



MPAEA NEWS

APRIL 21, 2015

**COABE - Commission on Adult Basic Education
MPAEA - Mountain Plains Adult Education
And
CAEPA - Colorado Adult Education Professional Association (CAEPA)**

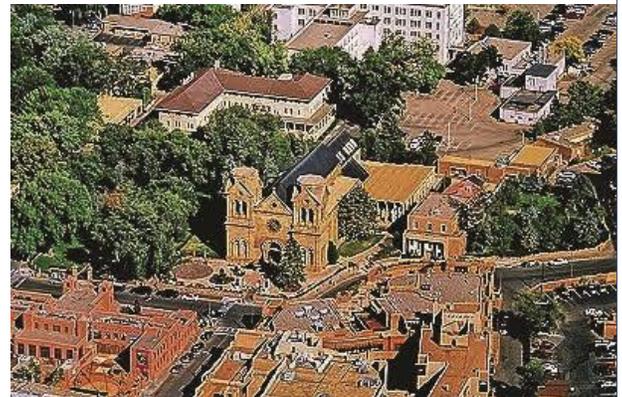
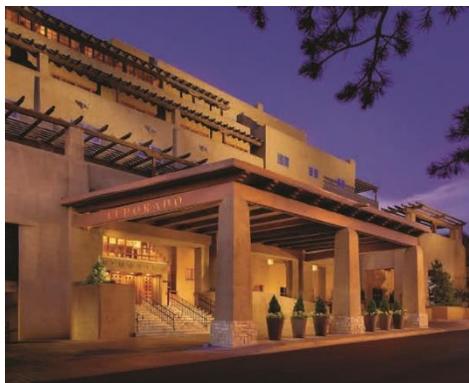
**2015 Annual Conference
In Denver, Colorado**

April 21-24, 2015



Looking forward to great newsletter articles and pictures to share with colleagues next month!!! Refresh your memory with these great articles from the 2014 MPAEA Conference in Santa Fe, NM.

Pictures courtesy of AALL Newsletter, September 2014



ATTENDING THE MPAEA CONFERENCE, SANTE FE

By Marie Bialorucki, Adjunct Faculty, Central Arizona College

(Taken from AALL Newsletter, September 2014)

The MPAEA Conference was held Sunday, April 27th through Wednesday, April 30th, 2014. The MPAEA is the professional organization for the Mountain Plains Region focusing on Adult Education in the following nine states: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. The conference kicked off with pre-session workshops and a Welcome Reception at the Georgia O'Keefe Museum. It was a nice relaxing way to mingle and meet people prior to the conference session.

Monday, April 28th, the conference kicked off with an opening ceremony similar to the Olympics. Each state presented their state flag and welcome to the conference. It was a unifying event that made all conference attendees feel part of a team. It really set a positive tone for the entire 3 days. The people attending the conference were all unified by all the new challenges that are currently facing Adult Education and educators across the region. The new testing requirements and different approaches from each state made for lots of conversations during the event.

States are experiencing a lot of change throughout their programs. The conference gave us the opportunity to talk about these changes and problem solve for solutions together for the good of all Adult Education. One of the most interesting facts presented was the fact that there are currently three different High School Equivalency exams being offered throughout the Mountain Plains Region; the HiSET (High School Equivalency Test), TASC (Test Assessing Secondary Completion), and GED 2014 by Pearson Corporation. It was also interesting to note that many states are offering more than one option for their adult education students to choose which test is right for their needs. Arizona and New Mexico are only currently offering the GED 2014 for their adult learners. While I am curious if there will be others offered in the future, I mainly focused on the tests that are available to my Arizona students.

The increased testing requirements and rigor were some of the main focus points at the MPAEA conference. Several sessions were offered for assistance on Extended Response categories, Mathematical Reasoning, Science Instruction that Works, LACES student management systems, Political Advocacy for Adult Education, and Essential Computer Skills necessary to be successful for the new tests. Regardless of which test their states were offering, there were plenty of good content rich sessions to help educators at all levels of professionalism in the Adult Education world. Whether you were an instructor, supervisor, Program Manager, or Program Director, different components will reach all levels in the profession.

Overall, the content was varied and directed towards all levels of educators attending the conference. The sessions on Extended Response and Mathematical Reasoning were great enthusiastic, informative, and entertaining sessions. The GED 2014 session really helped me understand the testing requirements, content expectations, and overall skills necessary for my students to be successful on the new online version of the 2014 GED Test. The presenter for the GED 2014 session works directly with the test and the computer online program, so it was easy to ask questions, clarify concerns, and feel confident that I am instructing students in the most effective way for their success.

The sessions gave some good tips for educators. Mathematical Reasoning and Hands on Banking talked a lot about relating Math to real life scenarios. People use math daily by balancing their checkbooks, shopping at stores, and paying their bills. The more ways you can have students do their math like they already do when they shop or balance their accounts, the less fear they will have relating to math. Also, the

MPAEA IN SANTA FE (Continued)

course reminded us to have the student not guess, but actually explain how they are working out the problems. The new testing requirements and standards are all about having students explain the process of their solutions, not just focus on a single answer. The session about Retention and Persistence did team building activities and games as a way to make the room environment more comfortable for students so they want to come to class instead of dread coming to class. If they interview each other, play jeopardy, who's who in the room, and have students work together in a cooperative fun learning environment, they will be more likely to continue attending than drop out. I have personally played four corners and name games with the students in the first week of class, and it really makes a difference for setting a positive tone in the room and helps ease the tension of students. The most important tip I could give for educators is to really make connections with your students. Set reasonable goals together, and follow up to ensure the students are able to feel confident in their own learning. This will lead to higher student gains, higher retention, and increased attendance.

Overall, it was so nice to be able to share and communicate and bond with fellow educators who share the same passion, commitment, and hope for Adult education. The networking with fellow instructors, and educators across the state was priceless. That feeling that someone can completely relate and brainstorm ideas to help programs improve is vital to keeping things moving in a positive direction. As an instructor for the past 8 years in Adult Education, this was my first opportunity to be able to attend a regional level event and interact with fellow educators who truly understand the day to day trials and tribulations I face as an Adult Education instructor. During our state level meeting, I explained to Blair Liddicoat, Program Manager for Rio Salado College that, "I learned more about Adult Education in 3 days that I have learned in several years." The networking is so important to keep the motivational level high for both the educator and the student. I was able to connect and form relationships with educators from several states. It's nice to know that we are a unified group working towards a common goal in Adult Education.

Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning (AALL) is an incredible organization that helps so many people. The passion for education and learning is something that should be kept inspired in everyone. As educators, we understand the value and the need for continuous learning. It is so important to share our values and passion and keep the movement going for all. I am very appreciative for AALL for the opportunity to experience such a wonderful event in the MPAEA Conference. This experience has sparked my passion for helping everyone see the positive impacts and continuous growth for adult learners in our communities. Thank you AALL.

ADULT EDUCATION LEGISLATIVE DAY

Let's join Nevada and actively participate in Legislative Day with our Students!
(Taken from the Nevada New Beginnings Newsletter.)



ADULT EDUCATION LEGISLATIVE DAY (Cont.)

The very first Legislative Day for Adult Education in the State of Nevada took place on Friday, February 13, in Carson City. Over 25 adult educators and students, including program directors and Department of Education officials, got to meet with individual assemblymen and Senators. The topic was, "The Importance of Adult Education in the State of Nevada". The message was clear- Adult Education needs and deserves continued funding.

In order to see firsthand what contributions Adult Education is making to change people's lives for the better, legislators were invited to visit adult education programs in their district when they return home. The highlight of the assembly meeting that day was that adult educators in attendance were formally recognized on the house floor, another first for Adult Education! The Nevada Adult Educators Organization plans to make this a bi-annual event at each legislative session. To all in attendance, thank you for giving Adult Education a LEGISLATIVE VOICE.



Job Advertisement

Literacy Services Manager at Las Vegas-Clark County Library District

Ideal candidate will possess a Master's Degree in Library Science or a Master's Degree in education or closely related field. The Literacy Services Manager will design, implement and evaluate district-wide instructional literacy programs, establish and maintain cooperative relationships with other agencies, manage the Literacy operating budget, recruit and hire instructors, manage placement of clients, etc. See a complete position description and apply at <http://www.lvcld.org/about/employment.cfm>.

Call for Submissions - Journal of Adult Education

Karen Kaminski, Ph.D. Editor

The Journal of Adult Education is a refereed journal intended to serve as a voice for the translation of theory into practice. Mountain Plains Adult Education Association (MPAEA) is a professional association dedicated to the application of theory to practice in the learning-teaching transaction for adults. Authors are encouraged to submit clearly written research articles, technique manuscripts, and book reviews which have the potential of stimulating thought, discussion, and inquiry.

The Journal of Adult Education accepts submissions in the following categories:

Research Articles. Address concepts, theories, and research findings of particular interest and significance to adult education professionals.

Technique Articles. Describe examples of innovative practice and procedures in relationship to recognized principles of adult education research and practice.

Book Reviews. Describe the content of a book, evaluate the book's success in accomplishing the intended purpose, and give a recommendation based on the book's relevance and benefits to adult education professionals.

Access full guidelines for submission: <https://www.mpaea.org/?page=publications>

Watch for photos and articles from your colleagues at COABE 2015!!!