

Reaching Higher: Encouraging Positive Transitions for Adults

Third El Paso Adult Literacy & Learning Conference

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EPALL III
2005

Reaching Higher: Encouraging Positive Transitions for Adults

Marriott Hotel
El Paso, Texas
December 9 – 10, 2005

Far West Project GREAT

EPALL

Third Annual El Paso Adult Literacy and Learning Conference

El Paso Marriott Hotel

December 9-10, 2005

The Far West GREAT Center in collaboration with the adult education programs of El Paso welcomes you to our third annual conference. This year we have wonderful workshops by local, state and national presenters on a wide variety of topics in adult education and family literacy. Our thanks go to all of those who are presenting at EPALL.

Many of these presentations highlight our conference theme "reaching higher: promoting positive transitions for adults." As adult educators we are all concerned with the ability of our students to succeed outside the adult education classroom. We hope that this conference will help you think of your students as future college or vocational students and ultimately as productive members of the workforce.

We also want to acknowledge the many of you who came from out of town this year. EPALL began as a local conference, but it is quickly becoming a regional conference thanks to your support. I hope that apart from the great sessions you attend, you'll have a chance to explore this border region. Have a productive and fun time in El Paso, and we'll see you again next year!

Please let us know if we can be of help in any way.

Eduardo Honold

Coordinator

Far West Project GREAT

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For conference materials and handouts visit www.farwestgreat.org

**Reaching Higher:
Encouraging Positive Transitions for Adults**

EPALL III

3rd Annual El Paso Adult Literacy and Learning Conference

December 9-10, 2005
Marriott El Paso Hotel

Detailed program begins on page 6 following the “Conference at a Glance” pages.

Welcome!

**EPALL III CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE
FRIDAY- DECEMBER 9, 2005**

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	
7:30 AM	Registration Continental Breakfast	Ballroom Foyer	
8:20 to 8:50 AM	Joanie Rethlake, Director of Texas Learns Beginning keynote	Salon E	
EXHIBITORS (8:00AM – 4:00PM BALLROOM FOYER)			
Pearson / Longman	McGraw-Hill/Contemporary	Cambridge U. Press	TCALL
Steck-Vaughn/Harcourt Achieve	Thomson/Heinle	Oxford U. Press	TAALC
9:00 - 11:50 AM (3 hours)	CONCURRENT SESSIONS		
	2. Strategies and Activities for the Multilevel ESL Classroom (Sandra Schneider)	Bluebonnet	
	3. Engaging Students with Fun Learning Activities (Norma Lopez)	Mockingbird	
9:00 to 10:20 AM (1.5 hours)	4. See, Hear, Touch: How Young Children Learn (Audrey Abed)	Salon G	
	5. The Transition from Adult Literacy ESL Programs to Academic Reading and Writing: Next Steps for English Language Learners (Lisa Gardner Flores)	Salon H	
	6. Literacy and the Workforce (Dr. John Robinson)	Salon I	
	7. Project Persist: Strategies for Increasing Learner Persistence (Dr. Dominique Chlup and Ken Appelt)	Salon J	
	8. Best Plus Overview for Teachers and Administrators (Barbara Shull)	Boardroom	
10:30 to 11:50 AM (1.5 hours)	CONCURRENT SESSIONS		
	9. Family Stories: Background for Adults' Career Development (Dr. Betsy Quintero)	Salon G	
	10. Standards Based Education and Adult Education in Texas (Dr. Seaman & Dr. Chia-Yin Chen)	Salon H	
	11. Teaching with a Purpose (Sheryl Jefferson)	Salon I	
	12. Parents, Babies and Books: Make It A Joyous Bonding Experience (Lillie Elizondo-Limas)	Salon J	
	13. Insights into Language Anxiety: Language Anxiety in Distance Education (Joellen Coryell)	Boardroom	
14. American Body Language and Its Cultural Significance (Liz Moya)	Private Dining		

CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE
FRIDAY – DECEMBER 9, 2005 (Continued)

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
12:00 to 1:15 PM	EPALL Luncheon Keynote: Jaime Hernandez, Socorro ISD	Salon E
	CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
1:30 to 3:50 PM (2.5 hours)	16. Growing Up Reading: A Language Development Strategy for Toddlers and Preschoolers Enrolled in Family Literacy Programs (Dr. Deborah Stedman)	Bluebonnet
	17. 1,2,3: Getting Your ESL Students Ready for the Workforce with Job Readiness Classes (Janell Baker & Gayle Fagan)	Mockingbird
	18. Teaching Multi-Level ABE/GED Adults through Centers (Christine Nevarez, Janie Delgado and Sylvia Cervantez)	Salon G
	19. Successful Collaborative Learning for the Multi-level ESL Class (Mary Louise Baez)	Salon H
	20. Teaching to the New Texas Standards (Andy Nash)	Salon I
	21. Creating and Using Context in ESL Grammar Instruction (Dr. Ellen Courtney)	Salon J
	22. Pacing your Class for Learning and Fun (Alex Baez and Carol Speigl)	Boardroom
4:00 PM: END OF FIRST DAY SESSIONS		

**CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE
SATURDAY – DECEMBER 10, 2005**

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7:30 AM	REGISTRATION Continental Breakfast	Ballroom Foyer
EXHIBITORS 8:00 – 12:00 PM		
8:30 to 11:30 AM (3 hours)	CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
	23. Every Picture Tells a Story....Don't It? Using Pictures as an Instructional Tool in the ESL Classroom (Rosanne Thompson)	Bluebonnet
	24. What Are the <i>Real</i> Benefits of Learning English? What Every Adult Education ESL Teacher Wants to Know but Is a Little Afraid to Ask...(Dr. Char Ullman)	Mockingbird
	25. Exploring Basic Math Concepts Utilizing Manipulatives for the Adult Classroom (Irene Ramos)	Salon D
	26. Technology and Family Literacy (Denise Guckert)	Salon G
8:30 to 9:50 AM (1.5 hrs)	CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
	27. Extending Your Reach: The Texas Adult Education Credential (Dr. Ken Stedman & Dr. Victoria Hoffman)	Salon H
	28. Oxford Dictionary Express: Come Picture the Possibilities to Academic Literacy and Save Time with Exam View Test Maker! (Joanne Choquehuanca)	Salon I
	29. Guiding Adult Students Through Unexpected Life Changes (Guadalupe Ortiz)	Salon J
	30. Adult Education and Workforce: Mapping a Strategy (Rene Coronado and Chakib Chehadi)	Boardroom
10:00 to 11:30AM (1.5 hrs)	CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
	31. Ground Floor: Building a Texas Adult Education Administrator's Credential (Dr. Ken Stedman)	Salon H
	32. Using Learner's Stories for Literacy, ESL and GED Instruction (Andres Muro)	Salon I
	33. Building Grammar and Vocabulary: The Basics (Mary Louise Baez and Matthew Lemke)	Salon J
	34. Integrated, Bilingual, Work-Based Adult Learning by Spanish-Speaking Workers in El Paso: Adjunct or Alternative to School-Based ESL and Workforce Retraining? (Jena Camp)	Boardroom

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2005
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

9:00 - 11:50

Session #3

Mockingbird

Engaging Students with Fun Learning Activities

Norma Lopez

South Central Project GREAT

Presenter will discuss and demonstrate basic pedagogical elements related to beginning ESL students. These techniques are intended to be fun and attractive so that learning is made easier and the learning process becomes more motivational and rewarding.

9:00-10:20

Session #4

Salon G

See, Hear, Touch: How Young Children Learn

Audrey Abed

Texas Family Literacy Resource
Center, Texas State University

Young children learn by using all of their senses to experience the physical world. Participants will engage in participatory learning that focuses on the basic three I's (Interactions, Imagination, and Integration) rather than the basic three R's when educating young children. Early childhood educators, parent educators and home-based educators are encouraged to attend and explore the ways in which family literacy programs prepare children for life-long learning through developmentally appropriate practice.

9:00-10:20

Session # 5

Salon H

The Transition from Adult Literacy ESL Programs to Academic Reading and Writing: Next Steps for English Language Learners

Lisa Gardner Flores

Texas Center for the Advancement
of Literacy and Learning

More literacy-based ESL students take college coursework on community college campuses than ever before. Program administrators and instructors alike recognize the need to create successful models that promote English language learner success. This presentation outlines a professional development workshop that addresses instruction across the language curriculum. It describes a pilot project that emphasizes creating a skill-based holistic model and integrating ESL instructional approaches to reading/writing skills.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2005
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

9:00-10:20

Session #6

Salon I

Literacy and the Workforce

Dr. John Robinson

Steck Vaughn

The jobs of tomorrow require literacy as well as preparation for the workforce. Read On! is a software solution that addresses both needs by improving reading levels from as low as literacy level and addressing workforce readiness within its writing program. Come see how it works.

9:00-10:20

Session #7

Salon J

Project Persist: Strategies for Increasing Learner Persistence

Dr. Dominique Chlup and Ken Appelt

Texas Center for the Advancement of Literacy and Learning

State and federally funded adult and family literacy programs are under increasing pressure to demonstrate specific results in terms of student retention rates and attendance hours in order to continue to receive funding. As a result, adult education program directors are increasingly becoming concerned with the issue of learner persistence. In this presentation, we will discuss the preliminary work of Project Persist, a research study designed to help adult literacy program directors in Texas implement a programmatic strategy to increase learner persistence rates.

9:00-10:20

Session #8

Boardroom

Best Plus Overview for Teachers and Administrators

Barbara Shull

Socorro ISD

Come learn about new BEST Plus from a certified trainer and test administrator. This session will highlight the differences between BEST Plus and BEST. This is not an official test administrator training.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2005
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

10:30-11:50

Session #9

Salon G

Family Stories: Background for Adults' Career Development

Dr. Besty Quintero

New York University

The workshop will show that family stories (perhaps through parents helping children with homework or just for fun) can support adults' developing their own career potential through explicit literacy and various skills and understandings. A five-step model, used often in family literacy and adult literacy will be demonstrated. This model combines oral language, reading, writing, and hands-on activities and will be demonstrated using multicultural children's books. Participants will take part to collaborate on examples as part of the workshop.

10:30-11:50

Session #10

Salon H

Standards Based Education and Adult Education in Texas

Dr. Chia-Yin Chen and Dr. Don Seaman

Texas Center for the Advancement of
Literacy and Learning

The presenters will review the history of the Texas Adult Education Standards Project, discuss why Texas adopted 5 Equipped For the Future (EFF) content standards and how benchmarks for the 5 adopted standards were developed. The presenters will also discuss future steps for standards/benchmarks validation and implementation.

10:30-11:50

Session #11

Salon I

Teaching with a Purpose

Sheryl Jefferson

Texas LEARNS

Are you tired of the Triple L Teaching Method: Lecture, Listen and Leave? When students think, verbalize, question and actively participate in a purposeful way, they learn more. The success of your program depends on the quality of the relationship between student and instructor. The session will offer instructional strategies and classroom management skills that will increase student retention and student performance.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2005
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

10:30-11:50

Session #12

Salon J

Parents, Babies and Books: Make It A Joyous Bonding Experience

Lillie Elizondo-Limas

Family Literacy Resource Center,
Texas State University

When parents use books to bond with their infant, they learn to associate books with the parents' love and attention. The discussion will focus on strategies parents' can use to promote a child's social emotional development and through regular reading time realize positive experiences with their child using books. Tips for book selection and fun activities that parents can use to enhance the language and reading experience will be shared in this session.

10:30-11:50

Session #13

Boardroom

Insights into Language Anxiety: Anxiety in Distance Education

Joellen Coryell

Texas Center for the Advancement of
Literacy and Learning

For some students, language anxiety can disrupt the learning process and acquisition of a new language. This pilot study asked distance education language students why they believed they experienced anxiety while producing in the target language. The findings showed that these students' preconceptions of culture and appropriate communicative language provided the impetus behind their apprehension. The presentation will conclude with a discussion of the implications for instructors of both face-to-face and online language education courses.

10:30-11:50

Session #14

Private Dining

American Body Language and Its Cultural Significance

Liz Moya

Ysleta Community Learning Center

Why do first impressions matter so much? Have you ever felt a "positive" or "negative" vibe from someone and you didn't know why? Did you know that body language represents seventy-five percent of face-to-face communication? Find out how to teach the importance of body language and its American cultural significance. Students and teachers alike will benefit from this workshop. Join this interactive session to revitalize the impact of body language and get an edge on effective communication.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2005
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

GENERAL SESSION

12:00-1:15

Session #15

Salon E

Luncheon Keynote
Empowering Adult Students to Achieve Success

Jaime Hernandez

Socorro ISD

This session is aimed at motivating adult students through the interweaving of their personal experiences and educational goals. Learn how therapeutic teaching can help your students in their journey towards empowerment.



CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1:30-3:50

Session #16

Bluebonnet

Growing Up Reading: A Language Development Strategy for Toddlers and Preschoolers Enrolled in Family Literacy Programs

Dr. Deborah Stedman

Family Literacy Resource Center,
Texas State University

The Birth Through Two (BT2) Institute conducted by the Texas Family Literacy Resource Center has not yet come to El Paso. This session is a “prequel” to BT2 for *all family literacy educators*, including early childhood providers, home visitors, parent educators, ILA providers *and adult educators (Believe It!)*. We will examine a language development strategy that can be integrated into all family literacy components. You will have a new strategy to use Monday morning!

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2005
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

1:30-3:50

Session #17

Mockingbird

**Getting Your ESL Students Ready for the Workforce with
Job Readiness Classes**

Janell Baker and Gayle Fagan

Harris County Dept. of Ed.,
Adult Ed. Div.

A workshop designed to demonstrate a successful model for program implementation that will meet the needs of their ESL students with a goal of employment or job advancement by preparing them for the job search process. The hands-on workshop will model activities that teachers can do in their classrooms to identify existing transferable skills adult learners have, but sometimes lack the awareness and vocabulary needed to communicate them to potential employers or highlight on their resumes. Additional topics of the workshop will include: How to access free or low cost resources for Job Readiness classes, Speaking the language of employers, The on-line job application as a teaching tool, and incorporating SCANS and EFF standards in planning.

1:30-3:50

Session #18

Salon G

Teaching Multi-Level ABE/GED Adults through Centers

Christine Nevarez, Janie Delgado
And Sylvia Cervantez

South Central Project GREAT Center

Learn how to manage a multi-level ABE/GED classroom through active participation using different ABE/GED activities touching upon the five subject areas at one time.

1:30-3:50

Session #19

Salon H

Successful Collaborative Learning for the Multi-level ESL Class

Mary Louise Baez

Cambridge University Press

Most ESL classrooms in Adult Education are multi-level. Strategies for ensuring that ALL students are engaged in pair/group tasks will be discussed and demonstrated. By increasing all students' active involvement in collaborative learning activities, teachers will help enhance students' self confidence in using their second language effectively and appropriately.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2005
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

1:30-3:50

Session #20

Salon I

Teaching to the New Texas Standards

Andy Nash

New England Literacy Resource Center/
World Education

The aim of this workshop is to explore the ways that the (draft) Texas standards can be helpful in guiding ESL instruction. We will first clarify the various approaches to standards and review the approaches chosen by Texas. Then we will look at examples of classroom practice to examine how standards were used, whether or not they were helpful for instruction, and what they tell teachers and learners about progress. Finally we'll discuss the link between standards and curriculum.

1:30-3:50

Session #21

Salon J

Creating and Using Context in ESL Grammar Instruction

Dr. Ellen H. Courtney

University of Texas at El Paso

This training course focuses on two goals in grammar instruction: (a) providing lessons and practice activities that are meaningful and (b) getting learners to pay attention to grammatical forms presented in spoken and written texts. First, participants will be introduced to some basic concepts and principles, such as *staged development*, *inductive and deductive approaches*, *input processing*, and *contextualized grammar practice*. Then, in groups, they will critique given grammar activities, improve on them, and create their own.

1:30-3:50

Session #22

Boardroom

Pacing your Class for Learning and Fun

Alex Baez and Carol Speigl

The Texas Professional
Development Group

This presentation will address planning and organizing successful class sessions, including effective planning of the day's lessons, managing time, selecting the most appropriate instructional strategies to meet to maximize student participation and learning, and fun activities such as "ice breakers" to vary the class content and pace.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2005
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

8:30-11:30

Session #23

Bluebonnet

**Every Picture Tells a Story...Don't It? Using Pictures as an Instructional
Tool in the ESL Classroom**

Rosanne Thompson

Socorro Independent School District

Find new and creative ways to use pictures to get ESL students talking and expressing themselves. A variety of classroom projects where pictures were the primary instructional tool will be featured and demonstrated during this presentation to give the audience ideas and strategies that can easily be implemented with all levels of students. The complexity of the projects range from simple paper and pencil to edited video footage. The audience will come away with ideas that can be modified to fit their classroom.

8:30-11:30

Session #24

Mockingbird

**What Are the *Real* Benefits of Learning English? What Every Adult
Education ESL Teacher Wants to Know but is a Little Afraid to Ask**

Dr. Char Ullman

University of Texas at El Paso

Does learning English help students get better jobs? Throughout the years, I noticed that even though many learners became orally fluent in English, they continued to work the same low-paying jobs. So, I conducted ethnography to learn about the relationship between learning English and finding better work. In this workshop, teachers will consider study findings, and discuss ways to elicit appropriate communicative contexts from their own students. The goal is for teachers to better meet students' real linguistic needs.

8:30-11:30

Session #25

Salon D

**Exploring Basic Math Concepts Utilizing Manipulatives
for the Adult Classroom**

Irene Ramos

South Central Project GREAT Center

Manipulatives are a powerful tool in teaching. The use of manipulatives can be the hands-on experience needed for a student to gain a good understanding of a particular math concept. Learning concepts with manipulatives can be fun and motivational. Through active participation and hands-on activities, participants will use simple manipulatives to explore basic math concepts.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2005
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

8:30-11:30

Session # 26

Salon G

Technology and Family Literacy

Denise Guckert

Texas Family Literacy Resource Center
Texas State University

This workshop provides an overview of available technologies and software and gives examples of activities, products, and/or projects that easily lend themselves to those technologies. Free curricula that integrate technology into the adult ESL classroom will be reviewed. A bibliography of online resources for additional lesson plans and projects will be provided.

8:30-9:50

Session # 27

Salon H

Extending Your Reach: The Texas Adult Education Credential

Dr. Ken Stedman & Dr. Victoria Hoffman

The Credential Project
Texas State University

This Credential overview/orientation session is open to adult education teachers and administrators interested in finding out basic information about the Texas Adult Education Credential—what it is, who is eligible, how to get started. Panelists will introduce the core content areas, the point system, and the teacher reflection. Participants will have a chance to ask questions and will receive Credential website and contact information.

8:30-9:50

Session #28

Salon I

Oxford Dictionary Express: Come Picture the Possibilities to Academic Literacy and Save Time with Exam View Test Maker!

Joanne Choquehuanca

Oxford University Press

This session will explore entire Oxford University Press Dictionary program from the *Oxford Picture Dictionary* program with its ancillaries and interactive CD-ROMs to the *Oxford Dictionary of American English* and its Genie assistant. Not only is native language support available through the Oxford Picture Dictionary program but also the interactive CD-ROM demonstrates activities that provide contextualized vocabulary practice in the four integrated skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing areas.. Lesson planning ideas will be shared & preview of the expanded Oxford Bilingual Dictionary line. A sneak peek at our ExamView Test Generators for the *Oxford Picture Dictionary program* will be introduced at this session to show instructors a comprehensible and flexible assessment tool for creating and customizing tests utilizing a bank of ready-made tests and over 3,700 question items. Complimentary examination copies will be given to attendees of this session.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2005
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

8:30-9:50

Session #29

Salon J

Guiding Adult Students Through Unexpected Life Changes

Guadalupe Ortiz

Socorro Independent School District

Adult Students confront unexpected transitions in their lives like relocation, loss of employment, and divorce. This session will provide teachers with methods to help promote greater balance between their responsibilities in and out of the classroom.

8:30-9:50

Session #30

Boardroom

Adult Education and Workforce: Mapping A Strategy

Rene Coronado and
Chakib Chehadi

South Central Project GREAT
Alamo Workforce

Adult education and workforce educators will present a dynamic model of a successful collaboration, and how to adapt a working strategy for your geographical area.

10-11:30 AM

Session #31

Salon H

**Ground Floor: Building a Texas Adult Education
Administrator's Credential**

Dr. Ken Stedman

The Credential Project
Texas State University

The Texas Adult Education Credential Project has begun development of a credential for Administrators. This session provides an opportunity for Adult Education Administrators to help develop the content and structure of the Administrator's credential. Come share your ideas. In this structured work session, Administrators will be asked to complete a survey and provide additional input.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2005
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

10-11:30 AM

Session #32

Salon I

Using Learner's Stories for Literacy, ESL and GED Instruction

Andres Muro

El Paso Community College

Learner generated stories are a great tool to teach reading, writing and grammar skills in literacy, ESL and GED classes. Psychologically, learner generated stories can be used as a great motivator to increase participation, retention and persistence in classes. In this workshop, participants will discuss different strategies to incorporate learner's stories into their practices to improve instruction.

Session #33

Salon J

10-11:30AM

Building Grammar and Vocabulary: The Basics

Mary Louise Baez and Matthew Lemke

San Jacinto Adult Learning Center

Grammar and vocabulary are the key to successful language acquisition. In this session, teachers will learn how to help students address their basic vocabulary and grammar needs through explicit presentation, practice and vocabulary acquisition strategies. Teachers will learn the benefits of Cambridge University Press' In Use series for beginning ESL students

10-11:30AM

Session #34

Boardroom

Integrated, Bilingual, Work-Based Adult Learning by Spanish-Speaking Workers in El Paso: Adjunct or Alternative to School-Based ESL and Workforce Retraining?

Jena Camp

La Mujer Obrera

A brief discussion of original research on the disproportionate lack of training-related employment outcomes for the mature, mostly female, Spanish-speaking workers terminating El Paso PREP and Adult and Dislocated Worker retraining programs, 1998-2002, followed by an examination of successful strategies for bilingual, integrated skills-building and on-the-job learning developed by the Community Learning Center in collaboration with worker-led, social-purpose businesses at La Mujer Obrera and El Puente CDC.

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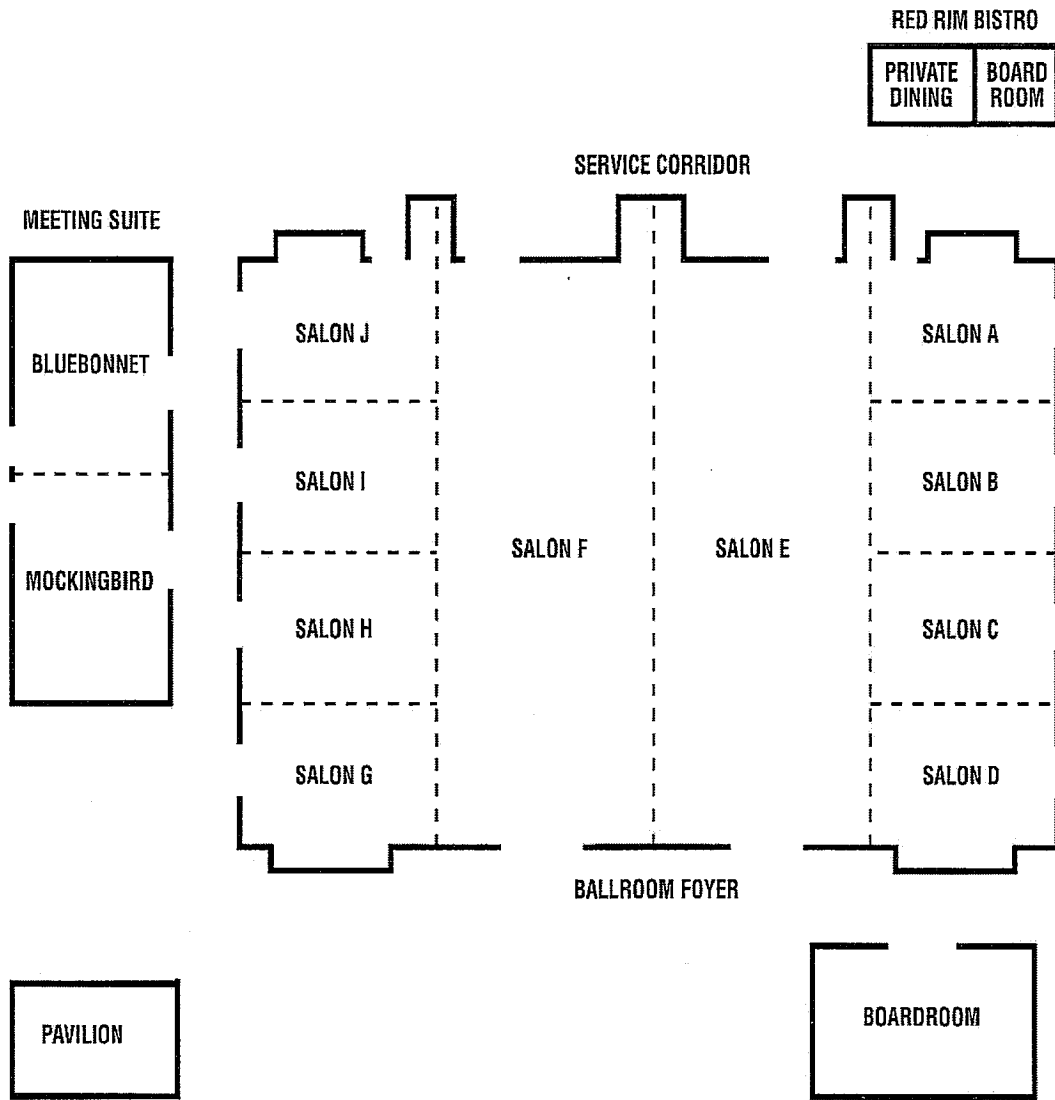


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Map of the Conference





EPALL III

Exhibitors

Cambridge University Press

McGraw Hill/Contemporary

Pearson Longman

Steck Vaughn

TAALC

TCALL

Thomson Heinle