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# CONNECTIONS...For ELCATE Teachers

Instructional strategies and information for English Literacy for Career and Technical Education (ELCATE) teachers **Preparing our students for the 21st Century!** 

#### **EDUCATION**

# Knowledge and Skills for the Jobs of the Future

President Obama has launched an "Educate to Innovate" campaign to improve the participation and performance of America's students in science, reading,



technology, and mathematics. This campaign will include efforts not only from the Federal Government but also from leading companies, foundations, non-profits, and science to work with students across America to excel in these areas. America is already stepping forward to meet these challenges. As part of the "Educate to Innovate" effort, major public-private partnerships are harnessing the power of media, interactive games, hands-on learning, and community volunteers to reach millions of students over the next four years, inspiring them to be the next generation of inventors and innovators. Introduce students to this site and allow them to explore the information available under "Support for Higher Ed." and "Reform for the Future"

http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/education/higher-education

# **Six Steps to Making Positive Changes in Your Teaching**

- Think about what needs to change before deciding on a change
- Lay the groundwork for the change
- Incorporate change systematically
- Change a little before changing a lot
- Determine in advance how you will know whether the change is a success
- Have realistic expectations for success

There are some fairly straightforward principles that give any new teaching strategy, technique or approach a much greater chance of success. Out of that success will grow the courage and motivation to implement even more instructional changes. Teachers are always in a continuous learning journey. Enjoy the journey!



### Teach Students About Financial Responsibility

http://www.consumer.gov/

Here is a great site to teach students Financial Literacy. It provides information to students how to manage their money, loans, and basic consumer protection steps. It has three important modules: Managing Your Money, Credit, Loans

and Debt, and Scam and Identity Theft. Each Module has several topics correlated with the ELCATE standards. The best part of this web resource is that it also has audio for students to practice listening, and pronunciation. *Give it a try!* 

# 'Soft Skills'

# Part of College Readiness

To make it in college, students need to be up for the academic rigor. But that's not all, they also must be able to manage their own time, get along with roommates, and deal with setbacks. Resiliency and grit, along with the ability to communicate and advocate, are all crucial life skills. Yet, experts say, many students lack them, and that's hurting college-completion rates. Many students when they get to college haven't developed resiliency and self-soothing skills needed to succeed in college.



#### Infuse Responsibility

Teachers should hold students accountable for missed work or assignments and emphasize responsibility and self-regulation.

#### **Develop Communication Skills**

Students need to prepare presentations and be able to discuss opposite views.. They need to advocate for themselves. If they don't practice, they won't learn it.

#### **Develop Leadership Skills**

Leadership requires that leaders work effectively and think in terms of "we" versus "I". Leadership skills allows students to get the task done while collaborating with other.

#### **ENGLISH SPELLING**

http://www.englishspellingproblems.co.uk/

This site presents a whole range of English reading and spelling problems. It also shows why so many English learners have difficulty with reading and writing.



# **Be A Change Agent**

In the U.S., about 90 million adults need to improve their pre-college level academic skills. Yet, the publicly funded adult education system is able to serve only slightly over 2 million young and older adults per year. In 2012-11, 41% of adults enrolled in adult education programs were unemployed and 31% were employed; the rest were not in the labor force. English Language Learners are a rapidly growing population across the nation. By 2030 nearly one in five U.S workers will be an immigrant.

Teachers can incorporate persistence strategies in order to help adult learners stay in school. Here are some drivers of adult persistence:

# 1. Sense of belonging and community

Plan activities that will help students know one another to build trust and camaraderie

# 2. Clarity of Purpose

Help students gain clarity about their own purposes for learning—their goals and dreams.

# 3. Competence

Help students improve their self-efficacy, build their competence in the areas they are studying.

#### 4. Relevance

The key to motivation is directly correlated to the degree of perceived relevance of the instructional program to the adult learners' goals, interests and life experiences. If it does not have meaning to their lives, it will not have give them a reason to succeed.

# 5. Stability

Leaning is difficult in an environment that is chaotic or unstable. Develop lesson plans that provide opportunities to know the objectives and predictable outcomes.

Reference: Retrieved online on March 15. 2015 from www.worlded.org