

MPAEA NEWS

JUNE 28, 2018



Letter from the President, Philip Suriano

Hello MPAEA Members!

I would like to introduce myself and take a moment to share a few things about your regional state adult education association, MPAEA. My name is Philip Suriano and I am the current President of MPAEA. I joined the MPAEA Board about 5 years ago as a representative from the state of Arizona and am currently living in Phoenix, Arizona, where I work in the adult education field. For the last 10 years, it has been my privilege to support students working towards a better future and the many instructors and staff helping to get them there. I also see my time and effort with Mountain Plains as another way to help make a positive contribution to the field. It is my hope that by working with our members and programs across all member states, we continue to add support and value to everything you do in helping students reach their goals.

Some examples of this effort MPAEA is making is the creation of a new web site that will allow better management of membership, facilitation of communication with members, and a consistent and versatile page for conference registration and marketing. Resources for the field as well as scholarship opportunities and news from member states are also being added, as well as other features suggested by members of the association. Though the Board is already using this site in a limited capacity as updates are being made, it should be ready for members in time for our next conference.

Speaking of which, our next MPAEA conference will be held March 5th to 7th 2019 in Las Vegas Nevada. The location of the conference will be the SLS Las Vegas Hotel and Casino and more information should be going out in the fall. I hope to see everyone there at another great conference sharing the latest ideas and best practices from our region. Save the date!

Letter from the President *(Continued)*

Another, and the most important effort the Board is focusing on this year would be reaching out to our current and new members to promote the value of the association and the many ways in which it can lend support. It is often noted that the association is only as strong as its members and this is especially true in our field. Some of our state members are without associations at the state level and may not have a place where resources and best practices can be promoted and developed. Conferences may also just be an opportunity when a national organization visits in the region. MPAEA is working hard as your regional adult education association to provide state programs and individuals in the member states the information, resources and conference opportunities they have come to expect from an association that has been promoting lifelong learning in the region since 1945. This is why when it is time to renew, I would encourage you to continue your membership with MPAEA and share your ideas on how the association can better support and promote all you do. Thank you again for all you do in supporting students and lifelong learning and I look forward to sharing the new opportunities and events coming up through Mountain Plains Adult Education Association.

Philip Suriano
MPAEA President



Adult Literacy Plus Launches English @ Work Program at Shaw Industries

**By Bill Regenhardt, MBA & Executive Director
Adult Literacy Plus of Southwest Arizona / ALPS**

On Monday, April 16th, the combined efforts of Adult Literacy Plus of Southwest Arizona ("ALPS") and Shaw Industries finally came to fruition with the introduction of English Language Acquisition for Adults (ELAA) and High School Equivalency (HSE) programs to employees at the Shaw Industries facility located in Yuma, AZ. The initial rollout, with all of its moving parts, has taken a few months to finalize but the excitement to get underway is being felt on both sides. ALPS will be conducting classes on the Shaw Industries site and will be initially working with Managers and Supervisory staff, with plans to expand the program for other employees very soon. The corporate and business English @ Work outreach program of ALPS was developed in collaboration with other Adult Education programs across the country and implemented by Bill Regenhardt, Executive Director of Adult Literacy Plus. "We could not have instituted this program without some great ideas from our colleagues within the Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE), the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB), and our organization's highly qualified instructors", said Regenhardt. "The focus on integrated education and training (IET) and the collaboration with business and industry, seen in this project, is vital to our community and local economy."

Oswaldo Barrera, Shaw Industries HR Facilitator, states, "This is an amazing opportunity for our associates to improve on their English communication skills, thus positively changing their lives by increased morale and confidence. We are certain this will not only impact the workplace, but it will transcend their personal lives and the Yuma County community as a whole." The program will initially start with English Language classes for the front line supervisors and team leads, then move to HSE level classes. ALPS and Shaw are confident that this will lead other team members to get engaged in the learning process once they see that the leaders are growing the skills that will assist them in achieving their goals for advancement within the company.

English @ Work (Continued)

The program participants will be from all three shifts, and are at different learning levels. However, Maria Duarte, the ALPS Instructor states, "The students show great teamwork, are eager to learn, committed and are a joy in class. It's awesome!" English@Work is a proven model that takes workers to levels where they can build on their skill sets and increase their opportunities for advancement. The advantages for business and industry through a program such as English@Work are wide-ranged and include increased safety awareness, better overall communication, increased customer service, overall employment satisfaction and employee retention.



From left to right: Bill Regenhardt, ALPS Executive Director; Oswaldo Barrera, Shaw HR Facilitator; Luis Flores Specialty 3rd Shift Lead; Omar Reyes, Specialty 3rd Shift Supervisor; Norberto Morales, Filament 3rd Shift Supervisor; and Maria Duarte, ELAA Instructor.

About Adult Literacy Plus

Adult Literacy Plus of Southwest Arizona is a 501(c)(3) organization that has been serving the Yuma community since 1981. ALPS serves individuals who are basic skills deficient and those in need of increasing English language skills. The organization works collaboratively with the Arizona Department of Education, Federal Government, the local Workforce Board, and other community partners to achieve its mission to benefit Adult Learners.

Our mission is to provide rigorous educational instruction for adults ages 16+, which elevates their skills in Reading and Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Civics, and English Language Acquisition, in order to obtain a High School Equivalency diploma and successfully transition to postsecondary education and careers that offer gainful employment.

For more information, please contact Bill Regenhardt at Adult Literacy Plus of Southwest Arizona, (928) 343-9363.

AALL – MPAEA Awards Luncheon

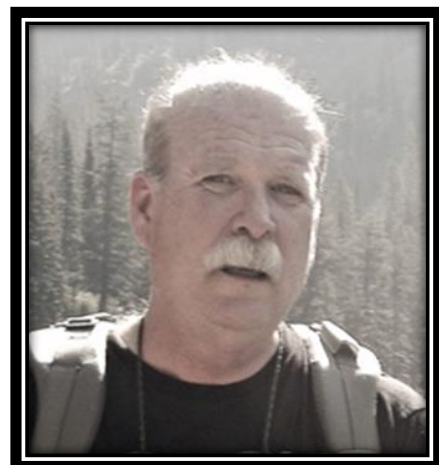
By Philip Suriano, MPAEA President & AALL Past President

This year, the Coalition on Adult Basic Education and Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning held a national conference in Phoenix Arizona on March 25 to 28. The conference offered many sessions demonstrating best practices from all areas of the field of adult education as well as a couple of firsts such as a student strand and student ambassador presentations. These student-centered efforts were the result of lots of hard work from one of MPAEA's member states, Arizona. It is just one example of the many great projects and pilots taking place in MPAEA member states. Though it was rewarding to have some of these efforts presented at a national conference, it was also rewarding to recognize some of the people helping to make a difference in the region during our annual awards luncheon. This year's luncheon was held on Tuesday, March 27th and was a joint recognition from the state and regional associations, AALL and MPAEA. The AALL/MPAEA Awards Luncheon had close to 300 attendees from the 9 MPAEA member states as well as a few attendees from across the nation. MPAEA was the first to present their awards which included the following awards and recipients.

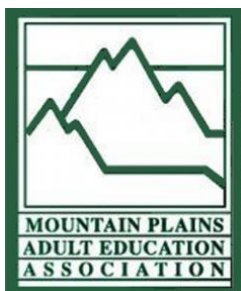
Awards Luncheon (Continued)



Award of Excellence Arizona
Philip Suriano



Award of Excellence Montana
Drew Uecker



PICTURES NOT AVAILABLE:

Award of Excellence Nevada – Dave Pollard

Award of Excellence New Mexico – Jamie Trujillo



Award of Excellence Wyoming
Carol Bourland



Educator of the Year Arizona
Heather Patterson "Friendly House"

Awards Luncheon (Continued)



MPAEA Learner of the Year
Maybelin Rodriguez



PICTURES NOT AVAILABLE:

Award of Excellence in Honor of Gary P. Tang,
Aida Jimenez Uselton "Friendly House"

AALL Support Staff of the Year,
Latina Watkins "Rio Salado College"



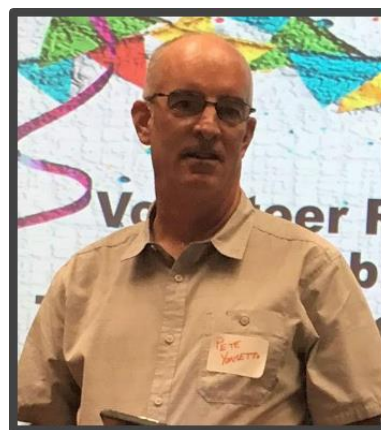
Lifetime Achievement Award
in Honor of Gary A. Eyre
Lily Beth Brazones
"Rio Salado College"



AALL Educator of the Year
Jocelyn Dustan
"Rio Salado College"



AALL Rookie of the Year
Sara Haghini
"Friendly House"



AALL Volunteer of the Year
Pete Yonsetto
"Pima Community College"

Awards Luncheon (Continued)



AALL Student of the Year
Maria Alvidrez
"Queen Creek Unified School District"



AALL Champion of the Year
Queen Creek Unified School District

The awards luncheon this year was very well received and was an opportunity to recognize professionals in the field. Thank you to all the sponsors who helped to support the luncheon and to all the people who put forth a nomination for the awards!

Ambassadors at COABE 2018

**By Diane Jackson, President
Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning**

If you were fortunate enough to make it to Phoenix for COABE 2018, you probably noticed a number of student ambassadors at the conference. Arizona is so proud of its student leaders and our initiative to systematically develop those leaders into a force to create awareness of the value of adult education. AALL won the COABE State Innovation of the Year Award for our Ambassador Training Program, one Arizona student was the COABE Student of the Year, while another was the Mountain Plains Learner of the Year (from my program!). AALL also provided student leaders as trainers in the first ever national Train the Trainer Ambassador event at COABE sponsored by Dollar General.

Through the years, we have heard legislators, policy makers, influencers and others in power say that they don't really want to hear about the value of adult education from staff. They want to hear from students. Preparing students to be able to meet with those who can make or influence decisions about adult education is the key to getting, or maintaining, their support.

Ambassadors (Continued)

Beyond the invaluable contributions of student ambassadors to awareness, the skills they utilize and develop when serving as ambassadors are some of the most crucial for success in the workplace. It isn't by accident that WIOA places an emphasis on those sometimes elusive employability skills such as leadership, public speaking, problem solving, and organizing.

State associations can play a critical role in supporting student leadership training. In return, they will have advocates for adult ed who are absolutely key to convincing those in power of adult education's value. And, students tap into skills that will help them to effectively advocate not only for their programs, but for themselves, their families, and their communities as well.



Idaho – Catching Up with Retirees
By Fowler C. (Chuck) Humphrey, Ph.D
Professor Emeritus, Idaho State University

I am a former MPAEA board member from Idaho, and served as the coordinator of the 1999 MPAEA annual conference when it was held in Boise. I have been retired from Idaho State University's Department of Human Resource Training and Development since 2007. My wife, Jane, and I live in Pocatello near a golf course. We have traveled to Europe three times and visited all 50 state capitol buildings since retiring. We are lifelong learners!

Marjorie Slotten, also a past MPEA member originally from Twin Falls, Idaho, is a resident at the Quail Ridge Assisted Living Center in Pocatello. Her husband, Roy, died two years ago.

Marge stays in close touch with Kathy Vickerman, a former MPAEA member also living in Pocatello. Kathy was the editor for the 50-year history of MPAEA, published in 1992. Marge and Kathy were employed by Idaho State University before retiring.

Marge, Kathy and I were charter members of the Idaho Lifelong Learning Association when it was chartered in 1992. We have fond memories of the 15 years we attended MPEA annual conferences.

Utah Career Pathways

**By Erica Holeman Wood, Adult Education Transition Specialist
Granite School District**

What do ukuleles, fruit bowls, rings, and walking sticks all have in common? They are carbon fiber composites handcrafted in Granite Peaks Lifelong Learning Career Pathways Program! Through a partnership with Granite Technical Institute (GTI) -- Granite School District's CTE program -- Granite Peaks Lifelong Learning piloted two different career pathway courses in the spring of 2018: The Utah Aerospace Pathway and the Medical Innovations Pathway.

Modeled after K-12 Talent Ready Utah initiatives, The Utah Aerospace Pathway prepares students for careers in the Aerospace Industry, giving them experience building and manipulating carbon fiber composites. The Medical Innovations Pathway sets students on a path to a career within medical device manufacturing and testing.

Students attended classes for two and a half months, 12 hours each week. A variety of topics were covered, including manufacturing principles, bio manufacturing, and composites manufacturing. Industry exposure was infused into the curriculum through professional expos, conferences, and events. Employers were able to interact first hand with students during classroom and worksite visits. Towards the end of the course, students attended a week of intensive job preparedness. They wrote resumes, cover letters, practiced interview skills, and attended a mock interview with the program coordinator. Students who successfully completed the course received guaranteed interviews from the employers who participated in the pathways.

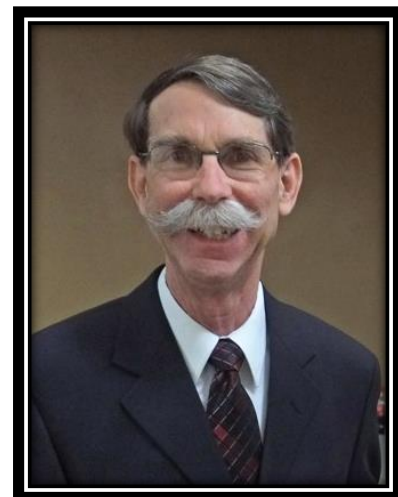
Although we had a small group -- starting with five but ending with three -- all three are still making positive growth in their education and employment. One has gained employment in the Medical Device Manufacturing field, one is continuing his education with Salt Lake Community College and will seek a job within the industry in the fall, and one is finishing up her GED. Taking the lessons from our pilot, Granite Peaks Lifelong Learning will continue this program in the 2018-2019 school year. We're happy for the success we've had and hope to see the program grow in the future!



Blair Liddicoat Retirement

By Lily Beth Brazones and Philip Suriano

Blair Liddicoat has retired in June after a long and valued career in adult education. Blair's career in education began in South Korea where he started as a Peace Corps English teacher and 10 years later was a full-time lecturer at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. He moved into adult education in 1990 as a Lead Teacher for Rio Salado Community College and has been a transformational leader during his tenure. As Associate Dean, Instruction and Community Development, the Rio Salado College Adult Education Program became the College Bridge Pathways program which provided services to over six thousand students at six locations last year. Blair also implemented and has overseen the National Adult Education Honor Society induction for over 24 years at Rio Salado College. Blair has served as a Board member and then President of both the state and regional adult education associations, Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning and Mountain Plains Adult Education Association. Please join us in wishing Blair the very best as he begins a new adventure!



NDALL Conference – September 19-21, 2018

By Dr. Penny L. Hetletved

The North Dakota Association for Lifelong Learning (NDALL) is pleased to present its annual Fall Conference Sept. 19-21 in Bismarck for professionals working in adult education and alternative education. Speakers are scheduled to discuss mental health, career pathways, the naturalization process, differentiated instruction and Native American culture. This year NDALL is working with the University of Mary faculty to present two keynotes, ***What '13 Reasons Why' Got Wrong*** and ***Meeting the Needs of Each Student through Differentiated Instruction***. Time will be spent networking and holding roundtable discussions in small groups. Annual awards will be given to the Adult Education and Alternative High School Students of the Year, Teacher of the Year and an Outstanding Leadership/Service winner.

NDALL Conference (Continued)

NDALL requested each member submit videos highlighting their students' successes to be played at the conference. Each year this event attracts approximately 100 teachers, administrators and staff working in adult education centers and alternative high schools.

Save the date for the MPAEA 2019 Conference!

It was great seeing everyone in Phoenix for the 2018 COABE conference sponsored and supported by one of our region's state associations, the Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning. Of course, MPAEA is now working with Nevada Adult Educators to bring you our 2019 regional adult education conference in **Las Vegas Nevada, March 5th to the 7th** at the SLS Las Vegas Hotel and Casino.

Save the date for what promises to be a great set of presentations showing off best practices, ideas and innovations taking place in the region. The MPAEA conference is also a great way to meet, network or catch up with other adult educators in the MPAEA region.

Thank you for the work you do and your support of adult education. See you there!

Philip Suriano
MPAEA President



For future updates on the conference, please visit:

The Nevada Adult Educators Facebook page at
<https://www.facebook.com/nvadulted>

Nevada Adult Educators at <http://www.nvadulted.org/>

Or MPAEA's conference 2019 page at
<https://mpaea.wildapricot.org/page-18048>

MPAEA Journal Submissions

The *Journal of Adult Education* is a refereed journal intended to service 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 criteria for evaluating manuscripts will be based upon: (a) potential contribution to the improvement and/or understanding of practice, (b) clarity of purpose, (c) logical relationship to conceptual base, (d) writing style, (e) general scholarship, (f) strength of conclusions, (g) implications for practice, and (h) adherence to submission guidelines. Use link below for more information and submission protocol.

<http://www.mpaea.org/content/docs/JAEAuthorGuidelines.pdf>

