THE PRESIDENT
BLARES!
Blair Liddicoat

True Confessions of a Male...
Yes, I Did Get Choked Up

Wow! What a conference we just had in Albuquerque! The New Mexico Conference Committee led by Lisa Breschi-Almond, Conference Coordinator, and Leonard Begaye, NMAEA President, did an outstanding job. Those of you who were there know exactly what I’m talking about. For the benefit of others who couldn’t be there, I’d like to give a personal summary, Blair-style.

The conference ran me through a gamut of emotions. It all started at the Opening Session when Leonard Begaye started bestowing gifts of thanks on people. Lo and behold, he gave me a gorgeous silver and turquoise bolo tie. This resulted in my being quite embarrassed. “Why me?” I wondered. “What had I done to deserve this?” Yes, I was the association president-elect and I had helped some with the conference planning, but so many others had done so much more. By the way, I’ve never attended a conference where so many gifts of appreciation and door prizes were given out.

I experienced laughter throughout the conference, practically every time Leonard had the microphone. He shared many humorous stories that were appreciated by the entire audience. If you weren’t there you missed the punch lines about the Sioux happy meals, Navajo saddle horns, and “long, hard ‘Injun’ things.” Now don’t you wish you had been there?

At the Friday night Awards Banquet I felt various emotions. First and foremost was the joy that occurred when I heard the biographies read of all the award winners. What wonderful accomplishments each of them had achieved. What role models they were for all of us.

What better place to honor them than in our midst. I felt lucky in being able to shake their hands and congratulate them as they came to the front of the room, one by one, to receive their awards. When the outgoing board members were announced and they received their plaques I felt great satisfaction in being able to thank them for their service to the association. It was also a proud moment for me knowing I had served alongside such dedicated individuals on the board. Finally, at the Awards Banquet, I felt happy welcoming President-elect Yvonne Hauwiller onto the board, and also mischievous as I successfully tricked her into modeling the “official board costume for the upcoming year,” a handlebar mustache. I can’t imagine where that came from, can you?

At the Closing Session I experienced great envy as Leonard told his stories in his easy-going, effortless style that captured everyone’s attention. As I said then, “if only I had a little bit of Navajo blood in me so I could tell stories like Leonard.” I was overcome with sorrow when Leonard told us of a young boy who began elementary school as a motivated, energetic learner, only to fall into depression in Continued pg 3

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MPAEA Scholarship Awards

Professional Development Scholarships were awarded to several adult educators and lifelong scholars, including:
Nancy Kessler
Annette Walker
Evelyn Cheney
Sheri Domres

These four winners used the $500 award to help with the expense of attending the MPAEA’s 2001 Annual Conference. Sheri was a conference co-presenter with Professor Chuck Humphrey. Evelyn has been a faithful MPAEA Conference attendee in years past, and appreciated the help with this year’s trip to Albuquerque. Nancy and Annette were enthusiastic in their thanks to MPAEA for the award and for an excellent conference!

Professional Development Scholarships were also awarded to Kathy Vickerman and Yvonne Hauwiler, who will apply the $500 award to expenses for research in Australia and Ukraine/Crimean Region, respectively. Kathy’s project continues her research on the history of adult and continuing education in the USA and rural Australia. Yvonne plans to return site visits to secondary, post-secondary and adult education facilities in Ukraine/Crimean Region.

Karen Bowen Ekstrom was awarded the Memorial Scholarship for Graduate Studies in Adult Education. Her goal is to develop new ways to deliver literacy services to Moffat County, Colorado, through integrated learning and personal instruction.

Congratulations to all our winners and best of success with your projects!

Submitted by Lucy Smith, Montana

Journal of Adult Education
Editor
Darrel Hammon, Idaho
(208) 799-2282

MPAEA WEBSITE
www.mpaea.org
Access the MPAEA listserv
mpaea-l@cebrigham.usu.edu
the third grade due to his mother’s death. Gradually, he lost all his friends; even his teachers didn’t like him. But one teacher, upon hearing of the cause of the boy’s behavior, realized she had been treating him unfairly and changed her ways.

In doing so, she became a substitute for his mother and this student went on to become valedictorain of his high school class. He graduated third in his college class, he got married, and became a doctor. At each of these moments of his life he wrote the teacher a letter telling her that she had been and was still his favorite and best teacher. Although the boy was forever thankful for how the teacher had treated him, it was the teacher who was truly rewarded, for she became a real teacher because of him. This story hit me hard, and it wasn’t fair, for I had to follow Leonard’s story with my conference summary remarks. As I stood in front of everyone, I felt a great lump form in my throat, and tears came to my eyes. I choked up in front of everyone. My only solace was the certainty that I was not the only one in the room to have been affected in this way, and the belief that this was an indication that I had not been hardened by today’s society. Perhaps I shared a little in common with Leonard after all.

As the Closing Session continued I found it a great pleasure to be able to thank Larry Wickham for all his hard work during the past year as association president, particularly with the board handbook project. When I accepted the gavel from Larry I experienced trepidation knowing the reins were being passed to me, and my year as president had officially begun. After the post-conference board meeting that apprehension was replaced with confidence as I realized I had a crackerjack board that was ready and able to meet all the challenges in the coming year.

So whether you consider the Albuquerque conference to have been the end of a terrific association year or the start of another one, it was GREAT! I’ve shared some of my personal highlights, but I’d like you to do the same. Send your thoughts to newsletter editor Kathy Vickerman at <vickkath@isu.edu> for inclusion in the next newsletter. Reading all your comments will get everyone excited about next year’s conference in Phoenix, Arizona, May 1-4, 2002.

And, all you males out there, take it from me. It hardly hurts at all to let your emotions show, I promise. Finally, as I embark on my year as association president, I want to thank you for the confidence you have placed in me. Know that I will strive to meet your expectations. I want to invite all association members to engage in active communication with each other during the coming year. You can contact me directly at <blair.liddicoat@rionail.maricopa.edu>. Board members are available at the board listserv <MPBOARD-L@cebrigham.usu.edu>, and you can share your thoughts throughout the online membership at <MPAEA-L@cebrigham.usu.edu>. Or, as indicated above, you can always contribute to the newsletter.

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**KUDOS KORNER**

Kudos to the New Mexico Conference Committee and Conference Workers. A BIG THANK YOU to Lisa Breschi-Almond, conference coordinator, to Leonard Begaye and Diana Lopez, MPAEA board members, and to other members of the committee who worked tirelessly to achieve such a conference.

THANK YOU to the hard workers at the registration tables. Many of us needed extra help during the conference and you were always ready and willing.

THANK YOU to the musicians. Music always adds the “frosting to the cake.”

THANK YOU to those who went out and gathered up all the many, many wonderful door prizes.

THANK YOU to the New Mexico Adult Education Association for sharing the conference time with MPAEA.

All your many hours and hard work paid off in a wonderful conference which included stimulating keynoters and amazing sessions.

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Is there someone you would like to recognize? The MPAEA region has many gems like those above. Let’s not keep them hidden any longer. Send a short biography of the person and a description of their accomplishment to Kathy Vickerman, vickkath@isu.edu, fax (208) 282-5806 or send to Julee Henson, grannyhens@aol.com.

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**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Kathy Vickerman has accepted the position of Director of Academic Outreach for the College of Arts & Sciences and the Kasiska College of Health Professions at Idaho State University.
Yvonne Hauwiller, Montana, tries on the accepted "uniform" of MPAEA President-elect matching Blair Liddicoat, Arizona, who has become the President for 2001-2002.

Leonard Begaye, NMEA President and keynoter, Filipe Ortega.

President Blair Liddicoat and Past-president Larry Wickham at the closing ceremony.

New Mexico Conference Registration Crew. What a great job!
News from Montana

MONTANA LEGISLATOR RECEIVES NATIONAL EDUCATION AWARD

Tom Facey, a member of the Montana House of Representatives for Missoula, has been a supporter of Adult Basic Education (ABE) services for many years, and in April he received national recognition for his efforts when he was named the MPAEA Lay Leader for 2001.

This honor, presented by the Mountain Plains Adult Education Association at its annual conference in Albuquerque last week, can be earned only by those whose actions and diligence improve educational opportunities for adults but who are not working directly in the field of adult education.

Facey, who has been a legislator since 1998, has made ABE a major part of his legislative agenda. He once stated that “the university system and K-12 system had the resources to mount persistent lobbying campaigns (in the Legislature), but ABE was not even considered.”

Through his persistence, Facey was successful in implementing a $100,000 line item with the Department of Health and Human Services budget for Adult Basic Education. As a member of the Health Services Committee in the latest Legislature, he was successful in maintaining this funding for the next two years as well.

“Having the support of Tom has brought needed attention to adult education and the importance of the adult learner to the entire Legislature,” said Yvonne Hauwiller, Director of Adult and Community Education for the Bozeman School District. “Without Tom’s efforts, we most likely would not have any state funding for our programs.”

Facey received his Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Montana in 1976, and taught high school and middle school science in Victor, Anaconda and Missoula for most of the past 25 years. He also was awarded two Fulbright Scholarships to study in London, 1985 and in Japan, 2001.

However, Facey states that one of the most satisfying periods of his teaching career came in 1987-88. That year he held down three part-time teaching jobs in Connecticut—at an alternative high school, a boarding school and in an ABE program—while his wife, Maureen O’Malley, attended graduate school. He was encouraged by the under-educated adults, who ranged from longshoremen to physicians with limited English speaking ability, to older adults with their desire to learn.

Submitted by Norene Peterson

Vendors talk with conference attendees and offer many new and interesting instructional aids.
Congratulations and Thanks!

MAACE members would like to congratulate Yvonne Hauwiller on being elected President-elect of MPAEA. This is the first time a Montanan has ever served in this capacity in MPAEA! Thanks, Yvonne! We certainly appreciate your leadership skills, not only in Montana, but also in our region. You go, Girl!

Congratulations are also in order for Margaret Gerkins who was given MPAEA’s Award of Excellence for Montana, an honor well deserved. Margaret is Montana’s new MPAEA Board Member.

Finally, thanks go out to Lucy Smith, Director of Flathead Valley Literacy Volunteers, for the outstanding job she did serving as a Montana MPAEA Board Member. Lucy, you will be missed.

Outgoing Board Members
Darrel Hammon, Idaho
Lucy Smith, Montana
Julee Henson, Nevada
Sandra Grant, Utah
John Tollakson, Wyoming
Thank you to all for a job well done!

MAACE Summer Institute

The Montana Association for Adult and Community Education (MAACE) will hold its annual Summer Institute, June 11-14, at MSU-Bozeman. The four-day course is entitled Project Based Learning. Its purpose is to help instructors design rigorous, relevant learning activities that meet multiple outcomes.

Bob Madar of Impact Consulting will work with participants to “develop projects which integrate literacy, content knowledge and skills, career related skills and habits of mind in powerful learning experience for students.” To do this, he will review the behavioral foundation of contextual/project-based learning and present the community as a resource for student learning.

Finally, during the institute participants will develop teaching units to help prepare students for the GED 2002. Also, they will return to their programs with a project that will be implemented during the next school year. Those who have been involved in the Summer Institute previously have always found it to be a valuable opportunity. Surrounded by the camaraderie of peers, Montanans find the Summer Institute to be a great way to learn new things.

Submitted by Norene Peterson
News from Utah

In March, Nikki Lovell and Cindy Krueger had the opportunity to attend *The Day on the Hill* in Washington D.C. representing UAACCE. In short, it is a Legislative/Policy Workshop where you learn tips and strategies on how to approach your National and State Legislators with concerns and issues. You then have the opportunity to put them into practice. Each state sets up appointment meetings with their representatives in Congress and you visit with them about your issues. You then meet back together and have debriefing reports on what you have learned. The National Community Education Association (NCEA) and Service Learning sponsored the Legislative/Policy Workshop. This was NCEA's eighth year of sponsorship and UAACCE's first time attendance.

Nikki and Cindy were able to visit all five offices of our U.S. Congress. This year we left the message of NCEA's Legislative Platform on 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) and the importance of after school programming. We provided the following material for representatives to review: UAACCE's Resource Directory, the report card on after-school programs statewide, and a fact sheet on numbers being served through Service-Learning. We shared successes and concerns regarding these programs. We offered our association and members as a vehicle for providing them with Utah specific information on Adult, Community and Continuing Education. We also invited them to visit our programs when they are in Utah.

Cindy commented, "What a wonderful learning experience. I have a new perspective and respect for the political process and our representatives. If I were to put a theme to my experience, it would be: "Political Novice—Eager to Learn." I now know I can make a difference. I am excited and motivated knowing I have the opportunity to influence our legislators and help them become interested in our issues."

"Growing up, I had developed an attitude that I could not make a difference in influencing policy makers. I believed you had to have specialized training. I had no stake in the system, and the unknown was fearful to me. I was just meeting the minimum requirements of citizenship—voting. I have learned I can and need to exercise my full political rights—vote, freedom of speech, free press, etc. In the world of politics and funding cycles we often see important programs abolished and never to be heard from again."

The *Day on the Hill* is our best opportunity to educate Congress about our issues. We need to continue to promote MPAEA memberships at the national level. Visits on the Hill are key to making things happen. When they see a local constituent who is concerned enough to walk in the door to bringing to them an issue, they know that the issue is of high importance. It gives the elected official an opportunity to get to know you personally, educates him or her about our profession and association and puts a human face on legislation that impacts our members.

Bid baskets sold for several hundred dollars that will be used toward scholarships.

Presenter, Jenny Chamberlain in action
MPAEA Awards - 2001

The 2001 Award of Merit recipient was Darrel Hammon, Lewis Clark State College, Idaho. Darrel was chosen to receive this award for his outstanding leadership and mentoring, and because he is an excellent role model for others.

Award of Excellence recipients for this year are:
- Maureen Hoyt, Arizona
- Debra Fawcett, Colorado
- Margaret Collins, Idaho
- Margaret Girkin, Montana
- Sharyn Yanoshak, Nevada
- Avon Wilson, New Mexico
- Sandra Grant, Utah
- Judy Powell, Wyoming

This award is given to one recipient from each Mountain Plains state who has made significant contributions to the field of adult education and lifelong learning. Each recipient received a plaque.

MPAEA Lay Leader Award recipient was House Representative Tom Facey from Montana. In Montana, Tom is appreciated for the interest he has taken in Adult Basic Education and because of this interest he is considered a close friend of both adult education and lifelong learners.

The Outstanding Educator of the Year is Lupe Olivas from the Adult Basic Education program at Clovis Community College. She is a first generation college graduate and educator in her family. Her enthusiasm is contagious as she includes everyone around her in the holiday of life and learning.

The Outstanding Learner of the Year is Irene Gonzales from the Adult Basic Education program at Clovis Community College (CCC). Irene first came to the program in June, 2000, to study for her GED. After surmounting many obstacles, she received her GED and is currently enrolled at CCC in General Studies.

The Outstanding Legislator of the Year is Cynthia Nava. Cynthia is Associate superintendent for Student Services at Gadsden Independent School District. She has been an active member and supporter of education for 18 years. Cynthia served as Chair of the Senate Education Committee and Legislative Education Study Committee along with her other accomplishments.

Utah Corrections Education Association

The Utah Corrections Education Association (UCEA) petitioned to the UAACCE board for forum status with the organization and was accepted at the last board meeting in April. The Correctional Education Association exists to provide leadership for correctional educators who are employed in an organized academic and vocational education setting for the benefit of incarcerated individuals. Students in correctional institutions form a segment of our society that differs from all other adult populations by nature of their cultural and functional diversity.

Correctional educators believe the key to reducing recidivism is education. Professionals who provide services for adjudicated individuals strive to foster positive attitudes among students and promote in their educational experience lifelong learning with successful life skills to be productive and responsible community members.

Officers of the UCEA include: President Howard Davis, President-elect and Publications Chair Winston Scoville, Secretary Pauleen Stephenson, Treasurer Kay Evans, Membership Chair Elaine Peterson, Staff Development Chair Susan Anderson, and Special Education Chair Jana Young. Welcome UCEA members to UAACCE!
More Women & Lower Income Groups Online

Two studies conducted by Media Metrix suggest that the online population in the United States is looking more like the rest of the country. One report shows that women now make up a slight majority of Internet users, as they do in the general population, while a second report finds rapid growth in connectivity among low-income households.

The number of women online surpassed that of men for the first time ever in early 2000 in the United States. The total U.S. Web population expanded by 23.4 percent during the past year. The female user population grew by 34.9 percent.

Perhaps more important is the rapid democratization of the Internet with respect to income. Internet use has been rapidly expanding for several years, with higher income groups making up the bulk of users and generally account-

Growth in unique visitors to the Web increased by 23.4 last year.

...ing for most of the growth. But, as the technology required to be wired becomes less expensive and Internet access at places such as community centers and libraries expands, significant numbers of low-income groups are now flocking to the Web.

Between mid-1999 and mid-2000, U.S. growth in unique visitors to the Web increased by 23.4 percent. Some increase in raw numbers was observed at every income level. But during this same period upper income users, as a proportion of all users, fell.

A comparison of growth rates of high- and low-income groups suggests an important change. To the extent the Internet is an asset that improves one’s ability to find a job or a training program, it becomes a mounting competitive liability for the shrinking number who remain unconnected.

Lifelong Learning
The Never-ending Story
Albuquerque, NM 2001

This conference opened with the Ceremonia de la Tierra which symbolized the unity of MPAEA and adult education in the eight (8) states. Conference participants brought a handful of dirt from their home to mix together. A very moving ceremony that brings us all together.

If you want to keep conferees in attendance, just start a story and then tell participants that it will be finished at the last session. That is exactly what the New Mexico Conference Committee initiated through Leonard Begaye as he began the Never-ending Story of the Navajo.

Keynoter Jon Randall informed members about the National Literacy Summit Initiative (NLSI). According to Jon, literacy leaders have planned a two-step process to develop a plan and facilitate efforts to implement the plan. This will be accomplished in two phases and the goal is to mobilize literacy stakeholders to implement an action plan.

Keynoter Filipe Ortega opened Friday’s sessions with an insider’s view of multi-cultural New Mexico. Filipe urged all educators to return to inquisitiveness and to spark the need to learn in children. He quoted, “It’s not what you know, but how you formulate the question.”

Filipe was followed by the New Pathways Literacy Theater. Through the eyes of Sylvia Wood, Debra Martinez, and Mary Avila, conference participants were exposed to real problems faced every day by adults who cannot read. This very entertaining presentation coordinated by B.J. Ortega-Rangel emphasized the need for literacy in adults.

Throughout the supercharged conference sessions, participants were offered a variety of subjects from which to choose and learn. And then on Friday evening everyone was given the chance to relax and enjoy the Awards Banquet, chat with friends, and dance into the night.

Continued page 11
Tips for Teaching

You have all heard these before but it won't hurt anything to refresh your memory. These tips are provided by Larry G. McDougle, Director of the Division of General and Technical Studies at Indiana University.

* Education is a joint enterprise: Students learn best when they contribute to the educational process.

* As an instructor, you can be wrong at times, so admit mistakes. And don't bluff if you don't know.

* When preparing to teach a course, clearly define the course objectives, and select a text, teaching techniques, materials, and assignments to best meet those objectives.

* In determining assignments, plan the course in its entirety and allocate sufficient time to cover the various topics. Plan for holidays, examinations, review, etc.

* Remember: Most students want you to take charge. They want to feel they are being allowed to contribute, but at the same time, they expect the instructor to provide direction.

* When you meet a class for the first time, clearly define the classroom structure, i.e., let the students know from the outset exactly what is expected of them and what they can expect from you. If appropriate, (some courses are noncredit) define your grading system and adhere to it on an impartial basis. Go over your course outline carefully to give your students an overview of the course.

* The course outline should contain: a) name of course, time and place it meets; b) name of instructor and how he/she may be reached; c) list of course objectives; d) title of textbook if one is used; e) assignments; f) course requirements; g) dates for examinations, if applicable; h) policy on grading/attendance/class participation; i) resources available, e.g., books on reserve in library, audiovisual materials, websites, etc.

* When organizing a classroom presentation, try the "sandwich method"—tell students what you are going to tell them, tell them, tell them what you have told them. According to McDougle, studies reveal that most students want the instructor to draw appropriate conclusions rather than leaving the conclusions strictly to them. However, students should be encouraged to process information through critical thinking.

* Avoid personal criticism of a student when opposing his opinion or position on a given issue. Attach the argument, if necessary, not the student.

* Avoid sarcasm in the classroom. It usually backfires.

* Field trips, properly planned and organized, can be a tremendous reinforcement to classroom instruction. Schedule them frequently.

* The first step in constructing a test is to consider the objectives of the course. Don't construct a test which requires students to "read your mind;" let them know what you expect from them. Examinations shouldn't be guessing games. Avoid making tests too long for the allotted time. Remember, a test that is easy to construct (essay questions), will be time-consuming to grade. Conversely, a test easy to grade (multiple choice), will be time-consuming to construct.

* Students appreciate these characteristics in their instructors: the ability to see subject matter from the student's perspective and the ability to communicate it on an intelligible level; a commitment to their fields and enthusiasm for the material; a willingness to listen and learn from students; a flexibility in conceptualizing subject matter.

* Spend adequate time in preparation.

* Obtain prompt and continuous feedback from students. Make certain they know what they are supposed to be learning. See that the presentations are not over their heads or too elementary.

* Pose study questions designed to focus on the major points in the assignments.

* Don't hesitate to seek the advice of colleagues. Discuss teaching problems with them, observe their classes, and solicit comments from observers in your class.

* Don't be afraid to experiment with different techniques or methods, even if only for a change of pace.

* Finally, and foremost, remember that teaching is fun. Properly done, it should be a rewarding and satisfying experience for all concerned.
And, last but definitely not least, Saturday's closing session reminded all educators that they should keep trying because you never know which student is the one where you make a difference. Leonard Begaye alternately brought out the tears and laughter through his sense of commitment and his sense of humor.

Past-president Larry Wickham gave the charge for the following year to President Blair Liddicoat and passed the gavel to him. Larry asked the new president to:
  remember the history of the organization
  have an understanding of adults in education
  continue diversity
  promote leadership
  have vision and set goals for continued lifelong learning.

Then President Liddicoat presented Past-president Wickham with the outgoing president plaque.

After many door prizes were given, Leonard Begaye finished the Never Ending Story, and we were reminded that education for adults and children must be never-ending.

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**Journal of Adult Education**

The MPAEA Journal of Adult Education is a refereed journal intended to serve as a voice for the translation of theory to practice for the membership of the Mountain Plains Adult Education Association (MPAEA). It seeks to disseminate clearly written articles which have the potential of stimulating thought, discussion, and inquiry among those in the MPAEA region.

The purposes of the MPAEA Journal include the following:

1. To provide a regional forum for the discussion and debate of current and pertinent issues in the field of adult education;
2. To stimulate research into adult education;
3. To seek examples of innovative practices and procedures;
4. To feature ideas and visions regarding the future of adult education;
5. To review current literature.

Those interested in submitting manuscripts to the Journal should send three copies of the article to:
Editor, MPAEA Journal of Adult Education
Lewis-Clark State College
500 8th Avenue
Lewiston, ID 83501

For more information contact the editor at email, dhammon@lces.edu or call (208) 799-2282.

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**MPAEA Membership Application**

Please select desired membership, detach form and return with dues to:

Lou Workman, Treasurer
Southern Utah University
334 South 400 East, #10
Cedar City, UT 84720

Membership applying for: (Please check one)

Individual
- Individuals $20
- Libraries $20

Institutional
- Colleges & Universities $45
- State Education Agencies $45
- Public Schools, Corporate $45
- Other $45

*All membership dues are tax deductible*

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**Membership Information**

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City/State/Zip ______________________

Business Phone ______________________

Residence Phone ______________________

Fax ______________________

Email Address ______________________

Make checks payable to:
Mountain Plains Adult Education Association
Upcoming Events

June, 2001  
Summer Technology Institute. Lewis-Clark State College. For more information contact Kathy Martin, (208) 792-2076.

June 10  
Final mini-conference, Central Arizona College, Casa Grande.

June 11-14  
MAACE Summer Institute, MSU-Bozeman. Contact Yvonne Hauwiller, yhauwiller@bozeman.k12.mt.us

July 9-10  

August 4-6  
Adult Education Summer Institute, Prospector Square, Park City, Utah. Contact Sandra Grant, 1 (801) 538-7844.

August 15-18  

October 17-19  
University Continuing Education Association Region West Conference, Riverside, CA

October 21-23  
Idaho Lifelong Learning Conference, Sun Valley. Contact Lois Akers <medsol@srv.net>.

October 28-30  
UAACCE Annual Conference, Park City Marriott Hotel, Park City, Utah. Contact Susan Anderson, 1 (801) 257-7981