

MPAEA NEWS

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ELECTRONIC VOLUME 70, NUMBER 4

Board of Directors



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Let's Honor Our Students By Blair Liddicoat



I know that all of you have different ways of recognizing your students and the hard work they do in your programs; however, I believe that none of us does this enough. If you agree with me, I have an idea for you. It's another tool for your "Recognition Tool Kit". Those of you who have been around for a while are familiar with it, but you may not have implemented it yet. If you are new to ABE, I hope you get excited as you read about this for the first time.

I'm talking about the National **Adult Education Honor Society (NAEHS)**. It serves the same purpose as the National Honor Society in high school, only this is for the adult students we have in our ABE Programs. It is an opportunity to recognize the efforts of some of our extraordinary students. And, unlike GED Graduations, you can induct both GED and ESOL/ELAA students into the NAEHS.

For specifics on NAEHS I refer you to their web site at www.naehs.org. It has all the information you need to start an NAEHS Chapter. Once you've done that, your program is eligible to participate in what I call the MPAEA NAEHS Project.

The MPAEA NAEHS Project was conceived in the summer of 2001 and first put into motion at the 2002 MPAEA Conference in Phoenix. Basically, MPAEA honors NAEHS inductees from any of the eight states at the MPAEA Conference Awards Ceremony. Here are the important timelines for your program if you want your NAEHS inductees to be considered for recognition at the Montana MPAEA Conference.

1. State associations must receive nominations of NAEHS inductees from local programs by March 1, 2012 in order for them to be eligible for possible recognition at the April 11-14 MPAEA Conference. Each local program may submit up to two inductees to their state association. Remember that nominees must be from the current program year and they must have already been inducted into the NAEHS by their local program by this deadline.

2. State associations must select their state's three NAEHS inductees and give their names and a 150-word biography to the MPAEA Awards Committee Chair by March 14, 2012. E-mail them as Word attachments to Lily Beth Brazones at Lilybeth.Brazones@mail.riosalado.edu. Include the nominee's mailing address.

This will be the eleventh year of the MPAEA NAEHS Project. We need everyone's participation to help this project grow so that we can achieve our ultimate goal of having all eight MPAEA states involved every year.

Come on everyone, jump on board. It is not hard to do and it is a wonderful way to celebrate the achievements of some of those wonderful adult students that all of you have. If you have questions, please contact me at blair.liddicoat@riosalado.edu, or call me at 480-517-8108. I'd be happy to guide you through the process.

Idaho News

ILLA held its annual conference, Exploring Gems in Lifelong Learning: Civic and Service Learning in The Highlander Folk School Experience! September 22, 23, 24, 2011 on the campus of the College of Southern Idaho Campus, Twin Falls, Idaho. Over 60 people attended and enjoyed pre-conference workshops at the world class ropes course, a winery tour, and an amazing float trip on the middle Snake River. ILLA President & CSI Associate Professor Diane Jolovich and her culinary students provided expert meals and wonderful hospitality.

Participants were introduced to the Highlander Folk School Experience by– Dr. Rita McNeil from ISU. The program featured over 20 workshops from Gem state experts in three tracks: 1) Capacity Building for community and civic education with an emphasis on allowing stakeholders to drive their own learning; 2) Higher Education, to keep our association current on the latest teaching techniques and theories; and 3) Industry Training - both internal and looking to online or distance learning to fulfill our needs. The Friday plenary speaker was Dr. Lawrence H. Beaty, Acting Director, Energy Systems Technology Education Center (ESTEC), ISU "Making the Laboratory" and the Friday keynote speaker was Dr. J. Fay Kelle, Assistant Professor, ISU College of Education on "Teachers and Students Race to End: Authoritarianism in Malawi, Africa".

The Idaho Lifelong Learning Association gave Dr. Robert Croker, Professor & former Chair of ISU Human Resources & Training Department the Distinguished Service Award. The 'Lifelong Learning Advocate Award' was presented to State Representative Tom Trail, from Moscow, Idaho.

Kristine Inskeep, from the Idaho National Laboratory, was elected President and Brent Bean, Associate Professor at BYU Idaho, Vice-President of ILLA for 2012. They are working on delivering a grand 2012 "Eastern Idaho" experience in September with a new crew of Board Members and committee chairs! Key to ILLAs progress is low cost and affordable conferences planned in partnership with each community that hosts our annual gathering. CSI did an awesome job in 2011!

The Idaho Lifelong Learning Association (ILLA) is a place **Where Leaders in Lifelong Learning Connect**. ILLA provides professional leadership in lifelong education on a statewide basis. It serves as an instrument of cooperation among those interested in lifelong learning; it furthers the concept of education as a process continuing throughout life. More information at: <http://idlla.wordpress.com>. ILLA is the Idaho affiliate of the Mountain Plains Adult Education Association (MPAEA) <http://mpaea.org/>, the Council on Adult Basic Education (COABE) www.COABE.org, and the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education (AAACE) <http://www.aaace.org/>.

Prepared by Kevin M. Laughlin, MPAEA Director – Idaho 2010-2013

February 2, 2012

Idaho Lifelong Learners Association (ILLA)



The ILLA has new board members after the 2011 fall conference that was held in Twin Falls, Idaho at the College of Southern Idaho. Kristine Inskeep, Idaho National Laboratory (INL), became the new President with Brent Bean, BYU-I, accepted the Vice President position. Other new board members include: Tom Packet, Laurie Marx, Bob Potter, Terry Yackley, Jennifer Coombes, Lindsay Gardner, J Clark Gardner, Robert Croker and Desaray Odekirk. Jacob Haeberie of Eastern Idaho Technical College replaced Lori Stensland as the MPAEA Jr. Board Member. We look forward to an exciting year of promoting lifelong learning.

The ILLA 2012 fall conference will be held this year in beautiful southeastern Idaho near Driggs. The fall colors in the mountains will be beautiful in late September. We invite all to join us for our three day conference.

For more information and to keep updated on ILLA see our website:
<http://idlla.wordpress.com/>



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News from New Mexico

By Susie Morss, NMAEA, Past President

NMAEA Board met in July 2012 to review its mission documents and set goals for the next year. The revised mission states: NMAEA strengthens the statewide adult education community including students, practitioners, and interested supporters through advocacy, leadership, communication, collaboration, and mentoring. Acting to achieve this mission, NMAEA focused this year on increasing advocacy efforts, communication with members and providing collaboration opportunities.

In November, NMAEA joined forces with NMTESOL (New Mexico Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) and presented a successful Second Annual Conference. One hundred fifty people registered and attended the conference at Dona Ana Community College in Las Cruces. The offer of co-memberships in NMAEA, MPAEA and COABE greatly encouraged membership and conference registrations. Excellent workshops and keynote speakers State Senator Howie Morales and International Literacy Expert, Heide Spruck-Wrigly inspired all participants.

In preparation for Adult Basic Education Day at the Roundhouse, New Mexico's legislative chambers, Art Ellison, NH State ABE Director and renowned Advocacy Guru, brainstormed with the NMAEA Board and met with ABE Directors from around the State to assist NMAEA in developing an advocacy calendar and plan. The following day adult students, teachers and directors proudly sported neon orange t-shirts with the slogan "AE= Absolutely Essential" and packed the galleries of both the House and Senate. NMAEA selected four exemplary ABE students to represent adult learners. New Mexico faces a funding challenge in the coming years, as additional state funds to maintain the federally mandated Maintenance of Effort must be allocated. NMAEA is leading the fight to ensure adequate funding for programs and instructional materials.

NMAEA also unveiled a newly designed and updated website in the fall. Visit us at www.nmaea.net to see what's happening in New Mexico.



Colorado News



OfficeWise, a pilot project funded by the Kenneth Kendall King Foundation of Denver and held in partnership with the American Business School of the Rockies, aims to help recent refugees with English skills at or above the Intermediate level become familiar with the Microsoft Office Suite. (In addition, the students learn some more traditional pre-employment skills like how to present yourself in an interview, how to answer difficult questions, how to talk about your experience in another country, and how to demonstrate that you understand the American work culture. The program is designed to include the opportunity to volunteer in an office setting, and in some cases, internships and job shadowing may be possible. Homework is assigned and completed via email, and successful completion of the program includes a PowerPoint presentation. Sixteen participants, including recent refugees from countries such as Ethiopia, Bhutan, and Iraq, are currently finishing Week Three of the four-week program. For more detailed information about this or other pre-employment training programs conducted by the Spring Institute contact:



Suzanne Saenz, Program Manager
Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning
1610 Emerson Street
Denver, CO 80218
303-857-5274
ssaenz@springinstitute.org

Utah President's Message From Dr. Lory V. Curtis

Dear Mountain Plains Adult Education Association Members and Friends:

I extend greetings from the Utah Association for Adult, Community and Continuing Education (UAACCE), and a wish for you to have the most wonderful conference in Helena, Montana. I have been a member of Mountain Plains for many years, and I am saddened that I cannot attend this year, but UAACCE is sending members to participate in the conference. We are planning for another great UAACCE conference on October 11-12, 2012, here in Salt Lake City.

As UAACCE started the New Year 2012, I am pleased to report to you that our organization, UAACCE is alive and well. It has been my pleasure to be a UAACCE board member for the past three years working with the various members to achieve our goals. I am humbled to be you're newly elected President for this year. I have some very big shoes to fill from the past presidents, most recently, Heather Young, from Utah State University. Heather did an excellent job in leading us and orchestrating one of the best UAACCE conferences in recent memory.

I would like to speak of the mission and goals of UAACCE. Our mission is and always has been to be a primary advocate for lifelong learning in Utah, and to meet the diverse needs of all Utah citizens by providing and supporting quality educational opportunities.

UAACCE recognizes that learning is a lifelong endeavor that takes place in many settings, as people graduate from high school from ages 18 to 82. We know individuals learn best when they are supported by their families and communities. The changing workplace requires that we constantly update our skills and that the thirst for knowledge does not dim with age.

In April of last year, I attended the national conference of the Commission on Adult Basic Education (COABE) and I reported to you in the "Communicator" about Steve Midgley, Deputy Director for Education Technology, United States Department of Education, stating, "President Obama has set a goal for our country to increase from 40% of the population with college degrees, to 60% by the year 2020." He explained that we need to have adults return to education and improve their skills.

I am excited to report that our Governor has a vision for 2020. Governor Herbert has stated: "By 2020 and thereafter, at least 66% of Utahns ages 20 to 64 will have a postsecondary degree or certificate, ensuring a well-educated citizenry and workforce that qualitatively and quantitatively meet the needs of Utah employers, which will lead to greater economic prosperity and a better quality of life for all Utahns."

The governor's vision is intended to raise education levels in Utah to 66% by the year 2020. Research indicates that 66% of jobs in Utah will require a postsecondary certificate or degree by the year 2020. The Governor is issuing a call to action for all Utahns to raise their education levels to meet Utah's current and future workforce demands and to take advantage of the economic opportunities available.

As your president I am asking each of you to pass this message along to your colleagues, and to accept our Governor's "called to action" challenge by being primary advocates for lifelong learning. We must do all we can in adult, community and continuing education to increase education levels of all Utah citizens to postsecondary degrees or certificates by the year 2020. It is a lofty goal and will take each of us working hard in our chosen adult education professions. I am pledging my support and asking for yours. May you have a great experience at the Mountain Plains conference and a successful year in working toward the goal of College and Career Ready by 2020.



Arizona News

After 4 ½ months of being inspected, examined and judged, the Maricopa County Adult Probation Department's (MCAPD) Adult Education Program was awarded The Arizona Quality Alliance (AQA) "Showcase In Excellence Award". This award is based on the nationally recognized Malcolm Baldrige criteria. A main goal of AQA is to assist organizations in finding and implementing proven best practices and to achieve a cost effective competitive advantage.

Our victory was, in part, due to the assistance of Karen Liersch and her staff from Arizona Dept. of Education, Adult Education Services Division, for providing us with proven research based principles. We combined those principles with the Adult Probation Department's Evidence Based Principals and Maricopa County's requirement of Managing For Results. We use those tools daily and it was evident to the AQA inspection team that we have created and are sustaining a successful award winning program.

Our Education Program assists between 1000 to 2000 adults per year as they reach their education goals. And even with all the help I described, if it were not for the hard working dedicated teaching staff in the MCAPD Education Program, we would not have received the AQA "Performance of Excellence Award." I and all the students whose lives have been positively affected wish to extend a big **thank you** to all the Probation Department's teachers.

The vast majority of AQA competing programs were Arizona for-profit businesses. So, at the award ceremony, I informed the attendees of a few little known facts: 1 in 5 High School diplomas issued by the AZ Dept. of Education is a GED, a high school graduate earns almost \$10,000 a year more than a person that did not finish high school and there are 825,000 Arizona citizens who do not have a High School Diploma or GED. Many in the audience were heard making statements like, "I did not know that." and "Oh wow, that many?"

Let's keep the message going. Inform your State and local business and legislature of Adult education's fantastic work.

Lindell W. Rhodes, MA, CMPI
Director Education Programs
Maricopa County Adult Probation

31st Annual Midwest Research-to-Practice Conference (MWR2P)

The Midwest Research to Practice in Adult Education Conference is being held in Oklahoma in September. If you have interest, we would love for you to submit a proposal, whether on the VALUE rubrics or other topic.

31st Annual Midwest Research-to-Practice Conference (MWR2P) in Adult, Continuing, Community, & Extension Education at the University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, Oklahoma, September 27-29, 2012.

The Call for Proposals deadline has been extended to March 23rd

For information on the call for papers and registration information please check:
<http://mwr2p2012.eventbrite.com>





Nevada News

Nevada's adult education programs are forging career pathways in various ways:

- Truckee Meadows Community College, Western Nevada College, and Community Multicultural Center are developing curriculum as part of the [National Career Awareness project](#).
- College of Southern Nevada provides an accelerated GED® class that integrates [Keytrain](#)®, an interactive training system for career readiness skills. KeyTrain is based on ACT's [WorkKeys® Assessment System](#) and the [National Career Readiness Certificate](#), the national standard for certifying workplace skills. CSN students also use [Career Coach](#) (built by [Economic Modeling Specialists Inc](#)) to connect students to local employment. They use the Web-based tool in the classroom and after they have passed the GED exam. The school also provides one-on-one career coaching sessions for GED passers.
- Bridge programs and “College for a Day” events abound at programs throughout the state.

Student successes are captured in short vignettes at <http://nvedu.org/studentssuccess>.

Making the Most of Your Time at Conference Compliments of Nevada Connections

Ever feel overwhelmed by all the sessions, activities, people, and resources at a conference? There is often so much to see, do, and learn, we're exhausted by the end ... and can't find or remember what was really important to us. This idea from Pennsylvania may help!

Adult educators are encouraged to keep a “Conference Learning Log” to help them reflect on what they learned and prioritize action items. The idea comes from Stephen D. Brookfield's *Becoming a Critically Reflective Teacher*, pages 54-58. Brookfield writes, “A conference learning log can help us focus on what we can draw from conference attendance that will be helpful to our teaching. Whenever we notice something that engages or destroys our interest, or that affirms or insults us, we can jot the details down.”

Carry a small memo pad, booklet, or electronic device around with you in which you can jot down notes on anything that captures your attention about the educational processes in which you're involved. When you notice something that strikes you as important or significant, note the following details:

- Briefly describe the event — when and where it occurred, who was involved, and what it was that made it significant.
- If it was a positive event, note what it was that made it so positive and those things that you do in your own teaching that you think might induce the same reaction in your students.
- If it was a negative event, note what it was that so depressed, annoyed, demeaned, or bored you and those things that you do in your own teaching that you think might induce the same reaction in your students.
- Also capture any thoughts you have on what the person or people involved could have done differently that would have avoided inducing this reaction in you.
- Finally, on the basis of your responses to the other items, note any lessons that you think this experience has for your own practice as a teacher. What might you do differently, add, eliminate, or rethink in your own teaching because of what you've just experienced as a learner?



Helena, MT



See YOU in Helena, Montana in April!

It's almost here – the 2012 MPAEA Career Pathways conference in Helena, MT. The Montana conference committee, with help from Kevin Laughlin and Brad Deeds, has pulled together a great conference for MPAEA members. We have presenters who are working in every aspect of adult education from research to curriculum development to delivery of the end product to our students.

The Office of Public Instruction Adult Basic and Literacy Education Program has worked with instructors in the field to develop a curriculum titled "The Bridge" that will be featured during the pre-conference session on Wednesday afternoon April 11. At this workshop, Suzette Fox and Michelle Gasek will unveil the components of an electronic curriculum (Career Planning, Technology, Soft Skills, Goal Setting, Job Research Strategy, Navigating the Post-Secondary System, and Sector Strategies). The curriculum includes hands-on activities and participant conversation. Participants will leave the session with ideas on how take Bridge components back to their communities that will help them transition adults to workforce/post-secondary training.

Our keynote speaker, Brenda Dann-Messier will address the conference group during lunch on Friday, April 13. Other featured speakers include Montana's Lieutenant Governor, John Bohlinger, the former Superintendent of Public Instruction, Linda McCulloch, and a motivational speaker, Lois McElravy, who will share her inspirational story with us.

In between all the workshops and learning opportunities, we have built in some breaks for refreshments and a few minutes of yoga for those who need a physical and mental respite. Register now to experience Montana hospitality and a great professional development opportunity.

The Montana committee – Suzette Fox, Craig Crawford, Detlef Johl, Ellen Guettler, and Donna Bakke

2012 Conference Implementing Career Pathways April 11-14 in Helena, MT

1. Register Today!

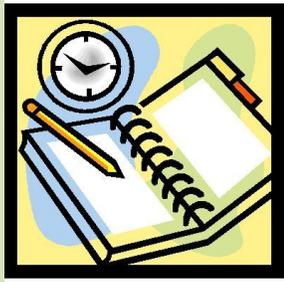
[Click here to Register](#) today for the *Implementing Career Pathways in Adult Education* conference in Helena, Montana April 11-14. **Early Bird Rates extended to Friday, March 16!** One day registration now available for those who cannot attend all three days.

2. Make Your Hotel Reservations

The *Red Lion Colonial Inn* has booked all rooms. Book your hotel room at the nearby Hampton Inn as soon as possible!

Overflow Hotel Nearby:

The Hampton Inn Helena is holding rooms for us to reserve on April 10th- April 14th, 2012. You can make reservations at the discounted rate of \$94.00 per night by clicking on this link: [Hampton Inn Helena](#) before **March 16**. Hampton Inn is part of the Hilton Honor Account Program. Inquire when you make your reservations.



2012 Conference Implementing Career Pathways April 11-14 in Helena, MT

Wednesday – April 11 (Preconference)

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 – 5:00 p.m. – BEST training
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. - TABE training for Montana Educators
Noon – 1:00 p.m. – **Lunch**
1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. - Bridge Curriculum
5:00 p.m. – 7 p.m. - **Reception**

Thursday – April 12

7:30 – 8:00 a.m. – **Breakfast Buffet**
8:00 a.m.– 8:30 a.m. – Welcome – Brad Deeds, Margaret Bowles,
Linda McCulloch – featured speaker
8:30 – 8:45 a.m. – Blessing and Native American Dancing
9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. – 1st round morning workshops
10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. – Break
10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. – 2nd round morning workshops
Lunch Noon – 1:30 p.m. MPAEA Awards / Lt. Governor John Bohlinger surprise
guest speaker
1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. – 1st round afternoon workshops
3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. – 2nd round afternoon workshops

Friday – April 13

Breakfast Buffet - 7:30 to 8:45 – Lois McElravy – motivational speaker
9:00 – 10:15 – 1st round morning workshops
10:30 – 11:45 – 2nd round morning workshops
Lunch Noon – 1:30 p.m. – Keynote Speaker Brenda Dann- Messier & Jane Hugo,
Pro Literacy
1:45 – 3:00- 1st round afternoon workshops
3:30 to 4:45 p.m. – 2nd round afternoon workshops
4:45 – 5:00 p.m. – State Association meetings

Saturday – April 14

7:30 – 8:45 a.m. - **Breakfast** and MPAEA business meeting
9 – 10:15 a.m. – 1st round morning workshops
10:45 -12 p.m. – 2nd round morning workshops
End of Conference

Special Invitation:

Margaret Bowles has invited **all MPAEA members** to share in the Pre-Conference session on Wednesday, April 11 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Please read the description below and let Donna Bakke know if you would like to attend this session and have not signed up through the registration process. You can contact her at dmbakke@bresnan.net.



The Bridge - This three-hour session will be introducing the new Bridge Curriculum, which is being developed by Suzette Fox, ABE Instructional Leader and Michelle Gasek, Trio EOC Counselor. At this workshop, the components of an electronic curriculum (Career Planning, Technology, Soft Skills, Goal Setting, Job Research Strategy, Navigating the Post-Secondary System, and Sector Strategies) will be unveiled; hands-on activities and participant conversation will be included. Participants will leave the session with ideas on how take Bridge components back to their communities to strengthen, or build partnerships, that will transition adults to workforce/postsecondary.

BEST Plus Training Available – If you have someone who needs to be trained in BEST Plus, please email Donna Bakke at atdmbakke@bresnan.net. There are 12 seats available at the Montana training on April 11.