

Book Review

Review of *Career Pathways in Adult Education: Perspectives and Opportunities*

Jim Berger, Georgia College & State University

Career Pathways in Adult Education: Perspectives and Opportunities, edited by Catherine H. Monaghan, E. Paulette Isaac-Savage, and Paul G. Putman is a well-written book that showcases the dynamic field of adult education, the myriad concepts and theories that support it, and various careers and pathways one can embrace.

The authors have put together a strong resource that can be used for newcomers to the field, learning about the underpinnings that make success possible or as a mid-career professional looking for a change. Readers will find the organization and writing of this book easy to understand and meaningful as they work their way through it. The editors appear to have been intentional in identifying contributing authors and inviting experts within their respective subdomain of adult education.

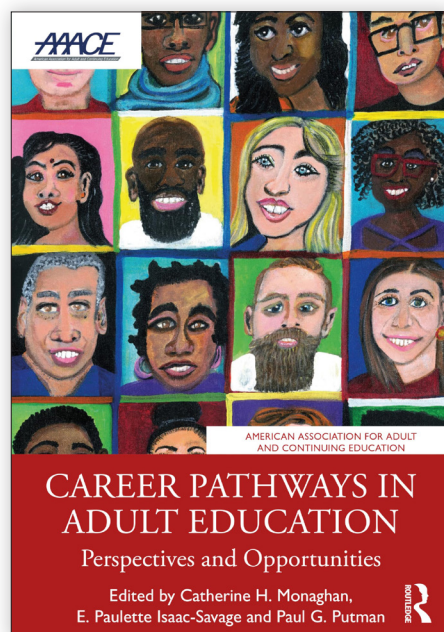
The book is written in two major sections. Part I focuses on skills needed to be successful in adult education and includes foundational knowledge from the general field. These concepts include a field overview, skills for teaching adults, facilitation skills, steps for successful program planning, how to evaluate and assess the success of adult education efforts, and necessary technology skills and applications for engaging in the education of adults. Part II is a collection of chapters from individuals

in various disciplines of the adult education field. The format of these chapters usually starts with a personal description of the unique paths the author took to get into an adult education career followed by the day-to-day activities they conduct in their jobs. Many include specific skill sets, competencies, and credentials needed

to be successful. Some chapters use callout boxes highlighting tips for being successful in the particular subfield. Other chapters include ways to advance in a specific adult education career.

In support of their personal experiences, authors provide additional information about the theories and practices used and the relevant connections to adult education. While the authors do not provide extensive explanations of the concepts of a theory, they do provide enough of a description to get the basic understanding and then provide citations and references to explore further, if

needed. Some chapters provide needed competencies and directions for being successful in that particular subfield of adult education. Still others include trends in the subfield and resources for locating tools and job opportunities. What is helpful in each of the chapters of Part II is that they focus on that particular subfield and provide the reader with unique insights of the career they



Monaghan, C. H., Isaac-Savage, E. P., & Putnam, P. G. (Eds.). (2024). *Career Pathways in Adult Education: Perspectives and Opportunities*. Routledge. 272 pages. \$55.99 (paperback). ISBN: 9781032195278

are exploring. Readers will be able to see themselves in several of the chapters and have a better understanding of the varied paths that can be taken to become a professional in adult education.

This book will be helpful for students studying adult education as a potential career and needing a foundation of the various adult education contexts. Additionally, this book will be helpful to instructors looking to teach these concepts to developing adult educators. The editors have included voices from 17 practitioners and researchers who provide their direct experiences and the paths they took to enter and grow in the field. As developing adult educators seek to understand what it is like to work in the various careers identified and described, having that personal narrative will support their investigation into the nooks and crannies of the field. The chapter authors do an excellent job articulating the day-to-day experiences and the seminal resources they use to be successful.

Readers of the book will find the personal experiences resonate with actual experiences of other practitioners in the discipline and the connection of these experiences to the citations and literature to be a meaningful way of gaining a clearer picture of the vast and changing

domain of adult education. The structure of the book is organized and takes an intuitive approach to laying out various career paths in the line of work. While the reader could read the book from front to back, they may find it useful to start with the first six chapters and then seek out specific chapters related to careers they would like to explore. The last chapter helps to tie it all together and explains how to use the information from the book to better understand the possible careers that one can pursue and how this resource can be used for instructors, students, and researchers.

The editors have put together a strong resource that can be used in a variety of ways. Rarely have I seen a book focusing on career paths in adult education and certainly not put together in the manner of the editors'. The use of personal experiences combined with updated citations and references to research and literature makes this book a meaningful resource to keep on one's desk to explore the vast roles and actions of champions working in adult education. Finally, this resource provides the reader and the field a way to view the preparation of adult educators for the work they will do and a strong understanding of the linkages between the professionals they work with and why they do the work they do.