



**Assessed Skills and Skill Use of Adults with Learning Disabilities in PIAAC**

**Margaret Becker Patterson**, PhD, Senior Researcher, Research Allies for Lifelong Learning

Dr. Patterson co-founded Research Allies for Lifelong Learning in the Washington, DC, metro area ([www.researchallies.org](http://www.researchallies.org)) in 2012. She partners with non-profit organizations, postsecondary institutions, and state agencies to apply research and conduct evaluations that support adult educators and learners. She wrote and published eight PIAAC papers on adult and correctional education from 2013 to 2021. Previously, she served as Research Director at GED Testing Service in American Council on Education in DC and as Associate Director of Adult Education in Kansas. She administered and taught in adult education programs in Nebraska, Nevada, Kansas, and Virginia, and provides professional learning on research and evaluation throughout the USA.

**Laura Weisel**, PhD, Professor, Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College, Arizona State University

Dr. Laura Weisel has over 30 of years' experience in primary through high school education, special education, community-based and institutional-based adult basic education, community college transition and developmental education, mental health and substance abuse services, and workforce development. She holds degrees in Early and Middle Education, Reading, Special Education, Adult Learning, Neuro and Cognitive Psychology, and Research. She currently is an Executive Partner and Director of Research, Innovation, and Clinical Services at The TLP Group, devoting her time to systemic research, the development of innovative instructional tools, leadership coaching, redesigning service delivery, and advocacy. Dr. Weisel works with national, state, and local initiatives to implement innovative research driven practices leading to long-term education, career pathways, and workforce development outcomes. Partnering with leaders in the field of adult education, she co-created Align and Redesign as a holistic response for adult and literacy education to be powerful players offering innovative, evidence-based, and value-added services within their state and local partnerships. As a Past-President of the National Association for Adults with Special Learning Needs and a prominent conference presenter, Dr. Weisel works to increase national awareness of at-risk youth and adults along with major changes in service delivery that can dramatically change lives.

**Stephanie Cronen**, PhD, Managing Researcher, American Institutes for Research (AIR)

Dr. Cronen is a Managing Researcher at AIR and the Director of Research and Evaluation at the Adult Education Research and Technical Assistance Center (AERTAC; <https://www.air.org/centers/aertac>). She studies adult foundational skills development and workforce development. Dr. Cronen leads several federally funded research initiatives administered by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences, including the National Study of the Implementation of Adult Education Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and the new CREATE Adult Skills Network. She is also principal investigator for one of the Network's mixed-methods research projects. The Teaching Skills That

Matter (TSTM)-SkillBlox Pilot Study will focus on the development, implementation and promise of an online instructional platform for improving adult foundational skills. Dr. Cronen's past work includes research on English acquisition instruction for adult literacy learners and technical assistance for state and local adult education staff on using data in decision making about the services they provide.