



# Syracuse University Literacy Corps

A Shaw Center Initiative

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## Syracuse University Literacy Corps In-Service Training Report Spring 2018

Syracuse University Literacy Corps in-service trainings provide tutors with the opportunity to develop conceptual understanding and skills that are fundamental to their personal/professional growth and to strengthen their ability to work with K-12 students. As a result of these trainings, tutors will:

- Develop a variety of transferable teaching and learning strategies.
- Develop an awareness/understanding of the complexities of urban education.
- Develop skills needed to adapt to and work within a diverse teaching/learning environment.
- Develop an awareness of different learning styles.

Tutors are required to attend at least one in-service per semester. The trainings address topical areas related to urban education, tutoring strategies, and how their tutoring experience relates to tutors' academics or personal life philosophies. Presenters include keynote speakers, Syracuse University faculty and staff, K-12 professionals, members of the Syracuse community, and current/former Syracuse University Literacy Corps tutors.



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# In-Service Trainings & Reflections

## Session 1: Sowing Seeds of Displacement: Food Justice and Gentrification

Facilitated by: Dr. Alison Alkin, Associate Professor of Sociology at University of the Pacific

During this in-service tutors were able to listen and learn about Dr. Alkon's work in which she investigates the intersections of race, class, and sustainable food systems.

"I learned about issues surrounding food culture shifts in relation to factors such as poverty, gender, and socioeconomic factors. Teaching strategies I learned include community teaching forums facilitated by activists."

-SULC Tutor, WSM '20

## Session 2: Working with English-Language Learners

Facilitated by: Mariesa Dranschak, Seymour Elementary School

This in-service helped tutors support students who are developing English language skills.

"I learned that while teaching English language learners, you could use gestures, sounds and visuals to help communicate ideas and concepts to students. Specifically, if a student knows the word but doesn't know how to say it, then they can draw it out or use sounds to learn the word better."

-SULC Tutor, NEW '21

## Session 3: Reading and the Brain

Facilitated by: Kelli Johnson, Education Consultant

This in-service allowed tutors to learn about the science of reading and how the brain can actually be "rewired" with evidence-based instruction. Included was also hands-on experience with the 6 syllable types of the English language.

"I learned that many words in English (more than 90%, according to what was said in the training) can be broken down into one of six different types of syllables, which can help with pronunciation, spelling, and quicker reading."

-SULC Tutor, NEW '21

## Session 4: Road To Reading

Facilitated by: Jill Weston & Stephanie Spicciati, Solvay Union Free School District

During this in-service tutors were able to learn about Road to Reading, a program for preventing and remediating reading difficulties.

"This in-service is directly related because I work with

students who have disabilities and who may take a slower time processing things. This emphasizes why patience is important and I can apply what I learned to my practice with studies and even my personal life."

-SULC Tutor, A&S '22

## Session 5: Focus Group

Facilitated by: Dylan Werts, Student Support Coordinator for the College of A&S

During this Focus Group, tutors had the opportunity to reflect on their tutoring experiences, share stories, learn about other tutors' experiences, as well as share feedback to help develop the SU Literacy Corps Initiative.

"It has given me the ability to understand tutoring from the perspective of the students who grew up in schools different than myself."

-SULC Tutor, A&S '21

## Session 6: Time Management Workshop

Facilitated by: Corps-Council Members, Jo Salvati and Nicole Jenkins

During this in-service tutors were able to learn strategies for managing their time both on and off site. This in-service gave tutors the tools to manage job requirements and develop professional time management skills.

"Time management is a key component of our lives as college students and tutors. Making sure our work gets done and sleeping well allows us to be present and engaged at our sites."

-SULC Tutor, A&S '20

## Session 7: Active Listening Workshop

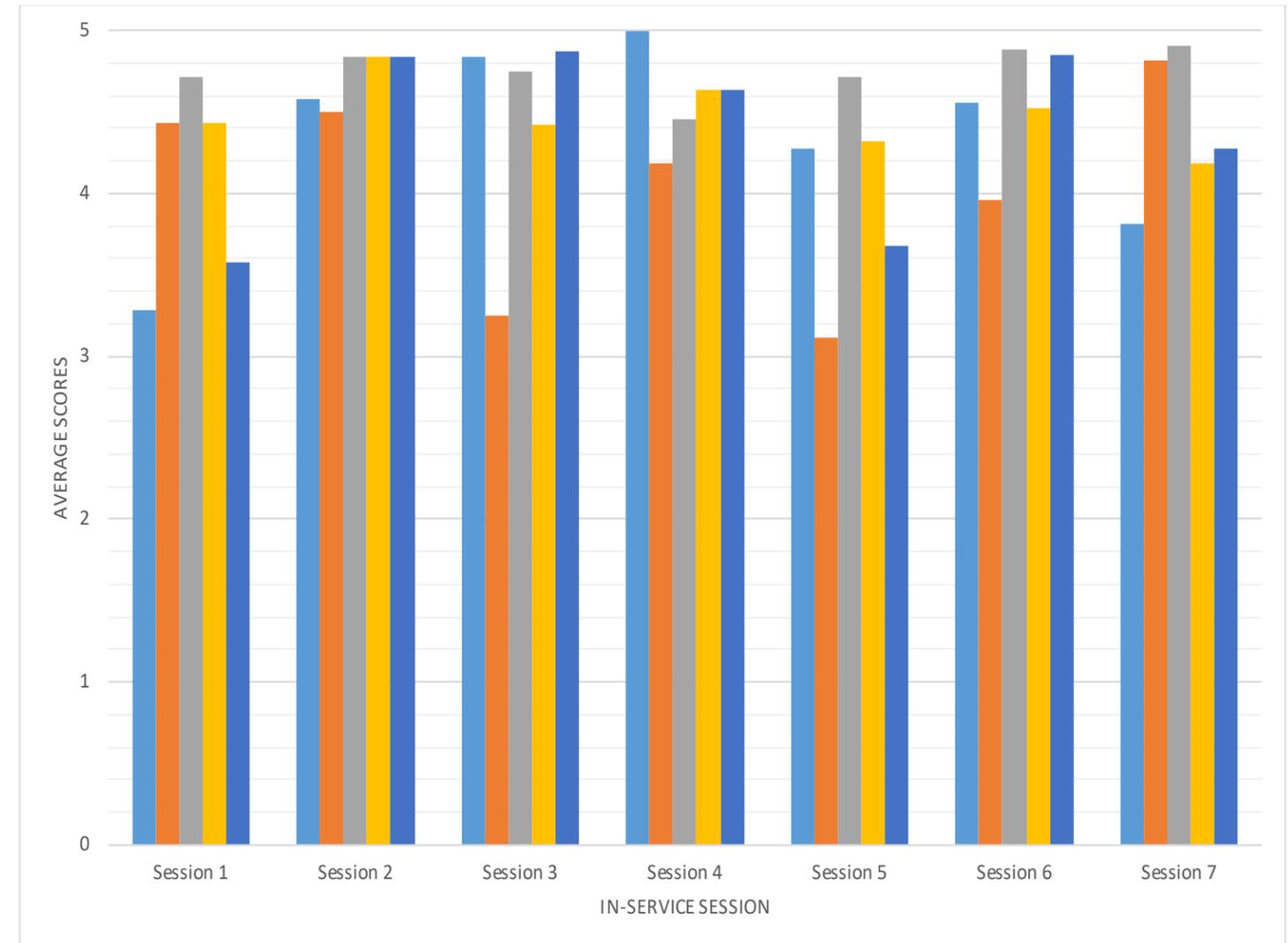
Facilitated by: Corps-Council Members Luz Perez & Maya Quiñones

During this in-service tutors learned how to develop active listening skills for their professional growth and tutoring.

"Communication is key to building relationships and being an affective tutor. This in-service helped me improve my skills a lot."

-SULC Tutor, A&S '19

# In-Service Trainings Quantitative Evaluation Results



5 - Strongly Agree

4 - Agree

3 - Neutral

2 - Disagree

1 - Strongly Disagree

At the in-service training, I learned more teaching/learning strategies

At the in-service training, I learned more about the complexities of urban education

The in-service training was engaging, informative, and presented in an easy-to-understand format

As a result of the in-service training, I am better able to adapt to and work within a diverse teaching/learning environment

As a result of the in-service training, I have become more aware of different learning styles