

# NEWSLETTER

## Mountain Plains Adult Education Association

ARIZONA COLORADO IDAHO MONTANA NEVADA NEW MEXICO UTAH WYOMING

VOLUME 63, ISSUE 3

Newsletter, December 2004



### Pat's Perspective Patricia Thorpe, President

*Received February 4, 2005*

What do "student perceptions of online learning experience" and "funding for adult education" have in common? They were pertinent topics which were part of the 53rd annual AAACE (American Association of Adult Continuing Education) annual meeting November 2-6 held in Louisville, Ky. Over 200 presenters shared their best practices and dialogue about the challenges facing the future of adult education. Whether at 8 am or a closing round table at 7 pm, there was strong synergy among people from Higher Education, Military Education and Adult and Community Education providers.

Educators had over 80 choices to attend each day.

Dr. Jane Truluck from the University of Georgia shared her course findings at a round table of "Student Perceptions of the Online Learning Experience". Accessibility and equal access definitely have made "online learning" attractive and enrollment has expanded. More universities are offering entire degrees using distance learning, including majors in Adult Education. The convenience of time is

a major factor, and retention is higher than with print correspondence courses. Many students and instructors find that participating in class four to five days per week allows one to really know other members of the class. Online students report that they are more thoughtful in their responses, participate more and become more positive and self-confident about their contributions to courses.

However, not everyone can handle online learning; it requires organization and interaction. Students must master a new way to learn. At the same time participants at the session observed that use of technology is neutral; it can either perpetuate poor educational practice or become a means for transformative learning. Instructors agree that it does take more time than teaching "on ground".

David Rosen, Newsome Associates, long associated with promoting adult education, reported the current configuration of two proposals before Congress that differ greatly in how funds would be distributed. A continuing resolution is allowing funding for this year, but a resolution will have to come from the new Congress.

Next, he shared "strategies that work" in drawing attention to funding for adults needing basic literacy. California and Arizona staged "virtual marches" on the capital. This involved massive e-mails on one day. If you have a waiting list for your program, have those on the list write a post card to a legislator saying they are waiting for services. New York continues to find sharing student success stories as the most powerful tool. Other states report a "meet and greet" event at their teaching location makes the programs come alive for legislators. However, the "meet and greet" model at a state capital is also effective; bringing students to the event adds a constituency that makes an impact on representatives. The big challenge currently is to quantify why investing in the Work Force creates economic advantage. Hiring a lobbyist is not as effective as hoped. Students are more effective in reaching legislators.

*Continued on page 3*



**MPAEA GOVERNING BOARD****President**

Patricia Thorpe  
(303) 778-1191  
pthorpe660@msn.com

**President-Elect**

Anita Raynor  
(505) 439-3812  
ranor@nmsua.nmsu.edu

**Past-President**

Lou Workman  
(208) 282-3155  
worklou@isu.edu

**Treasurer**

Sandra Grant, Utah  
(801) 538-7844  
sgrant@usoc.k12.ut.us

**Secretary**

Cathy Calderwood  
(970) 563-0681  
calderwood@igncio.k12.co.us

**Board of Directors****Arizona**

Myna Frestedt  
(602) 238-4346  
myna.frestedt@gwmail.  
maricopa.edu

**Nevada**

Teri Zutter  
(775) 445-4451  
tzutter@wncc.nevada.edu

Connie Armstrong  
(480) 517-8036

connie.armstrong@riomail.  
maricopa.edu

Jackie Kearns  
(775) 623-6218

JKearns@humboldt.K12.nv.us

**Colorado**

Kathy Holmes  
(719) 667-3743  
holmes.k@ppwfc.org

Marcie Hanson  
(303) 854-4028

marcie.hanson@judicial.state.co.us

**New Mexico**

Anita Raynor  
(505) 439-3812  
raynor@nmsua.nmsu.edu  
Gilbert Zamora  
(505) 439-3442

**Idaho**

Peggy Nelson  
(208) 524-3000 ext. 3403  
pnelson@eitc.edu

Laura Holyoke  
(208) 885-7606  
laurah@uidaho.edu

**Utah**

Loma Prince  
(801) 625-8722  
princel@m.ogden.K12.ut.us

Kathleen Robinson  
(435) 840-1933  
Kathleen@ext.usu.edu

**Montana**

Dixie Stark  
(406) 363-2900  
LVAbitroot@aol.com

Nancy Kessler  
(406) 222-8587

adulted@livingston.k12.mt.us

**Wyoming**

Michael Woolcott  
(307) 382-1817  
woolcott@uwyo.edu

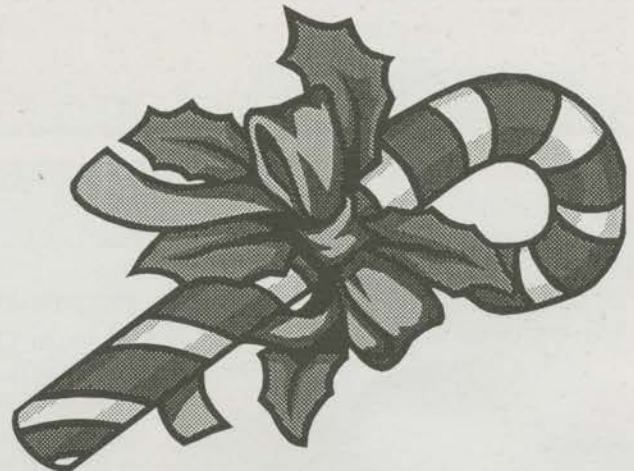
Michael Clark  
(307) 877-6958  
mclark@wwcc.cc.wy.us

**Journal of Adult Education**

Editors

Pam Dupin-Bryant and Andy Shinkle  
(435) 797-1797

*Wishing You  
a  
Happy New Year*

**Greetings MPAEA Members**

How does Spring in the Tetons sound? The Mountain Plains Adult Education Association is requesting presenters for its Spring Conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. One of the invited Keynotes is Cheryl Keenan, the Director of the U.S. Department of Education's Division of Adult Education and Literacy. We will also have Bill Draves and Julie Coates from the LERN organization. If you are interested, you can go to [www.mpaea.org](http://www.mpaea.org) and get the information there or click on this link to go right to the PDF file, <http://www.mpaea.org/callforpresentersfinal.pdf>. It should be an exciting conference (April 14-16). I hope many of you will choose to make that happen by sharing your skills and expertise with your peers around the country. I look forward to reading your proposals and seeing you at the Snow King in Jackson.

Mike Clark  
MPAEA Conference Committee

If you have address change from a move or a change of jobs, please notify the newsletter editor to insure that you will continue to receive the MPAEA newsletter and the MPAEA journal of adult education.

Send changes to:

Chuck Humphrey  
humpflow@isu.edu  
(208) 282-3640

Idaho State University  
Campus Box 8081  
Pocatello, ID 83209



## Pat's Perspective

*Continued From Page 1*

The strategy that has produced the best results is to create a "permanent public policy committee" that supports adult literacy. Each state has numerous grant and volunteer efforts to help adults. It is essential that they all collaborate to become one voice. Get started by calling a meeting of the leaders of each group. The next step is to seek a champion in each branch of your legislature. The cause needs a leader who is respected within the body and needs to make it his/her #1 priority.

The current perspectives of online education and strategies to increase funding are evidence of the quality of the AAACE conference. As president of MPAEA, I was pleased to hear a long-time leader refer to us as one of the two most effective regional professional organizations in existence. Our long history of uninterrupted service to professionals was seen as exemplary and MPAEA should serve as a model for other areas of the country.

The AAACE coalition for Affiliate Organizations, of which we are a member, met as part of the conference. The representatives agreed on strategies to explore having Affiliate Organization activities during pre-conference as other coalitions have done. In addition they will work to establish regular communication between groups. This has begun with the establishment of a list serve on which we are publicizing our conference.

President Fran Tracey Mumford concluded her two year term with an impressive list of accomplishments. One of the most important was the treasurer's report that they are in a positive position with a balance of \$94,000. MPAEA can be pleased with their affiliation with AAACE. Members should consult [www.AAACE.org](http://www.AAACE.org) to access resources.

January often brings resolutions for better fitness. May your resolution be to assist your members in having the fitness tools to serve their staff and students. A major need is to nominate an outstanding educator from your state to be honored at the annual conference and select your students for the National Adult Honor Society. See the web site for forms. Submissions are due March 16 and 18. The MPAEA Board met through a conference call in November and will meet again via phone, February 1. Let your state representative know of any items you wish to discuss.

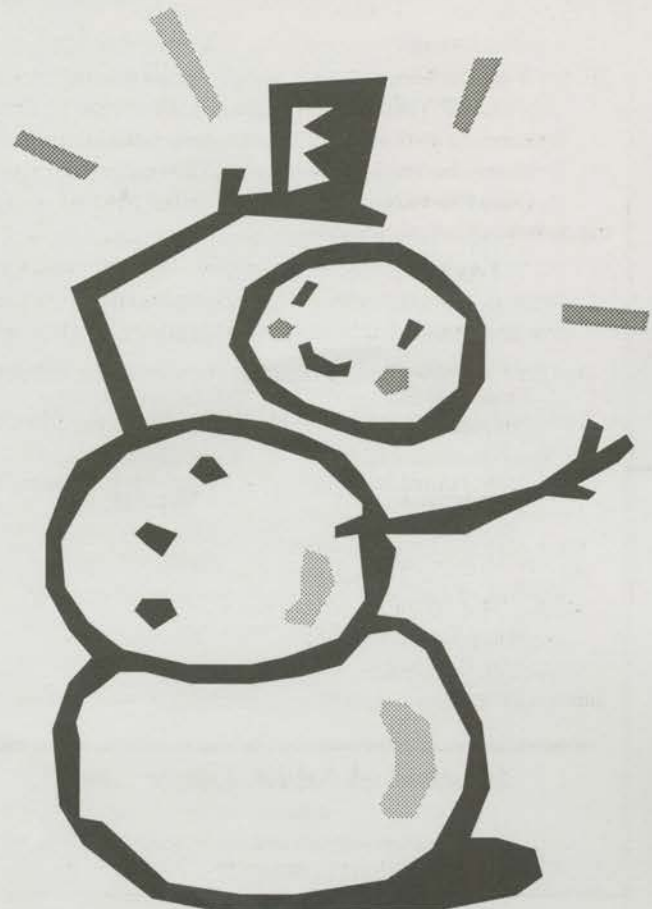
As a reminder, this year's MPAEA Conference is being held in Jackson Hole, Wyoming from April 14th to 16th. For current information on the conference, go to [www.mpaea.org](http://www.mpaea.org). The conferences are always nice and the addition of the NAEHS Project adds a special touch.

If any adult education programs are not currently participating locally in the NAEHS and would like to, but have questions and think it is too hard and time consuming, I invite you to contact me at 480-517-8108 or [blair.liddicoat@riomail.maricopa.edu](mailto:blair.liddicoat@riomail.maricopa.edu) and I will help convince you that it is neither hard nor time consuming. You can also get much information from the NAEHS web site.

So come on programs. Jump on board this project and honor the achievements of some of your "special" students. I look forward to seeing you in Jackson Hole and jointly applauding the efforts of NAEHS inductees from programs throughout the MPAEA region.

*Men talk of killing time,  
while time quietly kills them*

*-Dion Boucicault*



## SCHOLARSHIP FOR INNOVATION

Funds available up to \$1,000

Mountain Plains Adult Education Association

All applications will be reviewed by MPAEA's Scholarship Committee. The recipient of the Scholarship for Innovation will be announced at MPAEA's Annual Conference.

To be eligible for MPAEA's Scholarship for Innovation, the organization, institution or person submitting the application must be a member of MPAEA or be sponsored by a member. The sponsor should encourage membership at the time of application submission. Note: the Scholarship for Innovation may not be used to provide funds for on-going operating support.

The purpose of MPAEA's Scholarship for Innovation is to foster innovative approaches to adult education and develop new models which have potential for replication in other adult and continuing education programs in the Mountain Plains area (AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, WY). The recipient of the Scholarship for Innovation has the responsibility for presenting the project and its outcome at the MPAEA Annual Conference the following Spring. This can be written and presented as a handout or presented in a workshop format.

The time line for implementing an innovative project must fall in the year between the annual MPAEA Conferences. For tax purposes, the award will be sent to the organization or institution represented by the individual submitting the application.

---

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cover Sheet - one page
  - A. Title of project
  - B. Applicant's name, address, phone, fax, and e-mail information
  - C. Name and address of sponsoring organization
  - D. Abstract of the proposed project, not more than 150 words
2. Narrative – no more than four typed pages
  - A. Explain the innovative nature of the proposed project.
  - B. Give a clear description of the proposed project including where and when it will be implemented.
  - C. Describe the predicted outcomes of the project in measurable terms.

Who and how many will benefit; how will the project benefit them; and how will you evaluate the success of the project?
  - D. Describe the settings you envision for successful replication of the project.

How will the project be helpful to other MPAEA programs?
  - E. Briefly, describe your organization's background and the need for the proposed project.
  - F. Defend the feasibility of the project. Will the project require additional funding?
  - G. Identify any proposed staff positions and describe the general duties of the positions.

You may attach resumes of staff members involved in the proposed project, up to three pages.
3. Budget – no more than two pages. Provide sufficient detail to give a clear understanding of the project costs.
4. Attachments – no more than ten pages (optional). May include such support documents as resumes, brochures, related materials.

Mail three copies to the MPAEA Scholarship Committee Chairperson:

Dianne Marquez  
New Mexico Junior College  
5317 Lovington Highway  
Hobbs, NM 88240  
Work Phone: 505-392-5411  
dmarquez@nmjc.edu

*Applications must be postmarked no later than March 1*



## ARIZONA NEWS

Our state organization AALL has set up and activated an Advocacy Committee that has met during and after elections to begin activities to keep the concerns of adult education at the forefront. One aim of the committee is to increase public officials' awareness of the needs of the populations we serve. Two events are presently being sponsored: a month when federal and state legislators are invited to visit classes, and special activities for Literacy Awareness Week during the last week in February. Tucson area literacy program leader Ami Magios is producing materials for instructional groups on how to make effective legislative contacts. The committee has also invited Chris Bustamante, Associate Senior Dean of Instruction, to advise committee members on the ins and outs of effective advocacy planning.

AALL held its Fall Awards Conference October 21-22, 2004 with over 100 in attendance. Sessions on advocacy, the connection between reading and writing, metacognitive classroom techniques, transition to college, good management of volunteers, lessons in civics and voting, and new state technology curriculum standards were among the 17 breakout sessions available to attendees.

Arizona provides mini-conferences in different state locations throughout the year. These conferences are designed to provide networking and professional development opportunities. Two mini-conferences will occur soon. In Benson, AZ, on February 4th prominent guest Arizona authors will bring something special to "Building on Success," a conference to highlight reading plus writing. On May 21st in Flagstaff, AZ, "Catch Your Dreams: Bringing It AALL Together," is designed to enhance relationships and partnerships in adult education. Visit [www.az-aall.org](http://www.az-aall.org) for more information on these events.

Submitted by Myna Frestedt

## NEWS FROM IDAHO

A record number of 189 Persons attended this year's annual state conference held October 17-19. The Idaho Lifelong Learning

Association (ILLA) conference was held at the traditional location in beautiful Sun Valley, Idaho.

Change is a constant in all aspects of our 21st century lives. Downsizing and outsourcing in our workplace, advances in technology and medicine, growth and recession in our economy, and the encroaching gray in our hair color! Nothing stays the same. Everywhere we turn, we are forced through ever-present change to be flexible and adaptive. So if we can't beat it, what can we do to harness the power, the potential behind these changes?

Change: Power and Potential was the theme about which keynote speaker, Gordon Graham, spoke. He is one of the nation's most sought-after well-respected change agents who spent time living on the streets as a young man and then spent 17 years in prison.

With humor and enthusiasm, he shared his achievements of happiness, success and personal freedom. "We live in a moment of history where change is so sped up that we begin to see the present only when it is already disappearing." – R.D. Laing, *The Politics of Experience*.

28 presenters shared their knowledge and expertise in the areas of industry, education and training; continuing education; family literacy; adult literacy; higher education; and community education.

The State Department of Adult Basic Education and Family Literacy was a co-sponsor for this event and made funding available to send approximately 90 attendees. Thanks for their support!

A scholarship fund developed to aid our membership in furthering their professional development and career goals provided academic scholarships to Peggy Nelson and Joanne Bates. Funds are raised for this annually by a membership raffle held at the conference. Three members were recognized for Outstanding Service to ILLA: Valerie Aker, Dr. Robert Croker, and Gina Armer.

The first night of the conference, University of Idaho hosted a reception and presented Greg Williams, Ph.D., the award for Outstanding Dissertation. Dr. Williams is a religion instructor at BYU-Idaho. His dissertation addresses the theoretical basis for the scholarship of teaching and learning at BYU Idaho as opposed to the emphasis on publication at many other universities. Ariel Blair, a doctoral student at University of Idaho - Boise Center, was given the award for Outstanding Research Paper. Ms. Blair is a Project Manager for Hewlett Packard and is presently stationed in Spain.

Outstanding Thesis: Alicia Lewis

Masters student U of I, Moscow

Employed: Grad student at UI working on US Dept. of Justice Grant

Submitted by Kathy Lancaster, Past President, ILLA



## NEWS FROM NEW MEXICO

Recently in beautiful Ruidoso the New Mexico Adult Education Association (NMAEA) held its 37th Annual Adult Education Conference in conjunction with the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy's (NMCL) 17th annual conference. This is the second year for the joint conference.

The conference was extremely beneficial and well organized with many presenters. The theme, Reaching New Heights, met the needs of all conference participants. Featured speakers included Pamela Etre-Perez, State ABE Director, and Gilbert Zamora, Vice-President to Voz, Inc. Participants were also honored to have as guests Phil Felix, former NM ABE State Director, and his wife, Patricia Bramlet-Felix.

Highlighting the conference were the awards given to the very deserving. The following are the recipients of these awards.

ABE/Literacy Student of the Year – Juanita Martinez (ENMU-Ruidoso)

Pre-GED/GED Student of the Year – Julia Willis (NM Junior College)

ESL Student of the Year – Graciela Monreal (NMSU-Alamogordo)

ESL Teacher of the Year – Kristen Baker (San Juan College)

GED Teacher of the Year – Joe Lozano (DABCC - Las Cruces)

Employee of the Year – Marco Hernandez (DABCC – Las Cruces)

Volunteer of the Year – Edith Carreon (Catholic Charities)

Program of the Year – San Juan College

Phil Felix Award of Merit presented by Phil Felix to Pamela Etre-Perez

Student Scholarships:

Rosanna Chavez (DABCC – Las Cruces)

Margarita Ganadonegro (Alamo Navajo Schools)

Myrna Rivera (Catholic Charities)

Adrian Millar (The Gathering Place)

Luz Arias (Tepeyac Consortium)

Annette Lopez (Santa Fe Community College)

Joseph Secrest (UNM-Valencia)

Submitted by Dianne Marquez

## NEWS FROM UTAH

### A FOLLOW-UP TO THE “THE DAY-ON-THE-HILL”

Scott L. Greenwell—Chair, Public Affairs Committee

Annually, UAACCE sends a team to leadership training in Washington, DC. In return, the participants do a follow-up training for members in Utah. This year's training, held at the 2004 UAACCE Conference, was: “Lobbying and the Importance of Making an Economic Investment in Education” conducted by Pat Rusk and Vik Arnold from UEA and “The View from the Hill” led by Utah State Senators Greg Bell (R) and Karen Hale (D). Pat Rusk and Vik Arnold stressed that legislators want two things from constituents: contributions and votes. We need to do both--become involved in the process and support education-friendly candidates through donations and not at the end. Their advice: “Influence starts upstream--get involved early and stay involved.” Tips for becoming more informed and influential included tracking bills on-line at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov). The power-point presentation, “Building Utah's Economy for All of Us,” illustrated the benefits that result from our investment in public education. It emphasized a win/win situation for everyone in terms of the economic interests and returns to the state and to the taxpayers over time. All UAACCE

members should strive to share this knowledge with local businesses, taxpayers, and especially our lawmakers service. They recommended that we do three things when we lobby: 1. Be honest, open and establish good relationships; 2. Be respectful and courteous; and 3. Be knowledgeable about the issues before we approach them. They urged us to speak with a common voice. They cited the effectiveness of e-mails (the two senators agreed), personal conversations—face-to-face and telephone, personal notes, and letters. They highlighted the effectiveness of organizing constituents to make contacts with specific legislators on important issues since elected officials most often listen to their electorate.

**NEWS FROM UTAH (CONTINUED)****16TH ANNUAL UAACCE CONFERENCE IN REVIEW**

Luella Jones—President-Elect

With help from many wonderful people committed to adult, community and continuing education, the October 2004 UAACCE Conference was an overwhelming success when UAACCE members, vendors and presenters gathered at UVSC to discuss and learn about "New Horizons in Value Added Education." Keynotes featured Brian Bosworth of Future Works, and Susan Zimmerman, author of *Writing to Heal the Soul*. Attendees were also pleased to hear from Dan Cady, Director of the National Center for Community Education; Utah Senators Greg Bell and Karen Hale; Pat Rusk and Vik Arnold, Utah Education Association; and several inmates from Corrections. The Awards and Evening Reception was held at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Orem, where participants enjoyed a light dinner and networking. Awards were presented and entertainment was provided by UVSC's song and dance team. The conference committee was thrilled to have so many vendors/exhibitors present throughout the two-day conference. Thank you vendors and exhibitors! The conference door prize and bid basket donations were astounding! Our scholarship fund has increased due to your generosity.

**UAACCE JAMES BURGON MEMORIAL AWARD:  
DENNIS HALES**

Dennis Hales, the Director of Adult Mountainland School-to-Careers at UVSC, best typifies the tremendous commitment to lifelong learning that characterized the life of James Burgon. Although he could make more money elsewhere, Dennis chooses to battle for funds that will help the less fortunate. Because of Dennis' involvement in interagency and community partnerships, his program has been very effective. He is a leader in collaboration, bringing various agencies to the table and contributing to the success of all. He has been able to help more people in more ways because of his skill at building relationships and trust with those who work at local schools and jails. Dennis is a caring counselor, a skillful manager, and a dedicated professional.

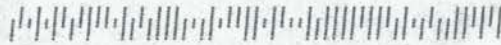
**UAACCE PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD:  
LENORA PLOTHOW**

Lenora Plothow received the Professional Leadership Award for her exemplary leadership of adult, community and continuing education in her professional work at UVSC as the Director of UVSC's Center for Lifelong Learning since July 1990 and in her volunteer involvement with the American Red Cross. She has shown unquenchable enthusiasm and unflagging energy in sharing the message of lifelong education with students, teachers, and the public. At UVSC, Lenora has managed programs with over 12,000 enrollments annually, which were awarded nearly 40,000 Continuing Education Units. Lenora has supervised 7 to 10 lifelong learning programs each year with skill and grace.

**NCEA STATE LEADERSHIP AWARD:  
BURTON OLSON**

Burton Olson was honored in San Diego with the National "State Leadership" Award from the National Community Education Association. He was awarded this honor in a competition of 50 states. Burton was recognized for his continual commitment to community education on a national level but even more so for his ongoing contribution to UAACCE. Burton leads by making sure no one falls behind. He quietly keeps everything running smoothly. He manages the money, pays the bills, negotiates contracts, and provides the operating budget. He always follows through without complaint.





BLAIR LIDDICOAT  
RIO SALADO COLLEGE  
5209 WEST MAUI LANE  
STENDALE AZ 85306

Non-Profit  
US Postage Paid  
PERMIT 42  
Pocatello, ID 83209

MPAEA Newsletter  
Idaho State University  
Campus Box 8081  
Pocatello, ID 83209-8081

## Upcoming Events

### MPAEA NAEHS Project

By Blair Liddicoat

This will be the fourth year for the Mountain Plains Adult Education Association (MPAEA) National Adult Education Honor Society (NAEHS) Project. Those programs that have participated during the last three years know what this is. For others, let me summarize as we really do hope to have more of the MPAEA states take part in this project this year.

The NAEHS is an organization, much like the National Honor Society for high school students, which recognizes those outstanding students who satisfy selection criteria. In this case it is our adult education programs' students who are being honored. In order to participate in the MPAEA NAEHS Project you must first start an NAEHS chapter. This is very easy to do. You can find information on this at [www.naehs.org](http://www.naehs.org).

After starting your NAEHS chapter you then have to select your program's inductees according to the criteria that you have set up, and hold an induction. This also is not that difficult, and the associated costs are negligible. If you have done all this your program is

then eligible to nominate up to two of your program's inductees to your state association for consideration for the MPAEA NAEHS Project. The catch is you must submit your program's candidates' contact information and the basis for their induction to your state association by March 5th. This deadline gives MPAEA enough time to then carry out its project; namely incorporating the recognition of these students into the annual MPAEA Conference Awards Ceremony.

The state associations help out by accepting nominations from their state adult education programs, selecting up to three inductees from their state for MPAEA Conference recognition, and then passing that information on to the MPAEA Awards Committee so they can take care of letters of congratulations and/or invitation, certificates, etc. The state associations' deadline for sharing this with MPAEA is March 16th and they should be sure to include contact information and a 150-word biography for each inductee. That information should be sent to the MPAEA Awards Committee Chair, Kathy Holmes at [holmes.k@ppwfc.org](mailto:holmes.k@ppwfc.org).