



# MPAEA NEWS

OCTOBER 13, 2015



## Letter from the President

The MPAEA board of directors met in Boise in July for the summer board meeting. It was at the Riverside Hotel, the same hotel where our MPAEA conference will be held in April. What a great venue! I hope you will all will attend the conference and enjoy the beautiful grounds, the peaceful river, and the quality conference that the Idaho association is putting together.

Much business was discussed at the summer board meeting. The most notable that I'd like to share in this article is the feeling of the board toward the state associations: We want you to know that we value every state association and want to do what we can to assist the states' efforts to advance adult education. We certainly don't want to dictate how each state should run its association or conference. MPAEA is here to bolster your association and provide assistance as you need it. It is interesting to note that many of our MPAEA board members also serve as executives of their state associations; quite a knowledgeable bunch! Please call on us if you have any questions. In fact, that is why I became involved in MPAEA: I had questions about how other states handle professional development, use various funding streams, and administer high school equivalency tests among other topics.

Use MPAEA's resources to help your work in the field of adult education: The board is knowledgeable and may help struggling associations or bring a new perspective to help established state associations. We hope that you will find this newsletter to be a great resource too as we feature a comparison of the way adult education issues are handled in each state. Lastly, the MPAEA Journal provides an opportunity for needed professionalism for our field. Our editor will expound on that in an article that follows.

We hope to see you at the MPAEA conference on April 26 - 30, 2016 in Boise, Idaho. Check our website [www.mpaea.org](http://www.mpaea.org) for information on the tracks and presenter applications.

See you then,  
Glenda Sinks  
President, MPAEA

## MPAEA Journal Submissions

The MPAEA Journal of Adult Education is published twice a year. Each issue includes research articles, application articles, and a book review intended to help inform your practice in adult education and to provide new ideas that you might apply. We accept manuscripts year round. If you have a unique technique that works for you or have other resources you would like to share with your colleagues, please consider submitting to the Journal. Feel free to contact Karen Kaminski, the editor, if you have questions. She is happy to give you feedback and help you build your article.

You can reach her by email at this address: [karen.kaminski@colostate.edu](mailto:karen.kaminski@colostate.edu)

To learn more, please visit <https://www.mpaea.org/?page=publications>

Looking forward to hearing from you!

[Karen Kaminski, Ph.D.](#)

School of Education  
Colorado State University  
Tel: (970) 491 3713



## North Dakota Fall Conference

The North Dakota Association for Lifelong Learning held their fall conference September 23-25 in the state capital building in Bismarck. The theme of the conference was "Choosing to Improve" and 100 participants representing adult education and alternative high schools throughout North Dakota attended.

There were three tracks at the conference: ABE/GED, ESL/ELL, and Alternative High Schools. Themes focused on mental health, diversity, engagement, and insight to understanding and supporting the Native American student. As with all NDALL conferences, this was an opportunity to learn more about best practices, to pick up tips and ideas to bring back to classrooms, and to network with colleagues throughout the state.

The 2014-2015 NDALL awards were presented at the Thursday awards luncheon. Winners include Student of the Year - Adult Education: Mohamed Hassan; Student of the Year - Alternative Education: Ashley Bachmeier; Educator of the Year: Marcy Beck; Outstanding Leadership/Service: Sergey Karamanov. David Andrew Wilson IV achieved the Highest Average GED Score.

The annual silent auction was successful with revenues used to provide professional development scholarship/stipends to NDALL members. ND sends out a sincere thank you to the two Silver Sponsors: Aztec Software and GED Testing Services, and to our two Bronze Sponsors: COABE - Commission and Adult Basic Education and Data Recognition Corporation - CTB, as well as to our exhibitor: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Overall, it was a very successful fall conference. At the annual membership meeting Friday morning, Dr. Thomas Gravel passed his president gavel to the incoming president, Jennifer Kraft, who will be leading NDALL for the upcoming year!

## High School Equivalency in Idaho

Prepared by Kim Tuschhoff

1. In your state, what high school equivalency exam or exams are being used?  
Only the GED
2. What degree, certificate, or diploma is conferred upon passing?  
Students go to [diplomasender.com](http://diplomasender.com) to request a transcript. The first official copy is free. They can also pay for a certificate rather than just having a certificate with scores.
3. How do learners decide what test to take? As an instructor or administrator, do you have a role in guiding this decision? (Possible factors could be cost, availability, test rigor, paper-based v. computer-based, post-secondary acceptance or military acceptance, etc.)  
Since Idaho only offers the GED, there is not a choice.
4. Please tell me about how having different measures impacts instruction. For example, are separate classes offered according to different measures?  
Only separate classes for math. Because we are a small center, we offer only one session of science, social studies, and reading. We've been offering two sessions of language GED prep, but students haven't been utilizing them. Since we are going to start adding career & workplace readiness, we've decided to only have one language GED prep class. We do offer four different math sessions: basic, geometry/word problems, pre-algebra (this is also a basic college level course we offer), and algebra. We use the TABE or GAIN to determine class placement.
5. Do you have a sense of how stakeholders such as post-secondary institutions or employers are responding to having different measures? Is each test viewed to have equal merit?  
I'm not sure since our state only does the GED. According to the college's website, I think the ACT, SAT, COMPASS or other college entrance exam would determine class placement. Since Idaho continued with the GED, I haven't heard of any instances where another HSE was a problem for acceptance.
6. If you administer a testing center, please tell me about the impact multiple measures has on your site.  
We are a testing center also. It does impact our center since we only offer the GED. We have had some students that have started the GED in another state and have moved to Idaho where they continue to work on their GED. In that case, GED doesn't automatically merge scores. A student has to contact Pearson-Vue to combine scores from previous states with the scores from the state where he/she finished.

## High School Equivalency in Wyoming

Prepared by Diane White

1. In your state, what high school equivalency exam or exams are being used?  
In Wyoming, we use HiSET (preferred), G.E.D. and TASC. HiSET was selected as the testing instrument of choice adopted by the Adult Education programs in the State. While all centers offer HiSET, they do not all offer the other two.
2. What degree, certificate, or diploma is conferred upon passing?  
Wyoming High School Equivalency Certificate
3. How do learners decide what test to take? As an instructor or administrator, do you have a role in guiding this decision? (Possible factors could be cost, availability, test rigor, paper-based v. computer-based, post-secondary acceptance or military acceptance, etc.)  
Some centers do instruct on all requirements and availability, going through the pros and cons of each. Centers that offer more than one test do this, and then the student and parent/guardian make the decision as to which test to take.
4. Please tell me about how having different measures impacts instruction. For example, are separate classes offered according to different measures?  
All classes are taught to the College and Career Readiness Standards, so we do not differentiate instruction based on the test the student is taking. If students are taught to the standards, they should be able to pass any test they choose.
5. Do you have a sense of how stakeholders such as post-secondary institutions or employers are responding to having different measures? Is each test viewed to have equal merit?  
So far, we have not had any issues with this- the Wyoming High School Equivalency is what they are looking for and the test used to obtain that is secondary.
6. If you administer a testing center, please tell me about the impact multiple measures has on your site.  
For centers who offer all three tests, the primary impact is that all testing center staff must certify through each testing center, which is extra work for them. Once that is done- the administration is fairly easy. Some centers only offer the HiSET, so they do not have this issue.

*We'd like to thank Diane White, the Adult Education & Family Literacy Coordinator for the Uinta B.O.C.E.S #1 Education Center, for sharing her state's perspective. Thanks also to Kim Tuschhoff, our Idaho contributor from the Adult Learning Centre at Lewis-Clark State College. Would you like to share your state's approach to high school equivalency exams? We'd love to hear from you. Please send a note to Karen Bowen to submit your thoughts for the next MPEAEA newsletter. [bowenk@boulderlibrary.org](mailto:bowenk@boulderlibrary.org)*

## Recruiting Presenters for Boise 2016!

MPAEA's 2016 Annual Conference will be held at the Riverside Hotel in Boise, Idaho April 27-30. In July, the MPAEA board took a tour of the facilities and explored downtown Boise. We were quite impressed! MPAEA will be celebrating its **70<sup>th</sup> anniversary**. Our conference aims to help prepare educators for the 22<sup>nd</sup> century with a focus on *Bridges Between Data & Creativity*.

Tracks will include:

- Corrections Education – Preparing & Bridge Building
- Dialogues in Community Colleges for 22<sup>nd</sup> Century
- Experiential, Recreation, & Community Education in the West
- Adult Basic Education (ABE) & Workforce Training
- Higher Education – Changing Faces of the University
- Bridges Between Spanish Speakers, Refugees, & Diverse Learners in Adult Education
- Graduate Student, Adult Education, Research & Symposium

MPAEA is excited to work with the Idaho Lifelong Learning Association, the College of Southern Idaho, and the Idaho Division of Professional-Technical Education. We are currently accepting proposals for presentations; the application can be found at <http://www.csi.edu/mpaea/>. Applications are due **Dec. 20**.

And, did you know that you can apply for a scholarship to cover your registration fee? One conference scholarship per state will be awarded. Watch for announcements regarding the application process.

