

# MPAEA NEWS

FEBRUARY 17, 2016



## Letter from the President

Dear MPAEA Members,

Each one of our states is so unique! I'm sure that uniqueness will shine as we have highlighted the various approaches each state takes to professional development. As you look at these different approaches, you might get some ideas for professional development that can be done in your state. On the other hand, you might breathe a sigh of relief knowing that you don't have the hoops to jump through that others have.

Speaking of being unique, be sure to attend the 2016 MPAEA Conference set along the beautiful Boise River at the Riverside Hotel. Don't be surprised to see beaver and birds of all kinds as you stroll the greenbelt next to the hotel grounds. The Conference Committee of the Idaho Lifelong Learning Association is putting the final touches on the conference so that you will have much to take back to your programs. You will also, no doubt, take back a feeling of refreshment and peace from being in this environment. Many thanks to those who are working so hard to make this a memorable conference.

Please give serious thought to those who deserve to be nominated for the Award of Merit and the Award of Excellence. An article in this newsletter gives more information on these awards as does our website.

I look forward to meeting you at the conference. Be sure to come up and introduce yourself to me. Enjoy the newsletter!

Sincerely,  
Glenda Sinks  
MPAEA President

## Check out the news from



We had our fall conference last November 6th at the Cochise College location. The keynote speaker was Kelly Crawford from the AZ Department of Education and Mr. William Durdan, Policy Associate, I-BEST Washington. The conference focus was on I-Best, Workforce partners, and connections and pathways to college. This was also our awards conference. Our next conference is scheduled for May 6th. We are still working on presenters.

For Arizona Adult Literacy Week, we have an awards event on the 18th showcasing student entries across the state on the importance of education and literacy. The entries are digital only to promote digital literacy as well. These include digital stories, PowerPoint presentations, newsletters, etc. We had over 150 entries! One award will come from our state association. During this week, many programs pick their student ambassadors to visit the Capitol and speak with some representatives to advocate for adult ed.

Our state association just had a board retreat a couple of weeks ago. We are looking to create a new web site with new hosting. We are also starting to put teams together to plan out the COABE 2018 conference here. One priority we have this year is to increase our membership as this is one of the points in the COABE MOU. It is also something we have been working on anyway.



Submitted by Phillip Suriano,  
Sr. Board Member of MPAEA  
President of Arizona Association of Lifelong Learning

## Professional Development in the Mountain and Plains Adult Education Region

As a part of our mission to share best practices and policies that are happening in our region, we've posed a series of questions to our state board representatives regarding teacher credentialing and professional development requirements. Much thanks to all for their responses. It's clear that our practices are as varied as our states. Some of our member states require a teaching credential for adult educators. Others encourage local programs to set requirements, offer mandated new teacher orientations, or provide opportunities to attend targeted trainings in relevant content areas like numeracy or career pathways. Read on to learn more about what's happening in your region, and check out the list of opportunities at the end of this article. Many of these can be accessed directly online.

### ***Do teachers in your state need specific authorization or certification to teach adult education?***

**AZ:** Yes. Arizona requires an adult education teaching certification. The certification is good for three years with the state and then must be renewed every six years. The state is considering a formal process with professional learning for this certification.

**CO:** Yes. Colorado requires the Adult Basic Education Authorization (ABEA) for teachers in programs funded through OCTAE. It must be renewed every five years. Obtaining the ABEA can be achieved through undergraduate or graduate level coursework, documentation of job experience and professional training, or a combination of several of these elements. It provides for exposure to adult basic education, adult secondary education, program administration, and ELL.

**ID:** No. Idaho does not have a state requirement for credentials or authorization to teach in programs funded under Title II of WIOA. Limited funding can make it hard to pay the kind of wages that attract instructors with high levels of experience and credentials; Idaho seeks to provide flexibility to local programs in regards to hiring staff that best meet their needs.

## ***Teacher Certification? (Cont.)***

**MT:** In our state, this varies with each program. The requirement in our Great Falls Program is that all teachers have to be certified because we are under the Great Falls Public School umbrella. Those programs that are not tied to a school district do not have the certified teacher requirement.

**ND:** No. The state does not require an adult education or ELL credential, but individual programs may and frequently do in order to ensure program credibility and to promote professionally trained educators.

**NM:** There is no specific state authorization or certification for Adult Education instructors. Many individual programs establish their own criteria for instructors. At my branch of NMSU they require an Associate's Degree.

**NV:** No, it is a local program decision. If the adult education program is housed in a school district, instructors must have a state teaching license.

**UT:** According to the Utah State Board Rules: Individuals teaching an adult education high school completion class shall hold a valid Utah elementary or secondary education license and may issue adult education high school completion credits in multiple subjects. Non-licensed individuals providing instruction in ESOL, ABE, GED Test preparation or AHSC classes shall instruct under the supervision of a licensed program employee.

**WY:** No. Wyoming teachers do not need to be state certified to teach adult education. Most of our centers require that applicants have a Bachelor's degree though some are degreed at higher levels. A statewide credential may be a possibility in future.



***Are teachers required to complete a specified number of hours or credits of professional development annually?***

**AZ:** Yes. If instructors are supported through grant funds, 10% of employed time must be towards professional learning.

**CO:** A qualified "no." Individual program directors may set requirements, but the state makes a recommendation based on a teacher's weekly hours of instruction. Teachers are encouraged to complete an annual self-assessment of PD needs and report PD hours to program directors. These PD hours may count towards renewal of the ABEA, which requires 90 clock hours of training or 6 semester hours of relevant coursework.

**ID:** A qualified "no." A number of trainings are required for new teachers, which include a New Teacher Orientation, training on data/reporting systems such as NRS, and training on assessment policy and administration. Idaho is also developing a statewide training to engage and train lead teachers and other experienced program staff to become dedicated mentors. Idaho does not currently have an annual PD requirement for current teachers.

**MT:** Again, because we are under the public school umbrella, our certified teachers are under the same contractual professional development hours/credits per their contract as all other certified teachers in the district.

**ND:** No specific hours are required by North Dakota, but local agencies may set such requirements.

**NM:** The state provides professional development programs face-to-face and online but there is no specific requirement as to the amount of hours that an instructor must attend. Many programs have minimal budgets that make it difficult to attend face-to-face meetings.

**NV:** This is a local program decision.



### ***Required Professional Development? (Continued)***

**UT:** Level 1 teachers need to have 100 points to renew their license. They can earn up to 50 points from teaching full-time, so the other 50 points would need to come from professional development activities. Level 2 teachers need 200 points to renew their license. They can earn up to 105 points from teaching full-time, so the other 95 would need to come from professional development activities. Adult Education programs in the state are required to have 80% of their staff attend USOE (Utah State Office of Education) sponsored professional development as well.

**WY:** A qualified "no." All new teachers complete a state training that is available online as well as course material. Although the state does not set a specific requirement for training, trainings on a particular topic may be required. In the past, State directors have completed the Leadership Excellence Academy (LEA). Administrators and staff recently completed a multi-year training program for becoming PowerPath Certified, and centers are moving towards having Career Pathways certified instructors on staff.

### ***Are teachers paid for professional development in your state?***

**AZ:** Most state and program-supported professional development is paid. Some opportunities that are made available are not.

**CO:** This varies program to program, depending on budget allocations for professional development. Other variances might be full-time vs. part-time status of employees.

**ID:** Idaho provides professional development budgets to local programs, which include the cost of teachers' time for attendance.

**MT:** This varies.

**ND:** Teachers attending professional development activities are paid according to their individual employment contracts; if the activity occurs on a contracted day, teachers are paid.

## ***Paid Professional Development? (Continued)***

**NM:** There can be some reimbursements to programs for professional development attendance, but in many cases it is up to the programs to compensate the teachers for attending. One of the difficulties with my program is that my instructors are all part-time and are restricted by college rules to 19 hours per week. Any professional development time is then taken away from their classroom time.

**NV:** This is a local program decision.

**UT:** The pay lanes/rates are impacted by college credit and USOE credit. I would say this largely depends on the budget of the district or school you work for and the emphasis placed on leaders for professional development. Again, the state asks that programs set aside a certain percentage of the budget to pay for educators' professional development. USOE will sometimes reimburse programs for individuals' mileage, hotel, and substitutes.

**WY:** Most centers pay their staff for time and cost of any professional development, though that can vary center to center. Some centers not only will pay for professional development but will assist with higher education costs for Masters Degrees.

### ***Cite some effective professional development that you have had in your state and recommend to other states.***

**AZ:** Align & Redesign ([alignandredesign.com](http://alignandredesign.com))  
PowerPath to Education and Employment ([powerpath.com](http://powerpath.com))  
English Language Acquisition Institute through the LSS  
Center for New Americans



AZ's Math Institute  
Learning to Achieve  
LINCS – Learning Community  
ELL-U  
Implementing CCR Standards in  
Adult Ed  
Adult Numeracy Instruction  
Professional Development  
Institutes



**Hoping to see you in Boise, ID  
for the  
MPAEA Conference.**

**Go to [www.MPAEA.com](http://www.MPAEA.com)  
for conference information.**

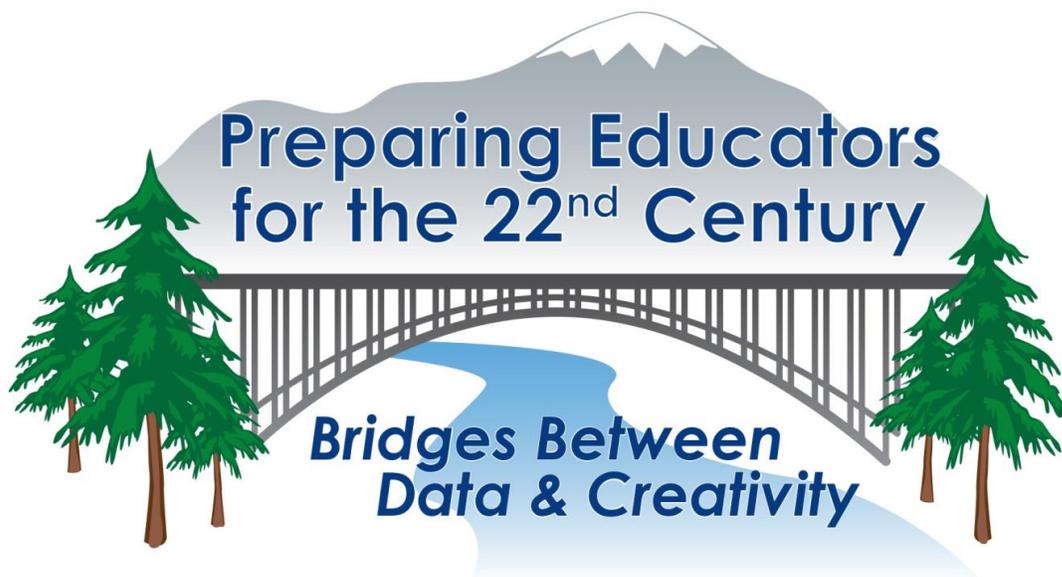
**Early bird registration ends April 1!**

**Preparing Educators for the 22nd Century -  
Bridges Between Data & Creativity**

**70 Years Strong! Mountain Plains Adult Education Conference  
April 26-30, 2016 | The Riverside Hotel, Boise, Idaho**

**When you reserve your room at the beautiful Riverside Hotel, be  
sure to specify that you are with the MPAEA conference.**

**[www.riversideboise.com](http://www.riversideboise.com)**





## Recognizing Our Stars!



We know you are busy helping students, but why not take a few minutes to nominate someone who is a superstar in your state? The **2016 MPAEA Awards Nomination form** can be found on our website: <https://www.mpaea.org/?page=awards> Please complete the form and send it to the chair of our Awards Committee, Karen Albiston (kalbiston@batc.edu) by **March 21!**

**Each state** will be able to recognize one individual who has made significant contributions to the advancement of adult education at the state or local level. This is the **AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**. It is always a fun time to hear about these individuals at the MPAEA Awards Banquet.

The **AWARD OF MERIT** honors one individual who has made an outstanding contribution toward furthering the concept of adult education throughout his or her lifetime. One award is given per year. This individual's contributions may be on a community, state, regional, or national level.

### **LAY LEADER OF THE YEAR**

This award is to honor people in professions outside education who have proven to be close friends or allies of adult education and lifelong learning. Examples include legislators, community leaders, business leaders, religious leaders, and others. The recipient need not be a member of MPAEA. One award is given per year.

Be sure to download the nomination form from the website; there you will also find residency and other requirements that the nominees need to meet. Thanks for taking time to honor those that do so much in our field of adult education.

## **MPAEA Journal Submissions**

The MPAEA Journal of Adult Education is published twice a year. Each issue includes research articles, application articles, and a book review intended to help inform your practice in adult education and to provide new ideas that you might apply. We accept manuscripts year round. If you have a unique technique that works for you or have other resources you would like to share with your colleagues, please consider submitting to the Journal. Feel free to contact Karen Kaminski, the editor, if you have questions. She is happy to give you feedback and help you build your article. Looking forward to hearing from you!

You can reach her by email: [karen.kaminski@colostate.edu](mailto:karen.kaminski@colostate.edu)

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