Welcome to the Administrator Virtual Learning Community

November 18, 2026

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Professional Development Network
Inspiring Adult Education



You don’t have to lead alone!

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Tell us what you are doing:

Mentorship?
Regular meetings?
"Go To's"

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Chad Murphy, Margaret Segersten, Monica Foster, & Kiefer Owens

Ginger Harner and Sandy Snowden

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR VIRTUAL LEARNING COMMUNITY

Four directors, one hour a month

How an informal peer group supports Adult Education leaders

John Wood Community College · Spoon River College · Parkland College · Regional Office of Education #33

OUR STORY

How we started

2013–14

JWCC, SRC, and CSC start meeting in person at Spoon River's Macomb campus, the halfway point between John Wood and Carl Sandburg.

2015

After the state budget crisis, Carl Sandburg steps away from Adult Ed and Kang Hee, then with ROE 33, joins the group.

COVID era

We move to virtual meetings, most likely during COVID, and never look back.

Today

Four programs, one hour on Zoom, the first Wednesday of every month.

STRUCTURE

How we meet



First Wednesday

A standing monthly date



One hour on Zoom

No travel, easy to protect



One person sends the invite

Monica sends the link and calendar invitation



No formal agenda

We start with what’s going on with each of us

REAL EXAMPLES

How we help each other

We share the same performance measures, but how we meet them is often different. Hearing how others approach them gives each of us new ideas.



New funding

Margaret brought SNAP E&T information that could fund our programs.



Learning WIOA

The group helped Margaret understand the WIOA process.



New leaders

Kiefer found it especially helpful as a relatively new administrator.



Moral support

Sometimes we just commiserate. It helps to know someone else faces the same challenges.

WHY IT MATTERS

Benefits



A true peer group

Most directors don’t have a peer on their own campus. This fills that gap.



A safe place to ask

We can ask questions or admit something isn’t working.



Different perspectives

Three community colleges and an ROE see the same rules differently.



Faster answers

Someone has usually already been through it.

THE REAL SECRET

New members, flexible format, same group. We've lasted because we keep showing up.

START YOUR OWN

Suggestions for others

1. **Start small and informal.** You don’t need a charter.
2. **Make one person own the invite** and set a standing date.
3. **Pick a convenient format and** be willing to change it.
4. **Protect the date,** keep it confidential, and keep it at the director level.
5. **Bring in new directors.** The group is especially valuable for them.

THANK YOU

Questions?

Chad Murphy, Director of Adult Education, Spoon River College

What possibilities do you see for creating or expanding your network of support?

What support, if any, do you need to help create this?

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See you next time!

December 3, 3:00 pm - immediately following the ICCB-led TOPSpro Townhall

Funding Formulas for initial field review and discussion

January 20, 2:00 pm - APC Plans, quarterly reports, etc. Report completion support.

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