Learn how one consortium is having student success with a curriculum that has social and emotional components

BY ALLEN PERLEONI

I started this job, I told myself I wanted to teach in the way I would want to be a student in my own class,” says Timothy Amaral, a GED instructor for the Salinas Adult School and trainer in social emotional learning, also known as SEL. “I want students to feel welcome and involved.”

SEL is a specialized curriculum and an example of the program development priority, one of CAEP’s seven state priorities for ensuring the best outcomes for adult education students.

“Social-emotional learning makes an enormous difference in students’ retention, persistence and ultimately graduation,” Amaral says. “They feel responded to, so they continue to attend. About two-thirds of my graduates move on to college.”

Amaral’s classroom is lecture-based, a model in which he constantly engages with students. One of his lessons is “building a vocabulary for students to express their internal world,” he says. “They get empowered to express their needs and do it in a safe place.”

As part of his lesson plan, Amaral references the works of psychotherapist-author David Richo and his “Five A’s of Love and Belonging”—Attention, Affection, Appreciation, Acceptance and Allowing.

“When my students are under distress—and there’s a lot of distress for them in an academic setting—they’re able to express themselves really well and ask for what they need,” Amaral says. “Somebody else in the class steps up for them, and they regulate and get back on task.”
Still, it must be disconcerting for adult students who expect a “normal” classroom setting from their high school years to find themselves as strangers in a strange land.

“It’s disorienting when they first walk in because they expect something impersonal,” Amaral says. “Instead, the classroom feels like a family home during the holidays.

“I tell them the old pattern never worked, that they survived school rather than thrived,” he says. “I want to provide an environment where they thrive. In many cases, they’ve never been cared for in their lives and it makes them very anxious. It takes time for them to trust it.”

And the teacher’s reward? “When my students leave class, they like school again.”

“Social-emotional learning makes an enormous difference in students’ retention, persistence and ultimately graduation...

About two-thirds of my students move on to college.”

Timothy Amaral, GED Instructor Salinas Adult School
WHAT DOES SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT MEAN TO STUDENTS?

“Mr. Amaral taught me acceptance of responsibilities and accountability, how important it is to show up every day. That was a key factor in graduating from his class and getting my GED. His class is not just a GED class, it’s a life class. Growing up, we were exposed to a lot of bad vibes and negative energy. Mr. Amaral gave us instructions on life and how to better ourselves, how to make smarter life choices and decisions.”

Joaquin Morales, 39, audiovisual technician, 2019 graduate

“I failed in high school, so went to adult school for my GED. The way Tim taught, it felt like he was catering the education to me personally. Tim made us feel like the choices we made mattered, that we could actually do something with our lives. I never thought I would ever get married, or have a daughter, or buy a home, or be the boss of anyone. I accomplished all that because I found confidence in myself in Tim’s class.”
More stories from this publisher:

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAM EVALUATION

TECHNOLOGY/DISTANCE LEARNING

This story is from:

Adult Education: Same Foundation, New Way Forward

by News & Review

More stories on Issuu:

from 'Chicago Parent, January 2020'

from 'Roanoke Valley Family Magazine, March 2020'

https://issuu.com/news_review/docs/fallsummit_09022021_rgb_highres/s/13282928
Embracing Empathy

Learning Disabilities: What to...

How Gen Z Learns

Connecting content to people.

Issuu Inc.

Company
About us
Careers
Blog
Webinars
Press

Issuu Features
Fullscreen Sharing
Visual Stories
Article Stories
Embed
Statistics
SEO
InDesign Integration

Solutions
Cloud Storage Integration
GIFS
AMP Ready
Add Links
Groups
Video
Web-ready Fonts

Industries
Designers
Content Marketers
Social Media Managers
Publishers
PR / Corporate Communication
Students & Teachers
Salespeople
Use Cases

Products & Resources
Plans
Partnerships
Developers
Digital Sales
Elite Program
iOS App
Android App
Collaborate
Publisher Directory
Redeem Code
Support

Explore Issuu Content
Arts & Entertainment
Business
Education
Family & Parenting
Food & Drink
Health & Fitness
Hobbies
Home & Garden
Pets
Religion & Spirituality
Science
Society
Sports
Style & Fashion
Technology & Computing
Travel

https://issuu.com/news_review/docs/fallsummit_09022021_rgb_highres/s/13282928