



CAEP Peer Learning Circle for Adult Ed Practitioners in Rural Environments
Unique Needs and Strategies of Rural Adult Education Providers and Consortia
March 10, 2022 12 noon - 1 p.m.

Co-Facilitators:
Greg Ludwa
Martha Mendez
Adele McClain

[Meeting Notes](#)

The CAEP Peer Learning Circle for Adult Ed Practitioners in Rural Environments, held on March 10th, focused on common struggles and strategies for rural adult education providers and consortia. The participants and co-facilitators concentrated on enrollment targets, student supports, and recruiting practitioners due to staffing shortages.

With schools still recovering from the enrollment deficit due to COVID-19 over the last two years, the discussion led to yearly enrollment targets. Because the effects of the pandemic are still being seen in enrollment numbers, the participants discussing this topic are currently electing to keep targets the same as previous years.

There is a continued need to provide student programs in rural areas. An area of focus during this discussion included establishing and leveraging partnerships that offer similar CTE opportunities like larger regions. The participants also discussed a desire to construct a list of free or for credit (Dual Enrollment) online CTE programs throughout the state to benefit all learners. Fillmore added that they have a community college instructor come to the adult school to offer courses in the rural area. The first course offered was solar installation.

Outside of program offerings, other creative models used instructional aids to provide learners with additional support. Instructional aids help meet the needs of learners by teaching basic digital literacy skills and showing learners how to access materials online using Zoom and Apple Tutor.

Again, with COVID-19 affecting student enrollment, it has also affected the retention of practitioners. Recruiting newly retired teachers into adult ed is a strategy that one



consortia is using. To help identify recently retired teachers, a suggestion was to contact the California State Teachers' Retirement System (STRS).

In the next PLC, the group will inquire about virtual CTE offerings throughout the state. How do we access or create a list of free or for credit (dual enrollment) online CTE programs throughout the state.