



# NEDP News

September 2024

MULTIPLE SESSIONS - NETWORKING - DISCUSSION PANELS - BREATHTAKING LOCATION

## NEDP National 2024 Conference

September 30 - October 1, 2024

DoubleTree by Hilton  
Niagara Falls, New York

Changing  
Lives!



Margaret Kirkpatrick  
NEDP Director



Janita McNemar  
NEDP National Trainer



Christine O'Hara  
NEDP Operations Manager



Ann Ditto  
NEDP Support Specialist



Don't miss out! Register now!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Thank you to our conference sponsors:



[#NEDPChangingLives2024Conference](#)

# Agenda at a Glance

KEYNOTE: Mitch Rosin, MA, MS, MPS, EdD

## He Likes It! Hey Mikey!

Even the most discerning adult education learner can achieve success. This keynote will concentrate on the essential program components necessary to cultivate an environment conducive to learning and success.

Mitch Rosin, MA, MS, MPS, EdD (FBC)

Strategist, P2C Solutions, LLC

## If We Build It...They Will Come!

This workshop explores the implementation of an onboarding process for HSE students, mirroring college decision day. The goal is to enhance student engagement and success by providing an immersive experience, comparing and contrasting the GED with the NEDP.

Tricia Brainard, EdD

Dona Ana Community College – Adult Ed Director

## Analysis of New York State NEDP Outcomes

This session offers an overview of available data from NEDP reports and reviews new engagement tools developed by NYSED and CASAS.

Jesse Fosmire

New York Education Department – High School Equivalency Office

## Would Your Rather?

Learn the structure of Brooklyn Public Library Adult Learning's NEDP from marketing, information sessions, enrollment sessions, interviews, entry requirements, remedial support, process once the applicant accepted into the cohort, case management services, follow-up, graduation, and next steps.

Nikeisha Smothers

Brooklyn Public Library Program Manager

## Improving Adult Student Retention: Strategies for Program Growth and Success

Utilizing the innovative research and hands-on experimentation of adult educators nationwide, teachers and administrators will gain applicable learning strategies and engagement activities to keep students coming back.

Jennifer Denton

Director of Educational Development Essential Education

## NEDP Graduates Panel

A panel of NEDP graduates will discuss their journey to a diploma, highlighting their challenges and successes.

## Breaking Barriers, Building Futures: Implementing NEDP Behind Bars

Niagara County Correctional Facility utilizes NEDP to help incarcerated individuals earn their high school equivalency, opening doors to future opportunities. Hear from the program team on this panel about the positive impact of NEDP in this setting.

CASAS and Orleans-Niagara BOCES

## Success! How BurlingtonEnglish Can Seamlessly Assist Learner Progress from ESL to NEDP and Beyond

Come hear how educators are leveraging BurlingtonEnglish to provide students with the academic foundations, along with the English language learning, that readies them for the rigor of NEDP and beyond!

Brandi Cardwell

BurlingtonEnglish

## NEDP Overview

This presentation will introduce NEDP, its benefits to students who chose an alternative to a test or credit recovery.

Janita McNemar

CASAS

## How Adults Learn: Using Androgogical Theory to Promote Engagement and Retention of Students








Adults learn differently than children, and therefore require a different set of instructional strategies in the classroom to maximize measurable skills gains, promote learner engagement, and increase retention of students. This workshop will cover the assumptions about adult learners, learning styles and cycles, contextualized learning, adult learning theory, student learning outcomes, and strategies to enhance learning for adult students. In addition to theory, you will learn practical strategies that can be used in classrooms to increase content retention, skills mastery, and learner engagement.

Mitch Rosin, MA, MS, MPS, EdD (FBC)

Strategist, P2C Solutions, LLC

For the complete list of sessions and descriptions, visit the [NEDP 2024 Conference Page](#).

## NEDP 2024 CONFERENCE: CASAS PRESENTATIONS

	<b>EXPLORING CASAS ETESTS: AN OVERVIEW OF CASAS ONLINE ASSESSMENTS</b> <p>CASAS, a non-profit international educational testing organization, develops products that identify the skills of adults functioning at or below a postsecondary level. Adult Education agencies use online CASAS assessments to help adults acquire skills for success in careers and college.</p> <p>Use online CASAS eTests in your ESL or ABE program to improve workplace success!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Place clients into suitable programs</li><li>• Measure literacy and numeracy learning gains (MSGs)</li><li>• Measure, document, and certify listening, math and reading skills (EFLs)</li><li>• Track outcomes quickly and cost effectively</li><li>• Inform program and policy planning</li></ul>
	<b>NAVIGATING CASAS EWORKS: A SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING SOFT SKILLS</b> <p>CASAS eWORKs documents and develops employer-validated academic and soft skills and facilitates transition to the workforce using CASAS eTests. CASAS eWORKs includes tools to assess critical thinking and problem-solving skills with multiple-choice test items and short written essays by having candidates respond to industry-based scenarios.</p> <p>In addition, CASAS eWORKs includes an Employer Needs Survey you can use to learn what skills are valued by your local employers and to match their needs with your students' skills.</p>
	<b>WIN A CASAS 2025 SUMMER INSTITUTE REGISTRATION</b> <p>Enhance your NEDP conference experience by sharing your thoughts on the presentations! You'll not only contribute to the conversation, but also enter for a chance to win one of two registrations for the 2025 CASAS Summer Institute.</p>
<b>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 🖥️ TRAININGS 🖥️ WEBINARS AND UPDATES</b>	
 <b>June 9 -12, 2025</b>	<b>SAVE THE DATE - CASAS NATIONAL SUMMER INSTITUTE – JUNE 9 -12, 2025</b> <p>Save the date for the 2025 CASAS National Summer Institute at the Hyatt Regency Orange County, California. With more than 120 training sessions, workshops, hands on labs, and panels, the Summer Institute is an exceptional adult education professional development event you won't want to miss. No hybrid sessions will be offered.</p>
	<b>CASAS NATIONAL NEWS AND UPDATES WEBINAR</b> <p>Secure your spot for the next online session packed with valuable insights. Join CASAS on Wednesday, October 16th, 2024, at 11:00 AM PT. Reserve your seat <a href="#">HERE</a>.</p>
	<b>NEDP FALL NATIONAL TRAINING IS UNDERWAY</b> <p>NEDP's fall training kicked off on August 28th and will continue through September 25th. We're excited to have our staff, both new and returning, participate in this comprehensive training. Wishing everyone a successful and enriching experience!</p>
	<b>2024 NEDP YEARLY STATISTICAL REPORT</b> <p>Thank you to all the agencies who submitted their 2023-2024 YSR in a timely manner. Your assistance with this yearly task is greatly appreciated.</p>
<b><a href="#">#NEDPChangingLives2024Conference</a> – REGISTER TODAY!</b>	



JOIN US ON FACEBOOK

NEDP News, September 2024

## HAPPY FALL – WELCOME BACK



Backpacks, paper, and pens signal a fresh start for learners of all ages. This back-to-school season, reach out to prospective NEDP clients and show them how NEDP is an accessible program that can empower them to achieve their educational goals, no matter their circumstances. Share this month's graduate story for some inspiration for your new clients.

## PLANNING YOUR TRIP – NEDP 2024 CHANGING LIVES CONFERENCE



**Safe  
Travels  
To All!**

### **Passport or Enhanced License:**

If you plan to travel to Canada, be sure to have the necessary documentation to cross the border. The [Niagara Falls Bridge Commission](#) page offers information.

### **Currency Exchange:**

While most places accept credit cards, you may want to exchange some currency for smaller purchases or gratuities if you are planning a visit to Canada.

### **Bring your walking shoes!**

The conference is within walking distance to Three Sisters Islands, Niagara Falls, and Canada. Many tourist destinations are close by and accessible. This is one of the most beautiful times of the year to visit Western New York. Be sure to bring your camera!

### **Discover Niagara Shuttle:**

Visit the [Discover Niagara website](#) to learn more about the daily routes between Niagara Falls to Lewiston, Youngstown, and Lockport to visit some of the most historic locations in the region. A free shuttle within walking distance of the hotel. Plan to stay an extra day and visit “gorge-ous” WNY while you are here.

**Sunday Funday!** Interested in meeting up with NEDP conference attendees to join in some local sightseeing? Email Ann Ditto at [aditto@casas.org](mailto:aditto@casas.org) to learn more.

### **Sports Fans:**

Football - Buffalo Bills vs Baltimore Ravens September 29, 2024, 8:20 PM/ET Away game  
Hockey - Buffalo Sabres vs Detroit Red Wings September 30, 2024, 7:00 PM/ET Home game

### **Dress for WNY Weather:**

Check the weather forecast for Niagara Falls, New York before traveling and bring layers. The temperatures range from 30 to 85 at this time of the year.



**NIAGARA FALLS<sup>®</sup> USA**

Visit [Niagara Falls USA website](#) to assist in planning your trip. Find a printable tour guide you can download and print with loads of information and ideas for your time in Niagara Falls. There is a restaurant in the venue and check the conference website for dining ideas. Make the most of your stay!



Remember your walking shoes!

**[#NEDPChangingLives2024Conference – REGISTER TODAY!](#)**



**Joanna  
Eckhardt**

**2024  
Scholarship  
Recipient**

**Greater Southern  
Tier BOCES  
~ New York**



*Do you have an inspiring client who you would like to nominate to be in the spotlight?*

*Do you know a staff member who goes above and beyond and deserves to be in the spotlight?*

*Please complete the [NEDP Spotlight form](#) so we can shine some light on NEDP's finest!  
You can also email: [aditto@casas.org](mailto:aditto@casas.org)*

## NEDP HELPED THIS MOM, WIFE, AND MOTHER FIND HERSELF

Joanna's story resonates with the heart of the NEDP Changing Lives Scholarship – providing opportunities for individuals to rediscover their potential and pursue their dreams. NEDP is proud to share Joanna's story in her own words:

I lost myself somewhere between 20 and 48 years of age. I became a traveler, a wife, a mother, and a volunteer with the National Ski Patrol which ultimately led me to get my High School Equivalency Diploma and apply to college.

My desire to do better for my children and to set an example of following your dreams, and not losing yourself in life, led me to the CASAS NEDP program. I collected all my courage and decided to reach out to the BOCES Adult Learning Center in Elmira NY. I was fortunate to have met a very kind and encouraging instructor, who worked with me and encouraged me to take the plunge and complete the NEDP program.

Due to my life experience, and the fact that I was motivated and organized, the CASAS NEDP program was the right program for me at the time. I could work independently at home, and work at my own pace, which allowed me to continue to work and take care of my family.

Motivation and support made a tremendous difference in being able to work through the modules. The course modules were organized in small increments making them easier to complete and continue on in my own time. I could not have been prouder when my mail arrived confirming I had completed the program and earned my high school equivalency diploma. The same day I applied to Elmira college, in the hope of being accepted in the highly regarded nursing program.

I have now finished my first year as a full-time student at Elmira college with a major in Nursing which I hope to graduate from in 2027 with a BSN, while also being a mom, working and ski patrolling with a 4.0 GPA. I would have never gotten this far without the NEDP the CASAS Program offers. I was accepted in college last year only because I could show my certificate. This really helped the college to determine that I was motivated and prepared enough to attend their school.

Taking the NEDP showed me that despite all my commitments being a mother of two, and working to support my family, I had the potential to do better. As an adult learner it is hard to have the confidence to pick up your dreams and start something new. The NEDP builds up your confidence as you work through each module, and complete little sections every day. It boosts your confidence, because you work through a module and know you have completed it before accessing the next one. That way you know that you can in fact really do it, and you can finish your high school equivalency diploma, which is the first step to secondary education. Boosting the student's confidence is a very important part of the program, because most adults can in fact achieve secondary education if they work for it, but having the confidence to do it is all that holds them back.

***NEDP wishes Joanna all the best in her continued endeavors!***

