



# MPAEA NEWS

DECEMBER 14, 2017

## A Message from the President

Greetings as we are on the doorstep of another holiday season. On behalf of the entire MPAEA Board, may the season find each of you a true sense of peace and may the New Year be all you hope it will.

I want to share a couple of very important things with each of you.

**First**, we are in the process of transitioning to a new website. Please take a look at the "draft" version located at the link below. If you have ideas or suggestions or are familiar with Wild Apricot, please share that information with your state board members. <https://mpaea.wildapricot.org/page-18046>

**Second**, as our friends at the Arizona Association for Lifelong Learner (AALL) will be partnering with COABE to host COABE's national conference in Phoenix March 25-28, MPAEA will not be hosting our conference. More conference information is located on this link: <https://www.coabe.org/conference-2018/>

We will still be having our state bid baskets at the conference in Phoenix, along with our pre- and post-conference board meetings and our annual meeting. We do encourage all MPAEA members to attend the COABE conference in Phoenix in March. We hope to see you there.

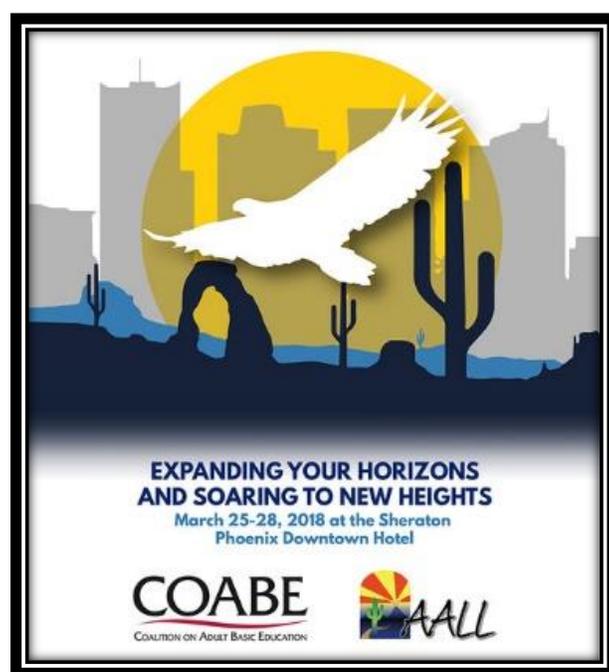
**Third**, we are proud to announce the partnership between Mountain Plains Adult Education Association and the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education (AAACE). This partnership will provide a wonderful value to both organizations as we encourage and support each other's members, provide communication between organizations, and recognize leaders at conferences.

**Fourth**, the board has been supportive of my mission to become a more efficient organization and enhance the value for each membership dollar. We are doing this in several unique ways. We have taken the 17 board committees and projects and folded them into four main committees with an executive board member serving as the chair of each of the four main committees. This will provide efficiency and improve effectiveness. We are updating our handbook of guidelines, policies, and procedures to reflect this reorganization as well as to reflect today's MPAEA. Lastly, as was mentioned earlier we are transitioning to a new website. This robust website will be a one stop shop for MPAEA. Members will be able to renew memberships, pay for conferences, purchase MPAEA swag, find our resources, utilize topic blogs, and so much more.

As you can see we have a lot on our plate and a lot of work to do. We also need your help. Be supportive of your association. MPAEA is here to serve you, but we need you as well. Communicate with your state board members, write articles for our MPAEA newsletter and journal, attend state and regional conferences, and be willing to serve as a board member. In the Mountain Plains Adult Education Association, there is no them or us. There is only we. All of us are working together to improve our association and in turn, improve adult education in our nine-state region.

If you have questions or want to communicate directly with me, I am available at [tgravel@west-fargo.k12.nd.us](mailto:tgravel@west-fargo.k12.nd.us) Be well my friends!

Thomas Gavel, Ph. D.  
West Fargo Adult Learning  
Center, North Dakota



## **Tim Turk—Headed in the Right Direction *A Student Success Story***

Have you ever gotten tired of doing the same thing over and over again? For Tim Turk, it was driving a truck on the same route for 16 years. The repetition of traveling the same roads day after day, finally drove him to desire a career change. Many times people change direction midway through their careers because they either can't handle it physically, or they have changed their focus or passion.

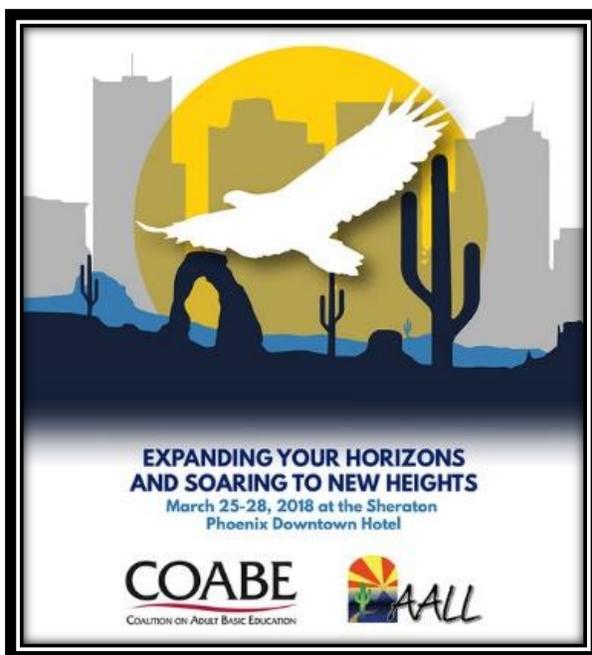
Tim has always been interested in mechanics of some sort and actually wanted to work on motorcycles. He looked into different programs at Casper College to see what would be the best fit. Even though Casper College doesn't have a motorcycle program, he opted for the Diesel Technology because it would give him several career choices down the road. The first step was to get his high school equivalency certificate so he could attend college classes.



This is where his good friend, Albert Fagan, comes in. Albert had already decided to attend the Adult Learning Center for his equivalency, and he talked Tim into attending with him. They both took advantage of the different offerings at the ALC by studying Math independently in the Guided Lab and attending Language class. It was encouraging to see both of them support each other as they spent many hours studying in the Guided Lab and Language class. Tim says he appreciated being able to study at his own pace, and also taking the pre-assessment so he only had to work on the material he needed.

It didn't take Tim long to make gain and pass his HiSET test. He had already been planning to attend college, so he got a head start by making appointments with the people who could help him get into college, such as Natalie with the Educational Opportunity Center and an advisor with the Diesel program. Because Tim had his paperwork completed ahead of time, he actually landed the very last spot in the Diesel Technology program and started classes this fall. When asked what advice he would give to an ALC student, he responded, "Start the process immediately, so you will be ready for college when you pass the test."

It's never too late to change directions in one's career pathway. Education is the first step in getting on with that journey. Tim's motivation and desire for a better life, plan for his career pathway, and the help of a good friend, have made him a successful student headed in the right direction.



Sue Sigler, Instructor  
Adult Learning Center at  
Casper College

## NDALL President's Education Reflection...Celebrating Victories

Hello, my name is Dr. Penny Veit-Hetletved. I am the Director of Education, Training, and Core Correctional Practices of the ND Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Through that role, I have the honor to be involved in many phenomenal organizations. I currently serve as the president of the ND Association for Lifelong Learning (NDALL) which is the Adult Ed and Alternative High School Association for our great state. The last week in September was the annual conference which was my job to plan, coordinate, and fret over. It struck me during this time just how fortunate we are within the DOCR and in education to be able to relish a great deal of triumph for folks. We assist in writing "change" chapters for those we serve...people who, no matter what their circumstances, age, or status, accomplished life-changing results. **Victory.**

Sometimes, we need to slow ourselves down and really pause to celebrate the victories. We had a student at JRCC (James River Correctional Center—medium custody) be named student of the year for the NDALL association (no I didn't vote 😊). Not only was this an honor, but this gentleman (through the work of a village) was able to be transported from Jamestown to the conference in Bismarck where he was able to receive his honor in person and deliver a speech around the theme of never giving up. Did I mention he did so in snazzy dress clothes? **Victory.**



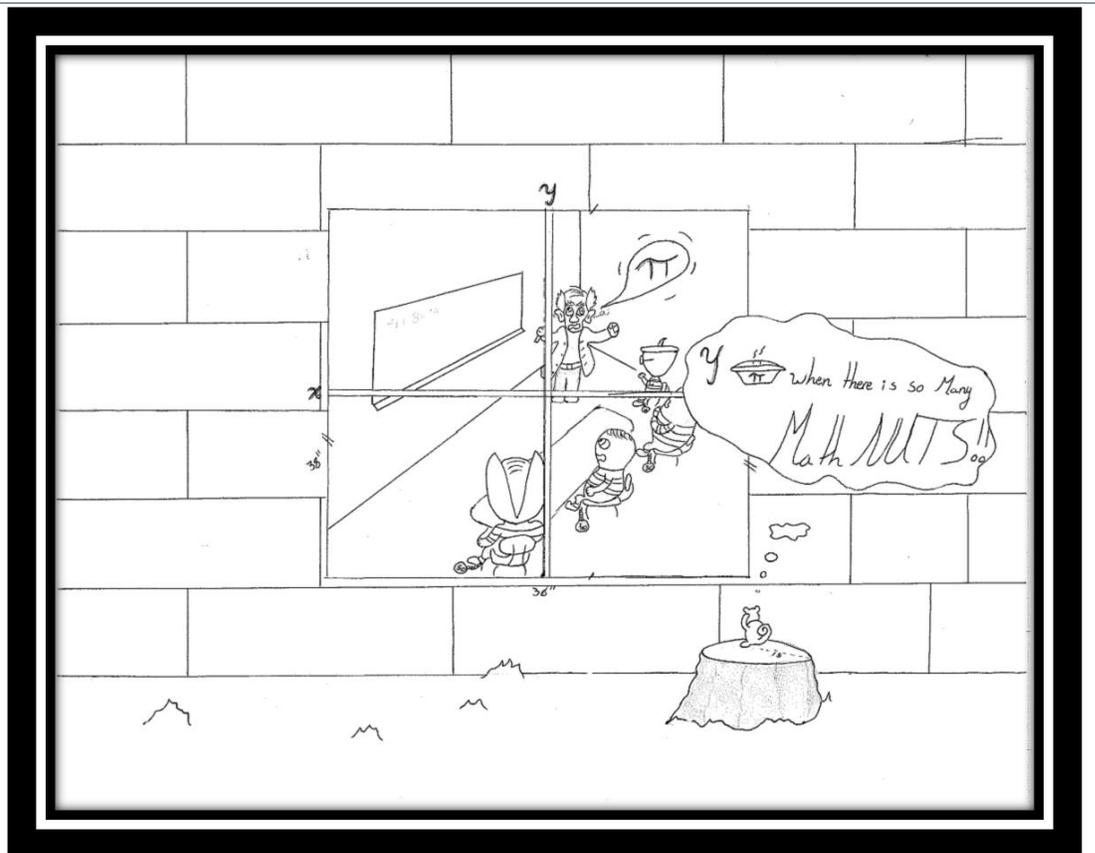
The administrator of the year was from an alternative high school. He reflected on his 30+ years of teaching and stated he was so thankful he hadn't listened to his past administrator who tried to talk him out of taking his alternative high school principal job to work with what his administrator called "throw away kids." Instead, he has built a culture of care, community, and kindness for the students he serves. **Victory.**

Every once in a while, you meet someone whose perspective changes yours, whose way of looking at the world challenges you to be a better person. Some of the stories at this conference made that difference for me in reflection. **Victory.**

We are all blessed with an opportunity to bring greater joy and prosperity to this world. The hand we are dealt simply makes life interesting. The secret to it all is in how we perceive things. **Your perception is your reality!** Is your life "half-empty" or "half-full?" More importantly, what is even "in your glass," and how long have you been holding on to it? **What if you chose to find and embrace the silver linings, aka, the life lessons in disguise? What if you chose to look beyond the baggage that is being carried by those you are serving? The choice in perception makes all the difference. VICTORY.**

**So, as you move forward this holiday season...looking for additional opportunities to reflect and celebrate the small victories, I encourage you to check out our small state organization...we are pretty proud of the people it represents. [www.ndall.info](http://www.ndall.info)**

**Perception = Reality x Emotion<sup>2</sup>**



### **NICI Instructor's Cartoon Wins Contest**

Congratulations to North Idaho Correctional Institution instructor Kevin Rehder! Dan Griffith at Essential Education sponsored a cartoon contest in conjunction with their monthly webinar series

[A cartoon](#) Mr. Rehder envisioned in the middle of the night won the contest. Essential Education provides the primary computer education program for IDOC. One of Rehder's students, Edgar Lemus, put Rehder's idea into the form of a cartoon.

"The cartoon is basically some satire and puns on my math program," Rehder says. "As you can see the nut group represents diverse learners in a prison environment (ball and chain). The nut part is that we are crazy about math!"

"Notice I am included in the 'nut' category with my students," Rehder says. "The X Y axis is the window frame and of course PI is depicted in the pie that the squirrel is confused about."

Check out the resources at Essential Education:

<https://www.passged.com/educators/teacher-resources.php>

## ***NMDELTA: Teachers Supporting Teachers***

Founded in 2014 and Funded by the New Mexico Higher Education Department/Adult Basic Education Division, the New Mexico Distance Education and Learning Technologies (NMDELTA) Team provides support for distance learning and other learning technologies to adult education programs in the state. The Team consists of eight members currently practicing in the field. DELTA Team Master Teachers are actively teaching and using the tools and methods they help other teachers implement. The project manager also manages a local adult education program and supports other administrators to develop and support distance learning opportunities. Based on research, best practices and personal experiences, the Team encourages a blended, or hybrid, learning model where students meet with teachers at least once per week and complete online assignments outside of class for a large percentage of their instructional time.

NMDELTA offers a range of support including individual support, online on-demand trainings, monthly webinars and conference presentations. New Mexico adult education programs may also request site visits and specialized training for their programs. Last year, NMDELTA hosted the first annual virtual conference. The website ([www.nmdelta.org](http://www.nmdelta.org)) provides additional resources for adult education instruction as well as links to request support and on-demand training. Since the NMDELTA Team members are teachers, they can help with lesson planning as well as help and empathize with the challenges that teachers face implementing technology into their instruction.

One of NMDELTA's objectives is to help teachers feel comfortable using online instruction so they can help their students be more comfortable with online learning. Online learning isn't just for a few college students who choose to take online courses anymore. Not only do many college courses include an online component, but many employers are also turning to online education to train their employees. Adult education provides a safe place for adults to not only learn the reading, writing and math skills they will need to achieve their goals, but it should also be a place where they can learn how to use technology as learning and communication tools that help them succeed in school, in the workplace, and in society. For success in the future, it is imperative that our students can direct their own learning and learn independently. With the right resources and support, the possibilities are limitless.

Many members of the NMDELTA Team will be presenting at COABE in March. We hope to see you there!

*By Don Dutton and Tina Hite*

## 2018 COABE Conference Phoenix, Arizona

Register for this upcoming conference in the MPAEA region and attend the *AALL & MPAEA Awards Luncheon* while you are there!

[www.coabe.org/conference-2018/](http://www.coabe.org/conference-2018/)

As a member of MPAEA, the Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning (AALL) is pleased to co-host the 2018 COABE conference in Phoenix, Arizona. The conference will take place March 25<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> at the Sheraton Grand Hotel and Phoenix Convention Center in downtown Phoenix. More than 2000 attendees from around the country are expected to participate in this national event.

AALL is the state association for adult education in Arizona. As the local host, AALL will showcase not only the local culture and the desert in spring, but also the great work that adult basic education programs are accomplishing in Arizona. In addition to the national strands, AALL will feature a Student Engagement strand where students and practitioners can learn about student leadership work and student involvement from around the country. Student leaders are encouraged to attend the Student Engagement strand at this conference, and a special daily student rate will be available at registration.

Attendees will have the opportunity to visit the beautiful Desert Botanical Gardens, Rustler's Rooste and select from other Arizona tours to supplement their visit during the conference. Stay tuned for more information on how to maximize your visit to Arizona!

AALL is also excited to co-host the **AALL & MPAEA Awards Luncheon** on Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> to recognize champions of adult education in the Mountain Plains region. Attendees can purchase tickets for this special regional event during COABE conference registration. Remember to nominate your colleagues for MPAEA and AALL Awards this year!

Registration for the conference will open on December 1<sup>st</sup>, and the last day for Early Bird registration is February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Michael Benvin  
Rio Salado College, Tempe, AZ