



# *Literacy Volunteers of America*

*Essex & Passaic Counties*

www.lvaep.org

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## **Language and Beyond: Integrating English Language Learning with Cross Cultural Understanding**

*Presenter, Lauren Randolph*

*Platform: Google Meet*

*June 21, 2022, 11 am – 12:30 pm*

### **Presenter's biography:**

Lauren Randolph is an adjunct professor in ESL and World Languages. She has an Ed.M. in Language Education from Rutgers University and has worked in international education for 23 years as a language instructor, administrator and study abroad director on the college level. Lauren has been affiliated with Literacy Volunteers for decades and has been training Literacy Volunteers of Somerset County's tutors since 2016. She has lived and studied abroad.

### **Workshop description:**

Language and culture are inextricably intertwined! Workshop participants will leave with a greater understanding of their own cultural values and will be better able to identify cross-cultural miscommunications that can create barriers and misunderstandings. This workshop provides an overview of Literacy Volunteers of Somerset County's (LVSC's) Cultural Connections Project. The objective of this project was to develop a series of lessons for intermediate to advanced adult English language learners that focused on cultural values and how they affect our perceptions of other cultures. The goal was for tutors and learners to foster a greater understanding of different cultural values and more confidently and effectively interact with people from diverse cultures. The program took place on Zoom during a six-week period; 15 learners and 5 tutors participated. Using a variety of methods, tutors and learners explored topics such as greetings, time, nonverbal communication, personal space, gestures/eye contact, high context/low context communication, individualism and collectivism, etiquette, and compliments. At the end of the six-week program, tutors and students shared their thoughts and reflections on what they learned in a video that can be used for instructional purposes and conversation starters. Join us for a thought-provoking, interactive session and leave with materials to enhance your tutoring experience and everyday interactions.

Participants will get access to detailed lesson plans and a curated list of videos and online resources. Following a brief overview of LVSC's Cultural Connections program, facilitators will demonstrate a sample lesson and how to use idioms, surveys, videos, dialogue journaling and guided discussion to engage in meaningful discussion on cultural values.

