

*Welcome to*



Arizona  
Colorado  
Idaho  
Montana  
Nevada  
New Mexico  
Utah  
Wyoming

# MPAEA Newsletter

September 2013

## A Word from our President, Tracy Moore



It is with a mixture of excitement and terror that I take the reins of the MPAEA Presidency. Each year I look forward to meeting with many of you at our MPAE Conference. I get a chance to feed off of your energy and enthusiasm that you have for your jobs. I am inspired by the dedication that adult educators have shown through this past recession and draw strength in the unit that we have as an organization.

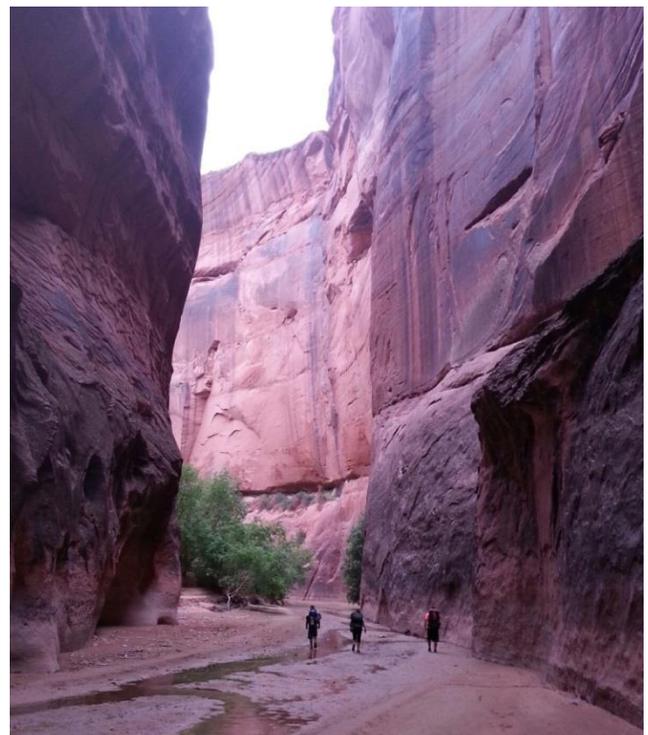
I was in awe of the efforts of a teacher in a correctional facility in Wyoming that is creating a Family Literacy program where inmates can record readings of children's books and send the audio file home to their children.

I was uplifted by the stories of teachers that have taken the bold challenge to have 66% of our adult workforce obtain a degree or vocational certificate by the year 2020. They are not just preparing their students for the increased rigor of the new common core standards and GED but are infusing career awareness into each lesson.

I am encouraged by the tremendous support that state directors have given to the local organizations by setting aside funds for their educators to attend

MPAEA and other state and regional trainings, valuable training in transitioning, ESL training, and financial literacy to name just a few.

This past summer I took my family on a hike through Buckskin Gulch, the longest slot canyon in the US. This gulch is located in the desert near the Utah – Arizona border. It is dry and only has water run through it when it rains. It occurred to me as we made the 21 mile hike that it must have taken millions of years to form this canyon when the only erosion occurs from the occasional rains and through flash floods. Each rainfall contributing to the depth of the canyon would be miniscule, but over time, as the water flowed through the same path, a great wonder was formed and the beauty and majesty was beyond description.



## A Word from Tracy (Cont.)

As we continue to move forward and help our students move forward, we will continue to encounter challenges. My hope as President of MPAEA is that we can be a resource to you individually to help you meet those challenges. If there is an issue you come across, most likely someone in our organization has come across it previously. Utilize the strength of a broad organization. Take advantage of the wisdom and expertise of those who have taken the path before and as we move our students through the narrow canyons of life, we can know that our efforts have made a significant difference.

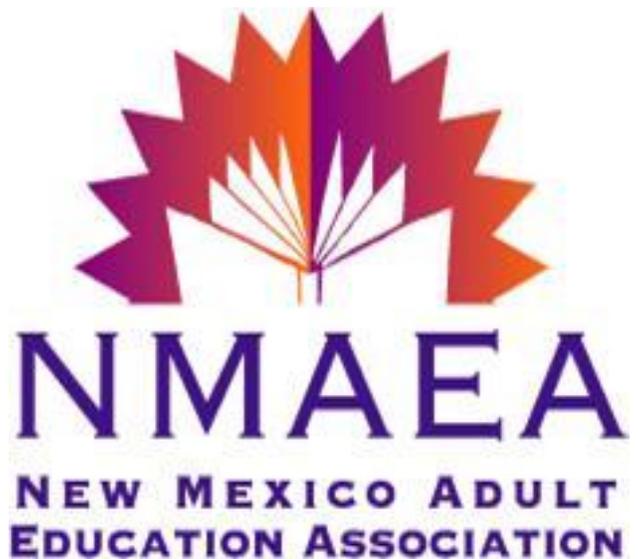
### Greetings from New Mexico, the Land of Enchantment

Adult Educators in the State of New Mexico are extremely proud of the work that we do. We have 26 Adult Education programs throughout the state and we provide services for over 20,000 students every year. Our state is demographically and geographically unique. We are blessed with many Native American cultures: the Apache, the Navajo, the numerous Pueblos, and the Zuni. We cherish the richness of our Hispanic culture. What we lack in water resources we make up for with breathtaking vistas and rich mineral deposits.



Our Adult Education programs are as varied as our population. We have numerous Native American serving programs – Alamo Navajo, Dine’ College, Sage Lifelong Learning, and Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI), are some of these programs. Many of our programs service the urban areas of Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Farmington and Las Cruces. One of our programs is one of the few dual minority serving campuses in the country.

While we are proud of our achievements we are also aware of the challenges that we face. With the current push toward common core standards and the GED 2014, we are looking at our programming and curriculum in a different light. We are looking for an alternative to the GED 2014 and working hard to bring the best programming and education to our students in New Mexico. Currently we are looking into alternatives to the GED to make the high school equivalency examinations more reasonable for our students.



NMAEA extends an invitation to attend our annual joint conference with NMTESOL on October 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> in Albuquerque. For more information about the New Mexico Adult Education Association (NMAEA) and/or our upcoming conference go to our web site at <http://www.nmaea.net/>.



## **An Award Winning Arizona Adult Education Program**

*By Lindell W. Rhodes, M. A.*

Maricopa County Adult Probation Department (MCAPD) has initiated some of the best innovative and creative educational programming in the state. MCAPD's Education Program was recognized as an exemplary community corrections program and commended for advancing the effectiveness of MCAPD's Mission and goals. The Education Program won the American Probation and Parole Association's (APPA) President's award. APPA acknowledged the supportive nature of the Education Program and recognized the Program's positive impact on client's lives. The Instruction in basic education, GED classes and JOB Preparation are areas that match client's needs and make a difference in lives of clients, their families and the community.

MCAPD has been successful at providing educationally challenged court clients and other educationally disadvantaged adults with quality education programs of instruction. The efficiency of MCAPD is shown each year as they surpass the mandated State and Federal education goals. MCAPD is recognized as a leader in service to clients who need to improve their reading and writing or math skills. During FY 2013 the MCAPD Education Program continued to provide exceptional educational services, assisting clients in becoming literate, obtaining knowledge and the skills necessary for employment, and gaining self-sufficiency, thereby contributing to reduced recidivism.

The Education Program provided Adult Basic Education reading, writing, math, social studies,

science classes, GED prep classes, and English (ESOL) classes for approximately 2000 probationers and community members. These classes are presented morning, afternoon, and night to accommodate most work schedules. The education centers are co-located at probation offices in Glendale, Mesa, and at the Garfield office in central Phoenix; also special life-skills classes are provided by staff at the Maricopa County Homeless Shelter in Phoenix.

Direct support from the Chief resulted in the JOBS Program receiving 10 new internet connected computers. The Education Program made significant progress in advancing their probationer JOBS class that assists students in writing a resume, applying for jobs online, and preparing for job interviews, with special emphasis on how to discuss felony convictions, appropriate attitude, and presentation. In addition, the clients received a paper and electronic copy of their resumes. This class is conducted at Garfield and open to all probationers in the Department.

The MCAPD Education Program was recognized by Arizona Department of Education as the number ONE Adult Education Program in the State as determined by student outcomes. The annual Department of Education Report Card documented students' progress in their studies, obtaining employment, obtaining a GED and entering post-secondary education or training. The Education Program works closely with State and Federal Departments of Education and enjoys tremendous support from other state, county and local jurisdictions. MCAPD was provided assistance with funding the Education Program through grants from the Federal Department of Education.

A foundation for the Program's success can be attributed to the use of Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) and Managing for Results requirements. EBP principles are intertwined into the curriculum and assist the probationers/students in understanding and addressing their identified criminogenic needs, along with teaching them educational skills that

## Award Winning Program (Cont.)

contribute to positive behavioral change. MCAPD, the County and the Education Department regularly monitor the program's Managing for Results (MFR) data. The MFR and Department of Education data is impressive as a result of APD learners completing education programs with high rates of success and a large percentage acquiring a job and enrolling in college and technical schools.

Last year the education centers had numerous probationers/students turn around their negative lifestyles and advance into pro-social activities. Some enrolled in the University of Phoenix, Maricopa County Skills Centers, the Steiner Institute or one of three different community colleges.

The creativity, uniqueness, and pride each teacher demonstrates daily in the classroom are evident. The Adult Probation Department provides successful individualized programs of study to all adult learners, which in turn enables all to succeed and break the crime cycle! This success is evident as two students proved last year. Jerbyra and her husband, Lavaar, began studying for their GED. After a short time, they determined that it would be best for their family if only one attended. Jerbyra backed out to allow her husband to continue his study in order to have his GED in time to register for school. Following her husband's success, Jerbyra returned and was able to complete her GED. Last year,

Jerbyra and her husband obtained their GED's and crossed the GED Graduation stage together to be recognized for their achievements.

The MCAPD's Education Program is one of the many tools that are available for our clients to help them break the cycle of crime and poverty.



## Nevada Adult Education

*By Olu Akinhyele  
CCSD Dept. of Adult Education*

Adult Education is alive and well in the State of Nevada, achieving significant success in spite of limited funding and budget cuts brought about by this difficult economic times. In Clark County alone, nearly 600 proud students donned their cap and gowns for the June 7, 2013 graduation at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Thomas & Mack Auditorium. About 1,000 Adult Education Graduates were eligible to participate. This feat was duplicated in relative scales all around the State. We are looking forward to bigger things in 2014.

Nearly 600 proud students donned their cap and gowns for the June 7 graduation at UNLV's Thomas & Mack Auditorium. Almost 1000 graduates were eligible to participate. We congratulate them all.





## Welcome MPAEA's New Journal Editor, Karen Kaminski

I am honored to serve as the Editor for the Journal of Adult Education. As educators, we have a responsibility to not only stay current with new research and advances in our field, but to share our own practices and experiences so others can benefit from our work. I look forward to supporting the dissemination of research and practice in our field. I believe this is a wonderful opportunity for each of you to reflect on your practice. Please consider submitting a manuscript for review.

We are currently accepting submissions of manuscripts for peer review, continuing the tradition of publishing two volumes each year. Submissions can include research, technique/application in practice, or book reviews. I will work with the current editorial board and submission reviewers. Doctoral and masters students will be assisting with the review and production process as well. If you are interested in serving on the board or reviewing submissions, please let me know.

I welcome assistance and am willing to mentor those who want to learn. If you are interested in helping develop a special issue on a specific topic, please let me know.

Please visit the MPAEA Website for information on how to develop and submit your manuscript. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Karen Kaminski, Ph.D.

I serve as the Chair of the Master of Education with a Specialization in Adult Education and Training at Colorado State University, teaching courses both on-campus and online. While I have worked in this capacity for 15 years, I have facilitated learning for adults in a number of different informal areas all related to computer technology, educational technology, and good practices in teaching and learning.

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

213 Education  
School of Education  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523-1588  
Tel: (970) 491 3713

Click this link for publishing guidelines:  
[mpaea.org/pdf/mpaea\\_journal\\_guidelines.pdf](http://mpaea.org/pdf/mpaea_journal_guidelines.pdf)

**MPAEA Conference  
Albuquerque, NM  
April 2014**

**Watch the website for  
more information!**