



## Welcome to Our September 2024 eNewsletter!

Welcome to the fall edition of our eNewsletter! We had a busy summer at the Adult Learning Exchange Virtual Community and have lots to share. We also have a great lineup of webinars to announce in the fall. Remember that our events are free and open to the public, but you must register. We offer a membership-based opportunity if you want access to the Digital Library, which contains recordings of our webinars.

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## Summer Webinars

The summer webinars sponsored by the Adult Learning Exchange Virtual Community provided various educational opportunities for graduate students and adult educators. Key sessions included "**Maximizing Your Relationship With Your Major Advisor Throughout the Dissertation Process**," which offered practical strategies for fostering advisor-advisee solid relationships during the dissertation journey. "**Understanding the Adult Learner: Perspectives and Practices**" delved into practical approaches for engaging adult learners, while "**Publishing Edited Books**" gave participants insights into successfully compiling and publishing academic works. Finally, "**Crafting Captivating Course Syllabi Abstracts: Engaging and Interactive Strategies**" focused on creating engaging course syllabi to boost student interaction and learning outcomes.

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## Visiting Professor in Brazil

In September, Dr. Simone Conceição was a visiting professor at the Federal University of Rio Grande of Sul (UFRGS) through the Programa de Pós-Graduação em Informática na Educação (PPGIE). This visit was supported by CAPES (Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior), a Brazilian government agency under the Ministry of Education responsible for promoting and regulating higher education and postgraduate programs in Brazil.



Dr. Conceição's two-week visit involved lectures and meetings with professors, researchers, administrators, and students to strengthen the ties between researchers from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) and UFRGS for collaboration in online learning research; enable the development of projects that emphasize comparisons and exchanges regarding guidelines, regulations, and best practices in distance

education between Brazil and the USA; and contribute to the dissemination of best practices in online learning within the Open University of Brazil (Universidade Aberta do Brasil) system.

Dr. Conceição gave three talks: "Regulations in Distance Education in the USA: Ensuring Quality and Accountability," "Pillars of Innovation for Creating Online Learning," and "Faculty Workload When Teaching Online: Balancing Demands and Resources." She also met with members of the Commission for the Development of New Quality Standards for Distance Education in Brazil.



The time in Brazil allowed for different interactions with scholars, allowing the opportunity to meet new colleagues, have great conversations, and have good food.

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## Arthur (Jack) Payne Crabtree Memorial Fund

Dr. Simone Conceição and Dr. Lilian Hill received the Arthur (Jack) Payne Crabtree Memorial Fund under the coordination of the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education (AAACE) to develop, implement, and evaluate a series of five free webinars for

training instructors and practitioners to integrate digital literacy competencies into their teaching. The webinar series highlighted the importance of flexibility and adaptability in program delivery. Offering multiple engagement options, such as live sessions and recorded webinars, significantly enhanced accessibility and participation, accommodating educators with diverse schedules. The emphasis on practical, hands-on activities and structured frameworks was highly valued, underscoring the need for actionable strategies and real-world applications in future programs.

The series collectively enhanced participants' understanding of digital literacy from foundational concepts to practical applications and assessment strategies. The webinars provided a structured approach to learning, emphasizing the importance of frameworks and offering valuable tips that could be immediately applied in instructional settings. The consistently positive feedback and high participant engagement indicated that the content was relevant and beneficial. This comprehensive coverage ensured that educators were well-equipped to integrate and assess digital literacy skills, enhancing both their professional skills and their students' readiness for the digital world.

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## Fall Webinar Lineup

### Adult Education and Program Development

- **Organization and Administration of Adult Education Programs** (October 23, 2024): Explore strategies for effectively managing and administering adult education programs.

### Career Development in Adult Education

- **Career Pathways in Adult Education** (November 14, 2024): A guide to professional growth and opportunities in the adult education sector.
- **Academic Multitasking: Finding Time to Write** (November 22, 2024): Learn how to balance scholarly writing with teaching and administrative responsibilities.

### Diversity and Technology in Education

- **The Routledge Handbook of LGBTQ Identity in Organizations and Society** (December 12, 2024): A discussion on inclusivity and the impact of LGBTQ identity within organizational contexts.
- **ChatGPT and Global Higher Education: Using Artificial Intelligence in Teaching and Learning** (December 20, 2024): Explore the transformative role of AI in higher education and its implications for teaching and learning.

### Writing Innovation

- **AI-Powered Writing: Balancing Innovation with Academic Integrity** (October 17, 2024): Discover how to harness AI in academic writing while upholding ethical standards.

### Want to Host a Webinar on Your New Book or Innovative Idea?

We invite community members to promote their books or innovative ideas through our

platform. We offer complimentary assistance in organizing webinars to facilitate these discussions. [Contact us](#) to discuss the details. There is no cost involved.

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## eLearn Magazine Special Issue Call for Papers

**Distance Education in Higher Education in Latin America: Realities, opportunities, and challenges**

**Editors:** Simone C. O. Conceição and Dante Salto



Higher education in Latin America has experienced a skyrocketing growth over the last two decades, with the gross enrollment rate increasing from 23% to 52% between 2000 and 2018. While much of this growth has occurred in traditional, in-person programs, distance education is playing an increasingly relevant role in the

expansion of higher education in the region. However, the rise of distance higher education has brought several challenges. While distance education has the potential to democratize access to higher education, access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) varies widely across socio-economic groups. This digital divide creates disparities in who can benefit from distance education. Moreover, the rapid growth of distance education has allowed the entry of new providers, often without regulatory oversight, raising concerns about the quality and consistency of education being offered.

This Special Issue aims to explore the multifaceted realities, opportunities, and challenges that distance education brings to higher education in Latin America, one of the most unequal regions in the world.

We invite contributions that address, but are not limited to, the following themes:

- Access and equity
- Regulation and quality assurance
- Technological innovation and pedagogical practices
- Institutional responses to COVID-19
- Future directions

### **Deadline**

- Article submission deadline: March 1, 2025

### **Article Submission**

Please submit your paper [here](#).

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The **Adult Learning Exchange Virtual Community** continues growing as a hub for adult educators and graduate students, providing valuable learning opportunities through our webinars, workshops, and other resources. We encourage you to take full advantage of these offerings and consider becoming a paid subscriber to access our **Digital Library**, packed with recorded webinars and other exclusive content. Your support allows us to expand our community and offer accessible education to all. Whether you want to enhance your professional skills, connect with fellow educators, or explore new ideas, we support your journey. Let's continue to learn and grow together!

Thank you for being part of our vibrant community!

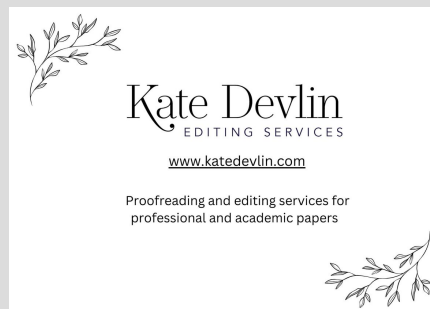
*Adult Learning Exchange Virtual Community Team*

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