



# MPAEA Newsletter

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## Presidential Ramblings



Donna Bakke  
President 2010-2011

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With elections over, holidays here, and a spring conference on the horizon, now is the time to look forward and work for the future of adult education. No matter what state you are in, the recent elections will probably have some impact on you personally and professionally. Now is the time to get to know your elected officials – invite them to visit, become their friends, and keep them informed of how important your programs are to the economy of your community, region, and state. Communication is one of the most important tools in political and financial support for your work. Use it wisely and effectively to build the support you need to maintain or increase funding for your programs.

There are some good things to look forward to – the holidays and the spring conference with COABE/CCAIE in April 2010. As your president, I encourage you to attend this event next spring. Picture yourself in San Francisco attending excellent sessions on ABE/ESL/ESOL, participating in forums, sharing ideas with peers, and enjoying the beautiful bay area. With financial help from MPAEA scholarships, this could be you. Each state organization will receive monies to send three people to COABE/CCAIE in April. Check our website for more details.

Last but not least, the holiday season is upon us – a season for celebration and thanksgiving in many different cultures. I

like to pause and reflect on blessings at this time of year. Too often what we contend with, hear, and see can be very negative – election results, the war, violence, the economy. But here we are in a nation that allows us amazing freedoms, opportunities and rights that you can find nowhere else in the world. May you all celebrate and share some blessings this holiday season!

## Brad Deeds becomes Nevada's Adult Education Director

MPAEA President-elect Brad Deeds is the new Adult Education Director for Nevada! Known at the local, state, and national levels for his advocacy efforts on behalf of adult education, Brad brings deep and broad experience to the position. The Midwest native holds a Bachelor's degree in Print Journalism and English and a Master's in Teaching English as a Second Language (M.A.-TESOL). He has taught for and managed the Adult Basic Education program at Truckee Meadows Community College, served on the National Council of State Directors of Adult Education Immigration Workgroup, and is Nevada's Single Point of Contact for national adult education legislative alerts. He is a founding member and current recording secretary of [Nevada Adult Educators](#) (NAE).

Colleagues know Brad as an energetic team player with a constant focus on students.  
(continued on page 2)

## Brad Deeds (continued)

“The reason I love working in adult education is our ability to change lives, while simultaneously lifting the economy,” he said. “Working for our wonderful students and helping them set and achieve their goals is the most satisfying and humbling work I’ve ever done. “I am excited to now have the opportunity to work closely with like-minded and talented colleagues throughout the state, in our western region, and in our nation’s Capitol. In difficult economic times, the best strategy to revive the fortunes of the state is to fund adult education. Every dollar you invest in adult education will be multiplied in return through increased tax revenues, decreased health care costs, more people lifting themselves out of the social service system, decreased incarceration rates, and increased civic participation and upward economic mobility for our state’s workers. Adult education is truly the solution!”

## What is the MPAEA Teacher Innovation Scholarship? By Nancy Lambott

Have you ever wished you just had a couple hundred dollars to develop something new to enhance student learning, purchase new instructional materials or expand your instructional approach with your class? Is there something that you have wished you could do to improve classroom instruction, but never had the money to do it? Well now you do, thanks to the MPAEA board’s decision to add a scholarship for teachers. The scholarship is intended to be flexible and is provided to help teachers enhance their classroom instruction or to supplement expenses involved in a teacher inquiry project or a research project. To download the application go to [www.mpaea.org/scholarship](http://www.mpaea.org/scholarship) and you are on your way to having the money to make your wish become a reality.

The Mountain Plains Adult Education Association (MPAEA) offers up to \$250 annually for creative ways to reach students.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:** To be eligible, a member must meet the following criteria:



**Brad Deeds in his office**

## Innovation Scholarship (continued)

- Be working in an MPAEA member state
- Be a member of MPAEA or submit a membership application along with this scholarship application.

If you meet the eligibility criteria, all you have to do is complete the scholarship application, describe the project, explain the need, determine who will it benefit and how it enhances student performance, estimate the cost, determine where and when the project will take place and describe how the project will be evaluated. Send your application electronically by February 1, 2011. The scholarship committee will review the application and grants will be awarded on February 15, 2011. Once the project is complete, send your results to Kelsee Miller, Scholarship committee chair at [kmiller@caspercollege.edu](mailto:kmiller@caspercollege.edu) Because this work in the classroom is so valuable to the field, we ask that you share your project with fellow instructors or programs in your state, and to share the results with MPAEA members through presentations at future conferences and by allowing us to use your report or a short newsletter article written by you in the September 1, 2011 newsletter. Submission of your report is due by June 30, 2011 and the newsletter article is due on August 1. Send the article to the newsletter editor [g.lambott@comcast.net](mailto:g.lambott@comcast.net)

If you have questions regarding the scholarship, contact your state MPAEA board member, an executive board member or Kelsee Miller, committee chair. Don’t wait for next year, do it now and have the extra money you wished you could have to expand instruction and enhance student learning in your classroom.

## Utah Association of Adult, Community, and Continuing Education (UAACCE)

### Annual Conference submitted by Tracy Moore

The 2010 UAACCE Annual Conference was held on Friday, October 22, 2010, at Thanksgiving Point Gardens in Lehi, UT. The theme this year, "Full Service Learning," was chosen as a way to reflect the dedication that adult educators have in ensuring adults in our communities have the basic skills as well as life skills needed to participate in today's global economy.

Jeff Thredgold, president of Thredgold Economic Associates, and the newly re-elected Lt. Governor Greg Bell were the keynote speakers. They gave the conference participants insights into the importance of education in our society, both nationally and locally. The 20 different break out sessions covered a variety of topics that gave participants at least one new tool to help them meet the challenges they face in their classrooms.



Marty Kelly, Utah State Office of Education, discusses data that measure adult skill levels.



Every year the UAACCE board recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions and epitomize leadership in the field of adult and continuing education. Kaye White, President UAACCE, presented these awards to very deserving Utah educators. The Educator of the Year Award was presented to Emily Box, Granite Peaks ESL Teacher, for her innovative work with helping her ESL students gain the skills needed to find jobs.

The Service Award was presented to Murray Meszaros, Utah State Office of Education GED Testing Administrator, for his personal commitment to excellence for ensuring that GED testing centers throughout the state implement an exemplary protocol for administering these tests.



Dr. Lory Curtis, Principal of South Park Academy, was presented the President's Award to recognize his advocacy, dedication and commitment in bringing quality educational opportunities to prisoners within the Utah State Correctional Facilities. Through Lory's leadership, South Park has raised the number of high school diplomas by 59%, increasing every year of his six year tenure.



Sandi Grant, Executive Secretary, Janet O'Riley, Treasurer, and Tracy Moore, MPAEA Board Representative, award door prizes and bid baskets.

Proceeds from bid baskets provided \$50 scholarships for 18 participants to use toward their conference registration. Door prizes provided by sponsor donations helped make the conference fun and enjoyable. As always, conferences wouldn't be successful without generous sponsors. UAACCE would like to thank Zion's Bank for sponsoring Jeff Thredgold, the opening keynote speaker, as well as NovaNET Pearson Learning, Reading Horizons, and Steck-Vaughn. (continued on page 4)

## **(UAACCE) Annual Conference (continued)**

UAACCE Board members were instrumental in planning and facilitating the “Full Service Learning” conference: Tom Borg, Past-President; Heather Young, President-elect and Conference Chair; Sandi Grant, Executive Secretary; Janet O’Riley, Treasurer; Shauna South, Secretary; Katrina Van Cott, Conference Co-Chair; Tracy Moore, MPAEA Representative; Claudia Thorum, MPAEA Representative; Lory Curtis, elected board member; Gayle Mahler, elected member; Nikki Lovell, elected board member; Tyson Smith, vendor liaison, and Carla Kulinsky, elected board member. Without their dedication and commitment to full service learning this conference would not have been possible. The conference ended with Kaye White turning the gavel over to president-elect Heather Young to preside over the UAACCE Board for 2011.



Mark your calendars for the 2011 UAACCE Conference that will be held at Zermatt Resort, in Midway, UT, October 14, 2011.

[www.northwestern.edu/newscenter/](http://www.northwestern.edu/newscenter/)

Patricia Conway Thorpe of Denver received an Alumni Service Award from the Northwestern University Alumni Association. The Alumni Service Award recognizes outstanding alumni who voluntarily delivered loyal service to the University, bettered the Northwestern community and advanced the University’s objectives and ideals.

Pat served 35 years as co-chair of Northwestern’s Colorado Alumni Admission Council and 11 years on the board of the Northwestern Alumni Association (NAA) as a regional director and director at large. Thorpe, a long-time educator, became director of continuing education at Aurora (Colorado) Public Schools in 1993, where she was pivotal in establishing a self-paced high school with computer-assisted instruction.

Pat has won several awards for excellence as an educator and administrator, including Outstanding Adult Educator from Aurora Public Schools in 1994 and an Award of Merit from Mountain Plains Adult Education Association in 2008.

## **NAE offers free Webinars**

In an effort to serve, encourage, and increase membership, the [Nevada Adult Educators organization](#) recently hosted “Using Social Media to Improve Student Learning.” Webinar presenter Jane Bozarth, Ed.D., nationally renowned author of the recently released book “Social Media for Trainers: Techniques for Enhancing and Extending Learning,” discussed techniques and strategies for incorporating social media into the teaching of adults.

The session was offered at no cost to current NAE members, as was the two-part Webinar on persistence the organization offered earlier in 2010. NAE plans to continue offering these distance professional development opportunities.

## **Former MPAEA President, Pat Thorpe honored by Northwestern Alumni Association**



*Patricia J. Thorpe, Ed.D.*

*MPAEA Past President 2004-05*

## **Professional Development Resource Bank**

An outgrowth of the new online Professional Development Self-assessment for Teachers, the [Nevada Adult Education Professional Development Resource Bank](#) contains links to hundreds of resources. It is available to all adult educators, no matter where they work. A huge shout-out to Jane Miller and the Colorado Department of Adult Education for sharing their work and providing the framework for this project! For more information, contact [Sharyn Yanoshak](#).

## CWC Workforce training news!

By Mickey Douglas

Central Wyoming College is pleased to announce three new workforce development training opportunities in Lander and Sinks Canyon Center for Spring 2011.

In January, the facilities maintenance technology program will begin. It is an offshoot of a successful program offered to Fremont County School District 1 special education students through CWC, which has developed curriculum to earn certificates, credentials and associate degrees in this field. Lynne McAuliffe, Assistant Dean of Workforce and Community Education, states, "One of the things driving facilities maintenance is new developments in green building technologies, energy efficiencies and weatherization." Those already employed in facilities maintenance can enroll to upgrade their skills. Topics include safety and tools in construction, team building, building maintenance, crew leadership, communications and employability. Students completing the program will receive a CWC credential.

In April, a Construction Trades program will begin and continue until June. Construction trades has had a lot of success in the Riverton area and is now expanding to Lander. The curriculum of the Construction Trades program includes safety and tools in construction, blueprint reading, framing, and exterior finishing. Students completing the program will receive a CWC credential and can earn an industry-recognized credential.

The new Event Planning and Management program will also begin in April. This course is a non-credit pilot program which will train individuals who are interested in working in the line of wedding planners, hotel, casino, and sports events management. Program topics include an introduction to event planning, event negotiation, contracting, budgeting, risk management, marketing, event coordination/logistics, and a 60-hour practicum.

The trio of programs is made possible by grant funding from the State Energy Sector Partnership and Wyoming Workforce Services. All three programs provide scholarships to those who qualify, hands-on training, and job placement assistance. Applications are currently being accepted for the three training programs. For more information, please contact the Lander Center at (307) 332-3394.

## Colorado CAEPA Conference by Jolene Goerend



### Helen Thorpe reading from her book, *Just Like Us*

The annual CAEPA Rendezvous Conference was held in Denver, CO on October 22 and 23. More than 300 adult education professionals attended each day of the conference! The participants attended a diverse array of breakout sessions on topics ranging from numeracy; SPL 6 bridge classes; developing critical reading skills; preparing ESL learners for work; model partnerships with workforce; educating young adults in the adult education classroom and much, much more!

Friday's conference participants heard an opening speech by Margaret Kirpatrick, Colorado's state director of adult education and family literacy; a plenary address on diversity awareness and cultural sensitivity by Federico Salas-Isnardi; and a lunch address by Helen Thorpe, author of *Just Like Us* and Colorado's First Lady-Elect. CAEPA's Adult Educator of the Year (Sarah Macy), Volunteer of the Year (Bill Rehnquist), and ESL (Gabriela Gutierrez) and GED (Angelica Maestes) Learners of the Year were awarded during lunch on Friday. (continued on page 6)

## Colorado CAEPA Conference

(continued)



Saturday's conference participants were treated to a keynote speech by local author Laura Resau. Lunch brought recognitions of service to adult education for Pam Smith, Colorado's former state director of adult education and family literacy, and Nancy and Ernie Felix, long-time Oxford University Press representatives and supporters of adult education.

One conference scholarship award winner said, "I received a scholarship courtesy of CAEPA and am so appreciative, that as an administrator and GED teacher, I was able to go and synergize with colleagues and experts in the field. I love CAEPA because it reminds me to hold my experiences and methods up to inquiry. It's by doing this that we innovate our teaching to meet our students' needs in fresh, new ways."

### Advocating for Adult Education by Glenda Sinks

It's a tough economic climate, and many state governments have cut funding to adult education; if the state funded them at all. In the face of the shortfalls that plague our state budgets, adult educators should continue to let legislators know that investments in adult education translate into higher earnings for workers and impact the future workforce. Follow these three tips in order to keep our important work in the forefront of our legislator's minds.

Know your legislators.  
Write to your legislators.  
Educate your legislators.



### Advocating for Adult Education (continued)

Now that elections are over, no matter the shift in political power, get to **know your legislators**. What are the legislators' hot buttons? Who is already on our side? Who do we need to win over? Who serves on the Education Committee and the Finance Committee? Build a background of knowledge about your legislator.

As you get to know your legislators, let them get to know you and your program. **Write** to your legislator and congratulate him/her on winning the election. Communicate strategically throughout the legislative session. Each adult education program should contact their legislators four times: Congratulations letters, end of year local reports, request for funding, and invitations to meet with staff and students.

**Educate your legislators.** Create an annual report to share with the legislators. Include your total enrollment, the number of students you served from other countries, average cost per student, the number receiving a GED, number of students served between ages 17-24, etc. Invite legislators to visit your program and special ceremonies to gain firsthand knowledge of adult education. Encourage your students to educate the legislators on what adult education means to them; their voices are the most powerful tool we have.

Art Ellison, the Policy Committee Chair of the National Council of State Directors of Adult Education, is the master of advocating for adult education and many of his thoughts are reflected in this article. He writes, "To influence public policy you need to get the right information to the right people at the right time with multiple messengers."



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**COABE EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE NEARS!**

Register now for the COABE/CCAЕ conference and save \$100! Early registration ends January 26, 2011. As a member of MPАEA you qualify for the membership discount. Visit [www.mpaea.org](http://www.mpaea.org) for a link to the conference registration. Remember to check the box that designates your membership in MPАEA when you register. See you there!

**Member Fee:** \$425.00

Discounted price: \$325.00; if registered by January 26, 2011

[Refund Policy](#)

**Non-Member Fee:** \$500.00

Discounted price: \$400.00; if registered by January 26, 2011

[Refund Policy](#)

**Full conference registration** includes all keynotes, plenary sessions, concurrent sessions, President's Reception: A San Francisco Treat, 2012 Virginia Promotional Event, Sunrise Yoga in Cityscape, Networking and More Next Steps Event. The conference begins with the Opening Session on the morning of Monday, April 18 and ends with field trips to local exemplary programs on Thursday, April 21, 2011.

# National Conference 2011

California Council for Adult Education | CCAE  
 Commission on Adult Basic Education | COABE

California Council for Adult Education & Commission on Adult Basic Education welcomes:

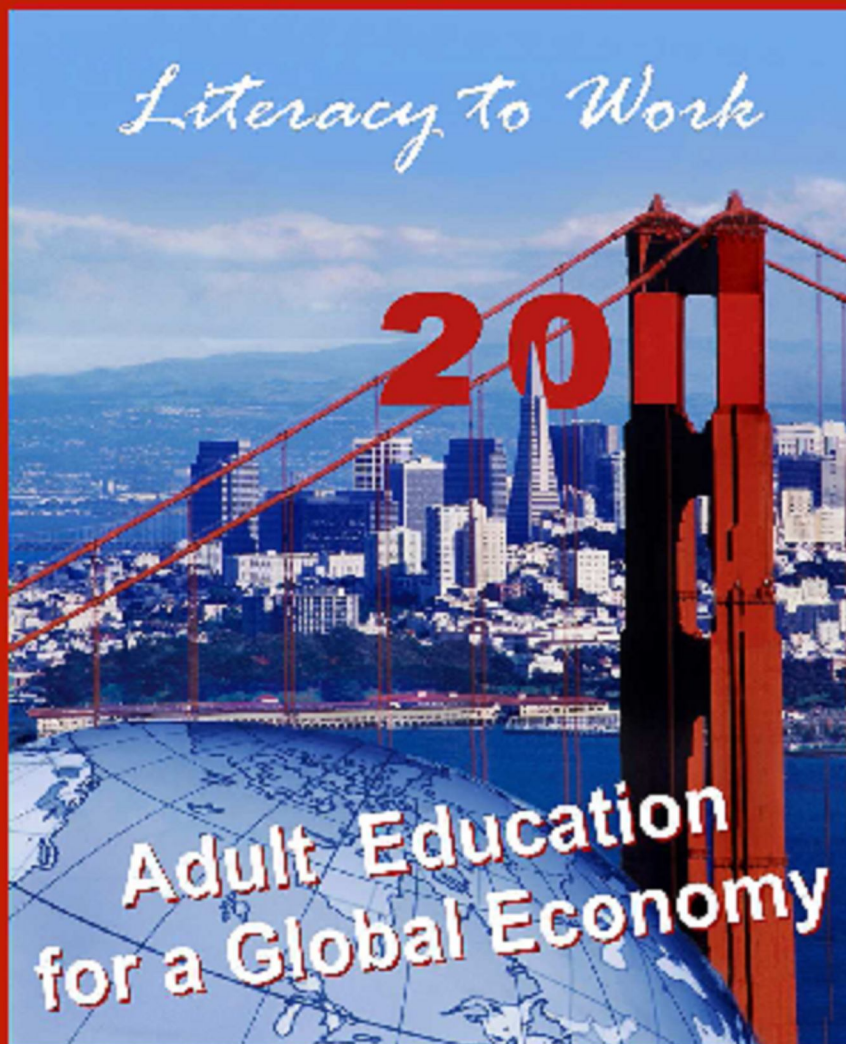


Mountain Plains Adult Education Association (MPAEA)

Mountain Plains Adult Education supports the COABE/CCAЕ National Conference

**April 17–21, 2011**

Come explore new professional development opportunities in everyone's favorite *City by the Bay*



National Conference  
 San Francisco  
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For complete information please visit the website at [www.ccaecoabe2011.com](http://www.ccaecoabe2011.com)