Vignettes and photonovellas to enhance training for workers with limited English



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Direct-care workforce has new characteristics

New training and literacy needs:

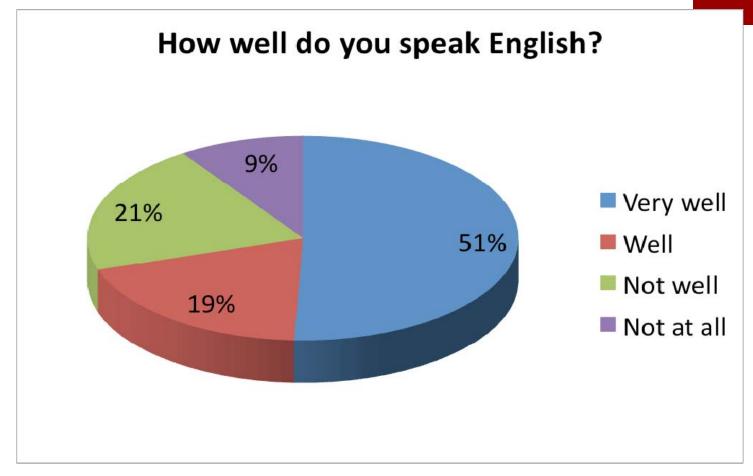
Reading
Numeracy
Writing
Listening
Technology
Cross-cultural
problemsolving

Increasingly diverse

Increase in migrants from other countries

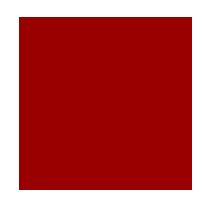
More secondlanguage speakers: have less academic experience, fewer skills

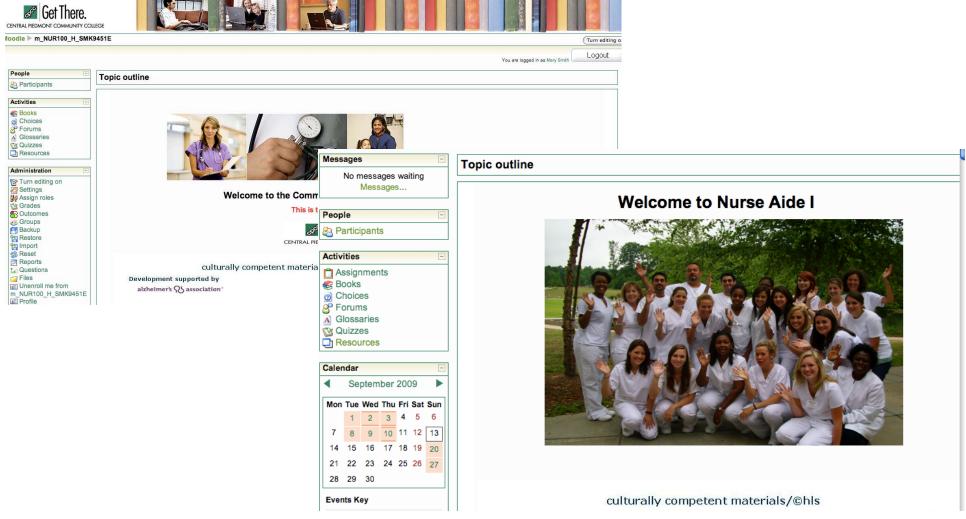
Range of fluencies in US newcomers



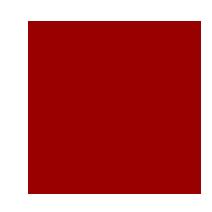
www.census.gov: NC newcomers disclose fluency

Online modules in blended course target learners with limited English proficiency (LEP)





Need a team to create materials for LEP learners



- Media specialists for design and delivery of online materials
- Advisors about adult learners, LEP learners and cultural contexts for health materials
- Advice for healthcare technical terms
- Literacy/language advisors for Reading,
 Numeracy, Writing, Listening, Technology, &
 Cross-cultural problem-solving
- Advisors for language analysis and assessment

BD1 Boyd Davis, 9/7/2009

Materials emphasize cultural literacy and cross-cultural problem solving

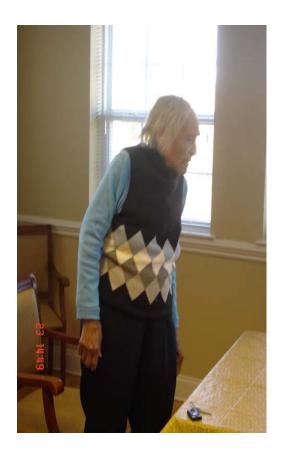


Multimedia vignettes are interactive and multilingual



Photonovellas increase engagement

Grams: Has anyone seen my keys? I know they're around here somewhere





Mom: She seems to be losing more things

Strong Initial Outcomes

- At entrance, first-language English students tested at 10th grade for language
- LEP newcomers tested on average at 4th grade
- ■By end of each 8-weeks course (n=15), LEP test scores matched non-LEP, with rise of 2+ years on language tests
- Lexical density, vocabulary and cross-cultural problem solving increased for all students, measured by new software tools & techniques

Initial Findings

- Pass rates for nurse aide certification increased to 90% on average across 15 classes; their previous pass rate had been 80%.
- Instructors report a greater retention of LEP learners due to accessibility of materials and ability to repeat
- LEP learners using the materials advance in language skills by an average rise of two years
- Photonovellas have become source of cross-cultural collaborations, role-playing, new materials
- Next steps include dissemination with control group

Implications

- Health literacy training for LEP healthcare workers must include skills in oral and written communication, technology use, and cross-cultural communication.
- Vignettes and photo novellas can weave crosscultural skills and contexts throughout curriculum and increase learner engagement
- Assuming 110 hours on average to gain a year's language proficiency, designing online interaction to augment face-to-face and clinical instruction can increase basic literacies and health literacy.