

Transitions Newsletter

Volume 11, Issue 2-Winter 2023

Transitions Academy Fall Convening & Cohort Convos

Spotlighting Access and Options for Success!

Celebrating Illinois' Career and Technical (CTE) and Adult Education (AE) partnership, the Transitions Academy Fall Convening was held virtually and free for everyone to attend and learn. The Fall Convening focused on assisting programs and their partners in developing, strengthening, and updating Bridge and ICAPS (Integrated Career and Academic Preparation System). All sessions are recorded and available for review on the [Transitions Academy page](#) of the ICAPS website. Thanks to all of our presenters for spotlighting their options for success! Check out the [Transitions Academy resources](#).



Angela Gerberding of ICCB leads discussion at the Chicago City Colleges Cohort Convos.



Teams strengthen their partnerships to fully reach and teach our Illinois learners. 12 partnerships from around the state participated in the November Cohort Convos.

Following the Fall Convening, the Transitions Academy continued to support the field through the Cohort Convos. This is an in person, team-based approach to developing, implementing, and sustaining Bridge and ICAPS/IETs through AE and CTE or training partner collaborations. Thanks to all the participants and their collaborative and innovative work to support learners!

ICAPSIETs and Bridges as Equity-Informed Approach

Your work in providing ICAPS/IETs, Bridges, and work-based learning provides access and inclusion for your learners. These valuable options for learning support and accelerate success. Join this session to view your work through the equity lens. Examine your equity messaging as you share your essential efforts with your institution, your community, and your learners. Consider how these training opportunities infuse Universal Design for Learning, UDL, to scaffold learning basic skills while supporting career goals.

[Click on the box above to watch recording and consider the importance of ICAPS/IETs and Bridges in providing access and inclusive programming for our learners.](#)

Join the Conversation: ICAPS/IET Teams Share Their Progress - Meet us at IACEA in Springfield to See the Progress!

Come and hear about Illinois Adult Education's ICAPS/IETs, Integrated Career and Academic Prep/Integrated Education and Training! As part of Illinois' year-long Transitions Academy, twelve programs from around the state brought teams to a Cohort Convos meeting last fall. Teams consisted of administrators, instructors, and career navigators from Adult Education and their training partners. These teams made plans to expand and improve their ICAPS/IET offerings. Participants will have the opportunity to hear updates from seven of these programs and discuss continued action plans as well as potential application to their own program. Important ICAPS/IET resources will also be distributed. Thursday, March 16th, 1:45 - 3:00 and 3:15- 4:30 pm.

Hear from: **Kishwaukee College, Danville Area Community College, District 211 & 214, Joliet Junior College, College of Lake County, ROE 33, and Triton College**

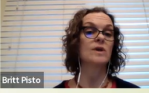
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IELCE - Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education Program Update

Please welcome Britt Garton Pisto, Director for Integrated English and Integrated Education, ICCB. Thanks to Britt for sharing the following information.


Workforce Training - IET/ICAPS



- IELCE programs must either have an IET/ICAPS or have a partnering entity offer an IET/ICAPS. Students must have access to this programming. IELCE programs may use funds for IELCE in combination with integrated education and training activities.
- This can be done by co-enrolling participants in integrated education and training that is provided within the local or regional workforce development area. ([§463.74](#))

Workforce training activities offered by providers may include:

- Occupational skills training
- On-the-job training
- Incumbent working training
- Programs operated by the private sector
- Skill upgrading and retraining
- Entrepreneurial training
- Transitional jobs
- Job readiness training
- Customized training with employer commitment to hire after completed training



The Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education (IELCE) program refers to the use of funds provided for education services for English language learners who are adults, including professionals with degrees and credentials in their native countries. The IELCE program delivers educational services such as English Language Acquisition, Civics Education, Workforce Preparation / Bridge programming, and access to IET (Integrated Educational Training) activities. This program is federally funded through WIOA Title II, Section 243. Currently our state has 33 IELCE programs which are happening throughout the state.

The unique piece of this program is that ESL students can have programming that focuses on literacy, civics, workforce preparation, and access to workforce training, working together as a pathway toward economic independence and success. With these components in place, ESL students will be on the road toward self-sufficiency.

On January 20th, the ICCB and the Central Illinois Adult Education Service Center hosted a listening session with IL IELCE providers from across the state. Attendees came away with a better understanding of the challenges and successes that programs are having, and the goal to have an ongoing network to share best practices. [HERE](#) is the link to the recording.

Lesson Bank

Visit the newly updated Excellence in Adult Education website to use the [Adult Education Lesson Bank](#)!

What is the Lesson Bank?

Q: Where can I go to get lesson plans that

- are standards aligned?
- incorporate Universal Design for Learning?
- follow the Illinois Essential Employability skills?
- and have engaging, student-centered activities?

A: Our new Lesson Bank!

On the new Excellence in Adult Education Website!

THANK YOU to our Lesson Bank Pioneers

Check out the Lesson Bank on the new Excellence in Adult Education website. Look for more details about the Lesson Bank in the Pulse next week!

JENNIFER SCHREIER	YOLANDA BENNETT	MARY CLARE SULLIVAN	KATHLEEN DEMARS	ERIN VOBORNIK
ANITA KERR	AMBER FORNACIARI	CAROLYN MARKEL	AMY ELSTON	NAOMI RAMAGE

These excellent, thorough lesson plans were created by outstanding teachers in Illinois. The Adult Education Professional Development Network members were inspired by the lesson development of these individuals as they constructed and submitted their plans. The Lesson Bank was born out of the excellence of their work in the Professional Pathways trainings. We thank them for sharing their lessons and for their desire to improve not only their own instruction but also instruction around the state. Thanks for lifting all the boats! We hope you are inspired by the tri-lens approach of integrating Illinois Essential Employability Skills, Universal Design for Learning (UDL), and content standards.

iLEARN

Make sure to check out the refreshed iLEARN site! The AE Professional Development Network is continually working to update courses and feature key PD opportunities. Click [here](#) for a direct link.

As requested, there is new training for Support Course development! This course is meant to help ICAPS Support Course teachers in planning, expanding, and strengthening your experience for themselves and your students.

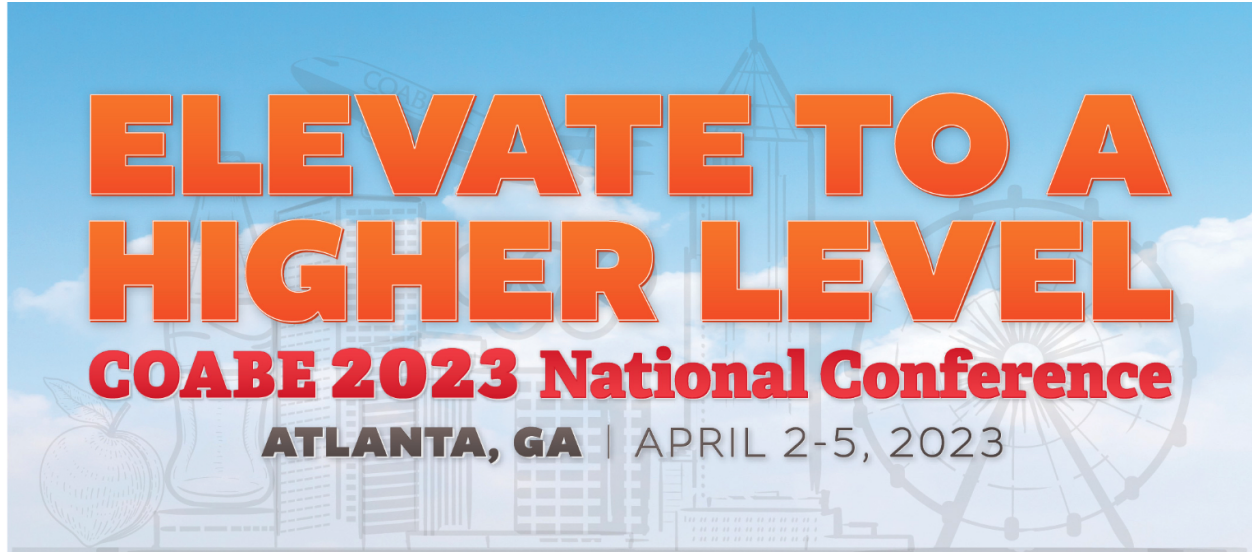


Ability to Benefit

Whitney Thompson and Angela Gerberding will present on ATB at the ILASFAA (IL Assoc. of Student Financial Aid Administrators) Conference on March 15th at 11:30 am. Encourage your counterparts to come get information. They will also present on ATB that same day at the IACEA Conference at 3:15 pm. Come hear what is shared at various conferences so you are prepared to compare notes with your Financial Aid staff and have a conversation on how to best implement ATB at your college.

COABE

COABE is coming! Click [here](#) for more information about the April 2-5, 2023 Hybrid Conference.



Check out COABE's new Podcasts!



[Click here to view COABE's Podcasts](#)

Focus on Equity - Equity VLCs

The Southern Illinois Professional Development Center has continued to host our Equity Virtual Learning Community. In our latest conversation, we discussed flex teaching best practices. Click [here](#) for the recording.



This month's VLC, on **February 23 at 2:00 p.m.**, will be on **Celebrating and Elevating Student Voices**. Thanks to Marcia Washington for leading this month's VLC! **Please join the discussion!** As seen above, our sessions will continue to be safe and open forums for discussions about equity.

Did you see **ICAPS and Bridges as Equity-Informed Approaches at the Transitions Academy Fall Convening?**

Click [here](#) to watch the recording and consider how your work in providing ICAPS/IETs, Bridges, and work-based learning provides access and inclusion for your learners. These valuable options for learning support and accelerate success!

IACEA, the Voice of Adult Education

IACEA is holding an in-person conference in Springfield this year.

This three-day conference will provide professional development and networking opportunities for people in all adult education roles and capacities.

Join us for Learning, Sharing, and all that Jazz!!!

 [Click Here To REGISTER TODAY!](#)

Join the Conversation: ICAPS/IET Teams Share Their Progress - Meet us at IACEA in Springfield to See the Progress!

Come and hear about Illinois Adult Education's ICAPS/IETs, Integrated Career and Academic Prep/Integrated Education and Training! As part of Illinois' year-long Transitions Academy, twelve programs from around the state brought teams to a Cohort Convos meeting last fall. Teams consisted of administrators, instructors, and career navigators from Adult Education and their training partners. These teams made plans to expand and improve their ICAPS/IET offerings. Participants will have the opportunity to hear updates from seven of these programs and discuss continued action plans, as well as potential applications to their own program. Important ICAPS/IET resources will also be distributed. Thursday, March 16th, 1:45 - 3:00 and 3:15- 4:30 pm.

Hear from: **Kishwaukee College, Danville Area Community College, District 211 & 214, Joliet Junior College, College of Lake County, ROE 33, and Triton College**

Mentorship

We have ongoing mentoring happening between programs across the state. Thank you to all who have been participating. This involves some with recurring meetings established and others who simply exchange resources and update each other on similar programming they may share.

If you want to be a mentor or be assigned a mentor, please contact

sipdctrainer@gmail.com.



ICAPS Office Hours

ICAPS Office Hours

Next Session - Feb. 27

Angela Gerberding from ICCB and the Southern Illinois Professional Development Center team will continue to hold office hours in FY23 for ICAPS program development questions, issues, or concerns. We meet on the last Monday of each month at 2:30 p.m. For access to these office hours or if you have any questions, please reach out to Sarah Goldammer sgoldam@siue.edu or Tara Schwab tarschw@siue.edu. You can register for the series of meetings [here](#).

Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support (ICSPS)

Workforce Webinars (click for more information)

ICSPS is proud to assist the WIOA core partners in facilitating the WIOA professional development team meetings. The WIOA professional development team includes representatives from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Department of Human Services, the Illinois Department of Employment Security, Northern Illinois University: Center for Governmental Studies, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville: Southern Illinois Professional Development Center, and Illinois State University: Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support.

WIOA
Professional Development
americanjobcenter

As requested by the field

Anxiety and De-escalation Strategies

- 1 Identify escalating and/or crisis situations
- 2 Understand basic techniques to de-escalate crisis situations
- 3 Understand verbal and non-verbal communication techniques
- 4 Identify and understand personal responses to crisis or escalated situations
- 5 Understand basic skills to manage anxiety

It will be recorded for those of us at IACEA!

Rescheduled date: March 15th @ 10:00 am
Presented by: Aly Frantzen | LCSW
in partnership with the Workforce Professional Development

The PDN Pulse

The Illinois Professional Development Network continues to develop and distribute the PDN Pulse, an exciting publication that allows listserv subscribers to get all the news about Illinois PDN Adult Education professional development opportunities in one place each Tuesday in their email inbox! We also feature key events from important adult education professional organizations. Here is a glimpse:

Did you know Illinois has a remote Assessment Hub?

Visit the Excellence site to learn how the Assessment Hub can support your program!

CLICK HERE AND EXPLORE!

This Week!

BRIDGE LEARNING COMMUNITY

Refugee Support

BRIDGE VLCS ARE THIRD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 2:00
THIS VLC IS THURSDAY FEBRUARY 16

CLICK HERE FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Click [here](#) to view the PDN Pulse archives.

GET ON THE LIST!

Subscribe to the PDN listserv directly

VISIT OUR FORM FOR MORE DETAILS:
www.rebrand.ly/pdnlist

Make sure you are on the Pulse! Do not miss out on PDN and IL Adult Ed information!

Click here to sign up.

Friday Features

To elevate the voices of Adult Education and to highlight promising and equitable practices, the AE Professional Development Network has maintained the Friday Features. These features are posted on the Illinois Professional Development Network social media accounts and go out via email through the Illinois Adult Education listserv. If you have an idea for a Friday Feature, please email Tara Schwab at tarschw@siue.edu. Again, see above to subscribe to our listserv and don't forget to like us on social media. Take a look at a couple of our latest Friday Features below.

Friday Feature


As part of her work on the Equity Pathway, **Levia Loftus** of **College of Lake County** implemented a Self-Talk: "Identifying, Challenging and Changing" into her ESL Classroom.

The results were meaningful in countless ways with feedback from her students such as,

"I love the homework to share Monday one bad talk to change to something good. I never thought of this. After we read and did together, going to the rooms was so good and I liked to hear what everyone said."

"I like that we talk about positive things. I like the lesson and I am excited about the homework to talk this weekend."

Click [here](#) for an adaptable copy of the activity.

 *#Voices of IP Adult Ed*

Friday Feature

As part of our Illinois Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) Adult Education & Literacy Statewide Outreach Project, we had our first Outreach Campaign Mentoring Hour. A big thank you to

Griselda Piedra from PODER,
Jilly Dupy from Lewis & Clark,
Shamir Brown from Parkland,
and Lily Arroyo from the Polish American Association.

They provided participants with awesome tips and ideas for using Campaign Toolkit and resources. Please view the recording [here](#) and reach out with questions to sipdctrainer@gmail.com.

#Voices of IP Adult Ed

Friday Feature

Congratulations to Ann Eads from Illinois Central College on her great work in transitioning ESL students into Bridge and ICAPS/IET programs.

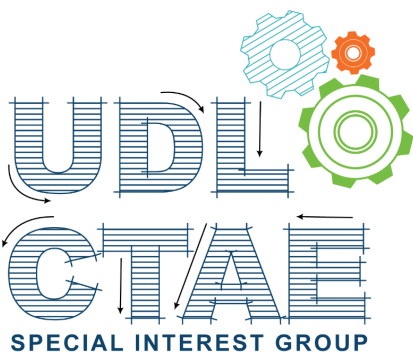
Currently, ICC's Entrepreneurship Bridge has 25% ESL students. The ICAPS Healthcare has 50%.

Ann said, "It is a joy to observe the success of ESL students transitioning to career programs."

 *#Voices of IP Adult Ed*

New Career and Technical and Adult Education (CTAE) UDL Special Interest Group

In response to the growing interest in Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in career, technical, and adult education, CAST's Implementation and Research Network has launched a new special interest group: CTAE. The CTAE special interest group brings together career, technical, and adult education professionals from across the nation to discuss ways of making instruction and services accessible and inclusive. In our first two meetings, we have covered topics including: the basics of UDL and UDL in Low Tech Classes and Labs. You can also see us at the following conferences in 2023: the UDL IRN



International Summit, the Illinois Adult and Continuing Educators Association (IACEA) Conference, and the Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE) National Conference.

Interested in UDL to create an equitable and accessible learning environment for you learners? Visit [UDL-IRN CTAE SIG](#) to join us!

ICAPS Website



ICAPS/IET and Bridge Learning Communities are the second and third Thursdays at 2:00 pm. Join us for rich discussions and sharing of promising practices and supportive resources! Topics are chosen by Transitions Academy participants. Share your voice!

This website exists because of the hard work of many Illinois programs and their dedicated individuals who decided to forge new opportunities for Illinois learners. We strive to refresh the site and add resources often. Recently, we have added information about Illinois Adult Education Bridges, as they, along with ICAPS/IETs, are an important part of our transitions programming. The Bridge information is published on our comprehensive Transitions Academy page within the ICAPS website. Click [here](#) to visit the page and then explore our ICAPS/IET site.

New Excellence in Adult Education Website

New Excellence in Adult Education Website!

SAME GREAT INFO WITH ADDED NEW FEATURES

CHECK OUT THE LESSON BANK CALENDAR

CLICK HERE AND EXPLORE!

Bookmark the new site for a calendar of the latest on Professional Development offerings, learning communities, resources, and a Lesson Bank that includes Essential Employability Skills, UDL, and content standards!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT LEARNING COMMUNITIES RESOURCES LESSON BANK NEWS & UPDATES NEW TEACHER ORIENTATION CALENDAR

Excellence in Adult Education

The Illinois Adult Education Professional Development Network welcomes you to this site. We provide professional development to instructors, administrators and staff of Illinois adult education programs.

PD OPPORTUNITIES CHECK THE PULSE

Professional Development Network Inspiring Adult Education

ICCB ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD

Instructional/Professional Pathways

Considering starting on a professional pathway? Many of our iLEARN courses are actually part of a pathway such as **Career Navigator** or **Transitions Specialist**. Please check the [Excellence in Adult Education Website](#) and email the Southern Illinois Professional Development Center at sipdctrainer@gmail.com for more information.

NCTN News and Resources:

Attention Career Navigators: We have updated and refreshed our Navigating Pathways Online Course Series.

Finding True North, the first course in the series is free and self-paced.

[Enroll yourself here.](#)

New Ability to Benefit Resource Page

This [resource page](#) is for states and institutions looking to learn more about the Ability to Benefit (ATB) provision of the Higher Education Act.



**NAVIGATING
PATHWAYS**

Online Training Series
for Career Navigators



WORLD EDUCATION

Integrate In-Demand Skills into Your Program: We Can Make It Easy!

Learn how you can receive [free technical assistance](#) from NCTN.

Opportunity for Free Career Navigator Training through Department of Education Study and IES

The Institute of Education Sciences (IES) at the U.S. Department of Education is sponsoring the Connecting Adults to Success Study – and we are recruiting adult education providers to receive free training and participate in the study!

This study will examine whether training for career navigators increases adult learners' further education, employment, and earnings. Forty providers are already receiving free training through this study and there is still time to enroll. Adult education providers that participate in the study receive a free, nationally recognized training for their staff who provide career navigation services. The training is designed to help staff develop core competencies to guide learners as they explore and plan for college, training or jobs. All providers will receive the training in either spring 2023 or spring 2025, and a lottery will determine the timing of training.

We are looking for adult education providers that currently have staff with dedicated time spent on career navigation services and want to offer enhanced training to these staff. To learn more and get involved, please contact Ariella Spitzer at AdultEdStudy@mathematica-mpr.com or fill out [this](#) two minute interest form.

Illinois Digital Learning Lab

Question: What has 5 SMEs, 20+ participants experimenting in sprints, and 5 cohorts with names like Digital Dragons, Gaggle of Goat Staring Geese, Super Sprinters, Technology Trailblazers Team, and The Tech Promoters?

Answer: scaleLIT's Digital Learning Lab (DLL), which has been busy developing and supporting hypotheses, goals, and metrics: example "Students will find a newly-chosen online course or curriculum (e.g., USA Learns, Burlington English, GCF Learn Free Digital Skills, GED or HiSET Academy, Khan Academy or other online course, etc.) engaging, and they will master the course or curriculum objectives."

See more hypotheses, goals, and metrics being tested in 'the Lab' at

<https://sites.google.com/idl-lab.org/learninglab/home>.

Both professional development and learner support needs are being met throughout the state in our first half of the DLL 2022-2023 program. From Erie Neighborhood House, Little Village, Chicago to Shawnee Community College, Ullin, DLL is helping to close the 'Digital Divide.'

The Digital Learning Lab Midpoint 2023 hybrid event will be on Friday, February 24th, from 10am-3pm CST. If you are interested in attending this event, please complete the following form asking how you will be attending, virtual or in-person. Please complete this survey and you will receive more information, space is limited.

<https://bit.ly/DLLmidpointEvent23> .

LINCS Promising Practices



During 2023, the Career Pathways and Postsecondary Transitions group will be hosting a [Postsecondary Transitions Promising Practices Virtual Roadshow in the LINCS Community](#).

If you know of a promising practice that is helping to increase the number of adult learners that transition to postsecondary education or training [please complete this form](#) to have it featured in the virtual roadshow.

The Postsecondary Transitions Promising Practices Virtual Roadshow will feature a new region each month. Please submit your promising practices no later than the month before your region is being featured. Below is the order of the regions and which states are in which regions:

- February 2023- Region I (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont)
- March 2023- Region II (New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands)
- April 2023- Region III (Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia)
- May 2023- Region IV (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee)
- **June 2023- Region V (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin)**
- July 2023- Region VI (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas)
- August 2023- Region VII (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska)
- September- Region VIII (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming)
- October- Region IX (Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands)
- November- Region X (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington)

If you have any questions or need additional information, you can email Chrissie at chrissie.klinger@gmail.com.

Illinois workNet

Now is the best time to brush up on financial literacy skills as 2023 is underway! Illinois workNet has you covered to get ahead by planning and preparing to spring forward with refreshed skills, a budget, and tools.



Whether you are just getting started with money management or someone who's looking to improve skills, consider taking an interactive survey for a '[Reality Check](#)' to determine your monthly expenses based on your lifestyle and region's cost of living.

From retiring to just wanting to save money, the recently updated [Money Management Guide](#) offers resources for all your needs. As youth land their first job and take steps towards independence, developing good money habits is important to carry into adult years. Prospective and current students can save money by determining education costs, exploring ways to pay for school or a training program, and identifying which options suit their needs. Individuals with a disability can browse resources to establish financial goals and use the [Disability Benefits Estimator](#) to determine how an income change would impact benefits. Job seekers and individuals can set financial goals, locate assistance, understand a budget, and learn ways to get out of debt. Small businesses can also access money tips to start a business or grow a business.

Taxes

When is Tax Season? Which forms should I file? Where do I file? What documents are needed? Tax season may feel overwhelming and stressful, but with the right resources, it doesn't have to feel like a chore. The [Tax Preparation 101 Article](#) breaks down the information from deductions and credits, to essential information needed to file, and tips for filing. Don't forget, Tax Day is April 18th.

Celebrate Financial Literacy

Financial Literacy Month is a nationwide initiative, annually held in April, to celebrate achievements and raise awareness. Stay updated by following Illinois workNet on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter](#) as tips and resources will be shared throughout the month using the hashtags #ILworkNet and #FinancialLiteracyMonth. As April grows closer, find upcoming events using the [Event Calendar](#) and filter the Series to "Financial Literacy Month."

Contact Information

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Southern Illinois Professional
Development Center

For more information, see SIPDC's website at www.siue.edu/sipdc or
<https://excellenceinadulthood.org/>

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For more information, see ICSPS' website at icsps.illinoisstate.edu