



**ALBERTA CORRECTIONAL
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

**VIRTUAL
CONFERENCE**

**MAR
6-7
2025**

**KNOWING &
LEARNING**

**IN CORRECTIONAL
EDUCATION**



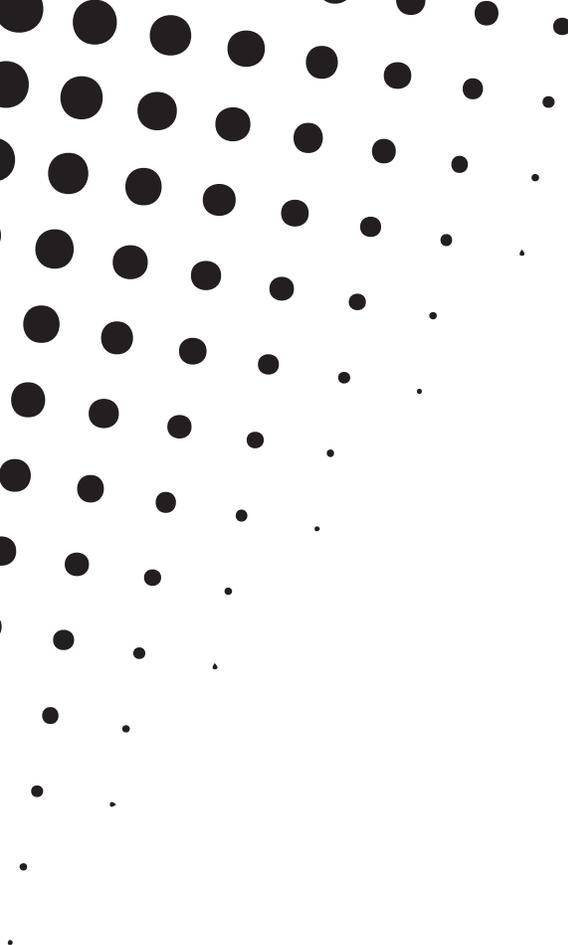


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**THE ALBERTA
CORRECTIONAL
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
WOULD LIKE TO THANK
THE SPONSORS FOR THIS
YEARS' CONFERENCE**

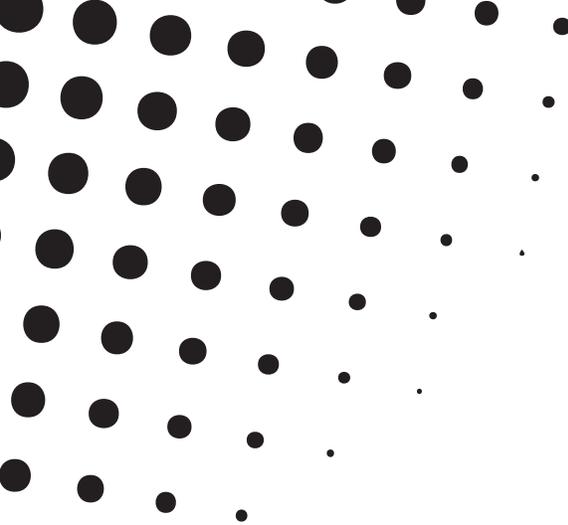
scanningpens

Alberta 



**ProLiteracy
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Trusted print and digital resources for adult education



speaker

LINEUP



Ja'Ken Caston

Shattering the Revolving Door of Recidivism: Education as a Catalyst for Transformation

James Woodland

Learning by Listening: Implementing a Digital Learning Environment in Prison

Nicole Patrie

Unlocking Connections: A Networking Workshop

Jill Mallett

Trouble to Triumph: Cultivating Success & Safety from a Place of Strengths & Values

Christina White Prosser & Karen Cook-Newbury

Digital Discoveries in Correctional Learning

Nancy Van Styvendale & Devonn Drossel

The Light Fires Project: Indigenous Prison Arts and Education in Alberta and Saskatchewan

schedule

**THURSDAY MARCH 6TH 2025
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM MST**

9:00 AM	WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS
9:15 AM	LEARNING BY LISTENING (JAMES WOODLAND)
10:15 AM	15 MINUTE BREAK
10:30 AM	THE LIGHT FIRES PROJECT (NANCY VAN STYVENDALE AND DEVONN DROSSEL)
11:30 AM	DIGITAL DISCOVERIES IN CORRECTIONAL LEARNING (CHRISTINA WHITE PROSSER/ KAREN COOK-NEWBURY)
12:20 PM	LUNCH & GAMES
1:30 PM	SHATTERING THE REVOLVING DOOR OF RECIDIVISM (JA'KEN CASTON)
2:30 PM	15 MINUTE BREAK
2:45 PM	UNLOCKING CONNECTIONS (NICOLE PATRIE)
3:45 PM	END OF DAY ONE

schedule

**FRIDAY MARCH 7TH 2025
9:00 AM - 11:30 AM MST**

9:00 AM	WELCOME
9:15 AM	PRO LITERACY NEW READERS PRESS GRANTS & FUNDING (ROBERTA POWER)
9:30 AM	TROUBLE TO TRIUMPH (JILL MALLET)
10:30 AM	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - ELECTIONS AND DOOR PRIZES
11:15 AM	CONFERENCE CLOSING

speaker

INFO & BIOS

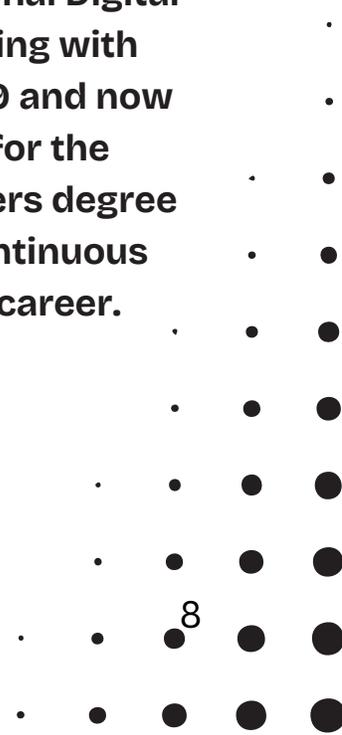
James Woodland:

Learning by Listening: Implementing a Digital Learning Environment in Prison

This presentation will begin with an overview of the current state of the expanding Digital Education Initiative in Corrections. Since 2019, James went from lead teacher at the first pilot site to the LMS Administrator for the country, while learning a lot along the way. By having assumptions challenged, listening to feedback from his students and colleagues, and making a few mistakes, James will share his best (and worst) ways to implement, instruct and integrate.



James has been an educator for 15 years with almost 10 years in corrections, currently holding the position of Chief of Education in Bath institution with half of his role supporting the National Digital Education initiative. James started working with this initiative as the Lead Teacher in 2019 and now functions as the national administrator for the project. In 2009, James earned his Masters degree in English literature and has pursued continuous education opportunities throughout his career.



Nancy Van Styvendale &

Devonn Drossel:

The Light Fires Project: Indigenous Prison Arts and Education in Alberta and Saskatchewan

Light Fires, housed in the Faculty of Native Studies (UofA), is an Indigenous Studies prison arts and education project grounded in 14+ years of community-based education and engagement. Our work is underpinned by three interwoven commitments: arts-based education in/beyond prisons, critical Indigenous prison studies research, and advocacy with/for incarcerated people. First, we will introduce the project's guiding principles and initiatives. Then, we will guide participants through an arts-based activity (designed by a formerly incarcerated learner) which invites us to disrupt colonial ideas about knowledge, and to consider the importance of listening to and learning from Indigenous people who are/were incarcerated.

Link here: [University of Alberta](#)

Nancy Van Styvendale is a white settler scholar, Associate Professor, and Associate Dean (Research) in the Faculty of Native Studies. She is Director of Light Fires, an Indigenous Prison Arts & Education Project, and a co-founder and coordinator of Inspired Minds, a creative writing program for incarcerated people in Saskatchewan and Alberta. She does community-engaged research in the field of Indigenous literatures, with commitments to Indigenous prison writing; penal abolition; arts-based programs in prison; and community-based education.



Devonn Drossel (Métis, citizen of the MNA) is the Project Coordinator of Light Fires and is committed to seeing, encouraging and supporting peoples' creativity, however it shows up. She is also an MA candidate in the Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta, and her research focus is on urban Métis food practices, food sovereignty, and the interconnections between art and food. Throughout her life, making and engaging with art has been an important part of how she thinks through and shares ideas, especially those around kinship, identity and community.



Christina White Prosser &

Karen Cook-Newbury:

Digital Discoveries in Correctional Learning

Throughout the past several years, a research project has been active at an Alberta correctional facility. Inaugurate data was produced that explored the intersection of adult learners, neurodiverse students, and assistive technology. This presentation will provide the main themes garnered from the project and look at ways in which learning was impacted by the integration of a scanning pen, particularly the ReaderPen Secure. It will highlight the learning experiences of students who completed courses while incarcerated.

This presentation will use reflection exercises and handouts to ensure learning application. This aligns with our conference theme in that it sheds new light on the teaching and learning impacts of scanning technology in correctional classrooms. Particularly investigating instructional design strategies and revealing student experiences with assistive technology.



Karen Cook-Newbury is a certified educator in Alberta, an academic leader, and an accomplished researcher. She has over a decade of teaching and has spent the last eleven years teaching academic upgrading in correctional education with NorQuest College. Her specializations include academic upgrading, literacy, adult education, supporting lifelong learning and assisting adults transform their lives.



Dr. Christina White Prosser is an adult learning specialist, experienced educator, adult learning researcher, and proven leader in educational administration. She has been working in correctional education since 1999. Her professional experience includes various non-profit organizations and over 24 years in postsecondary education. Christina's broad area of research explores the effects of transformational learning and self-perception in adults as they adapt to and adopt change later in life. She is currently researching the impact of technology-assisted literacy and language learning in incarcerated adults and the effects of policing and crime prevention education programs on youth.

Ja'Ken Caston

Shattering the Revolving Door of Recidivism: Education as a Catalyst for Transformation

Grounded in my dissertation research, this presentation will explore how educational programs within correctional settings serve as a powerful tool to disrupt cycles of recidivism. By examining the lived experiences of formerly incarcerated individuals, my research highlights the transformative impact that accessible, relevant education has on personal growth, skill-building, and successful reentry. The presentation emphasizes how education provides incarcerated individuals with essential academic and vocational skills, fosters personal agency, and instills hope—key elements in reducing recidivism rates.



Dr. Ja'Ken Caston is a transformative speaker, educator, and author dedicated to using education to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline. With experience as a PreK-12 Spanish teacher, Reading Specialist, and correctional education principal, he bridges early education and reentry solutions. His research on community colleges reducing recidivism has been featured at national conferences. Dr. Caston offers keynotes and workshops on literacy, mass incarceration, and education's role in social change. Learn more at JaKenSpeak.com or explore his insights in *Shattering the Revolving Door of Recidivism*, a compelling look at education's power to transform lives.

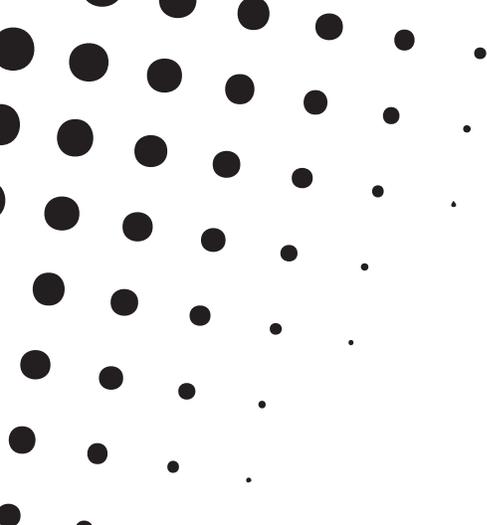
Nicole Patrie

Unlocking Connections: A Networking Workshop

In this workshop, participants will be guided through a variety of networking activities, designed to have them meet and interact with other people attending ACEA. We will be sharing our experiences and expertise, discuss issues, and find common ground. People who work in and around the criminal justice system in educational roles often say that they lack a connection with people from other institutions, or feel isolated in their role. The purpose of this session is to facilitate some new connections, foster reflective learning, and encourage interaction among fellow correctional educators.



Nicole Patrie is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Safety and Justice Studies at MacEwan University, and a PhD candidate in Adult, Community and Higher Education at the University of Alberta. Nicole has been involved in prison education at all levels: as a teacher, administrator, and now researcher, for over 15 years. Her research is on education and learning in the criminal justice system, specifically educational spaces in prison environments and professional development for prison educators. For more about Nicole's work, including publications; visit nicolepatrie.weebly.com



grant

INFO

ONE OF OUR SPONSORS, PROLITERACY NEW READERS PRESS , HAS TWO GRANTS AVAILABLE:

Pro Literacy's National Book Fund (closes March 17th)

- assist literacy and basic education programs by providing quality print materials through New Readers Press to enable you to better serve the students in your program.
- <https://www.proliteracy.org/grants-funding/national-book-fund/>

Pro Literacy's Mobile Learning Fund (year round)

- gives adult literacy programs access to free, easy-to-use solutions for online learning.
- <https://www.proliteracy.org/grants-funding/mobile-learning-fund/>

Jill Mallett

Trouble to Triumph: Cultivating Success & Safety from a Place of Strengths & Values

Empower learning and transformation within correctional education by focusing on the strengths and values of your residents. In Trouble to Triumph, we'll explore practical, evidence-based strategies for shifting from a traditional "fix-it" focus to one that builds connection, resilience, and better self-awareness in decision-making. Discover and practice how learning about the values and strengths of people in your workplace can create a safer and more supportive environment and help justice-involved people recognize their potential and envision a positive future. Join us to reimagine success behind the walls—by cultivating triumph from trouble, one strength and value at a time.

Jill is a dedicated educator with over a decade of experience working with youth who face significant barriers to success. Specializing in programming for youth and young adults navigating complex challenges, Jill has worked extensively with young people in the justice system, developing impactful, strengths-based initiatives tailored to meet their unique needs. Passionate about empowering incarcerated people, Jill finds the greatest reward in helping them discover their power and potential to create meaningful change in their lives and communities.



the ACEA

Board Members

Current Board Members for the 2023-2025 Term

President: Christina P. Ed.D.

Vice President: Trent G.

Past President: Nicole P.

Treasurer: Kathryn V.

Secretary: Ashley O.

Communications: Courtney B.

Representatives:

Anna D.

Crystal L.

Elizabeth W.

Lori G.

Jay L.

Olivia S.

Roberta P.

Nick P.

lunchtime SOCIAL

Join Trent for some lunchtime fun, playing Jackbox game Quplash 3!

"Players enter a head-to-head battle of the wits by answering a comedic prompt and letting the other players (and the audience) decide which they like best!"

All you need is your cellphone with internet access.

Bookmark Jackbox.tv on your phone's internet browser, think of a fun screen name, and when we start, you will get a 4 letter code to join the game.

CLICK HERE FOR THE LINK or visit <https://jackbox.tv/>

Max 8 players per game, however, everyone can join as part of the audience and vote as well!



**jackbox
games**





door PRIZES



DID YOU KNOW, IF YOU ATTEND OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ONE OF OUR MANY DOOR PRIZES?

HERE IS A SNEAK PEEK AT WHAT YOU COULD WIN!

- Reader Pen (Scanning Pen Inc.)
- 15 Week Literacy Subscription (Pro Literacy New Readers Press)
- Set of Long Stories Short Books (Pro Literacy New Readers Press)
- Set of Career Power Books (Pro Literacy New Readers Press)
- \$50 Gift Cards from Staples, Indigo, Amazon, Starbucks, and Tim Hortons
- Handmade Wooden Pen
(Carpentry class at Lethbridge Correctional Center)
- Inmate made Indigenous Crafts
(Peace River Correctional Center)



NOTE: WINNER MUST BE PRESENT WHEN NAME IS CALLED AT AGM TO WIN