education.

To participate:
   1.) Register for the March 21 informational webinar at [http://designinginstruction.eventbrite.com/](http://designinginstruction.eventbrite.com/)
   2.) After the March 21 webinar, request an application form from Ben Bruno at bbruno@worlded.org 617-482-9485 x 3629

Questions?
Contact: Silja Kallenbach, Director, New England Literacy Resource Center/ World Education, skallenbach@worlded.org