

NEVADA

Connections

Produced by Community College Southern Nevada to connect resources for Nevada's adult workforce

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Twelve-hour mandate for ABE?

—Mary Katherine Moen, Adult Education Consultant, 775/687-9167



I wanted to clarify an issue regarding attendance for Nevada's Adult Basic Education funded programs. Must all ABE students attend classes at least 12 hours each week in order for programs to be in compliance with the law? The answer is no. **There is no such mandate in either the federal legislation or the Nevada State Plan.**

The Workforce Investment Act, Title II, **does** mandate that each program must provide for sufficient intensity and duration so that participants may achieve substantial learning gains. This makes sense, as only through consistent and intense study for a period of time will a student be able to advance to a higher level. That movement is a critical component of success, because it is one way the

state can meet its performance standards, and future funding depends on our meeting those standards.

Therefore, I encourage all programs to urge students to commit to several hours each week. In actuality, an individual program could determine that all of its students must attend classes 12 hours each week, but that would be a local decision. There is nothing at the state or federal level that mandates a certain number of hours.

It is also important to remember that adult education funding is now regulated by federal legislation for workforce development. Employment and advancement in employment are two primary measures of success for our adult students and consequently for our programs. Here again, intensity and duration will assist individuals to master the literacy skills that will lead to these outcomes.

Adult education programs are encouraged to structure their classes in such a way that drop-in attendance over several years will no longer be acceptable. The accountability requirements for federal and state funding are increasingly strict and only intensity and duration will yield the necessary outcomes.

To sum it up, for state reporting purposes ABE funded programs may count students no matter how many hours they have. However, I encourage programs to provide for the consistent and intense study that produces gains. Local programs may set attendance standards for their own students.

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Community College
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Friends in high places



Governor Kenny Guinn (far right) joined over 400 supporters of adult literacy at September's International Literacy Day Dinner at the Imperial Palace in Las Vegas. Sparks businessman Jay Thiessens, who built B&J Machine & Tool into a \$5 million firm and was recently featured in *People* magazine, spoke about his struggle with illiteracy. Sharon Rorman (Aztec Communications and IABC) chaired the annual event, aided by a host of corporate sponsors and literacy programs. Proceeds benefit the Southern Nevada Literacy Coalition, which is chaired by Linda Faulk, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada, 702/383-8387; lfaulk@catholiccharities.com.

New Connections

The CASAS Web site (www.casas.org) now offers four forums that greatly facilitate communication among adult education and employment training professionals. The forums also provide access to CASAS assessment and curriculum specialists, as well as to other CASAS staff who can answer questions about the most efficient and effective use of the CASAS system.

The CASAS forums are discussion groups similar to public email communication and include a general forum, TOPSpro forum, a special work groups discourse area, and a forum devoted to California programs.

To access the forums, click on the "News" button (top right of CASAS home page); then click on "The CASAS Forum" link (in the left-hand frame).



Martin Bauer, President-elect announces the NAEA homepage: www.tmcc.edu/naea

IT'S AN OLYMPIC YEAR ... GO FOR THE GOLD!

Mountain Plains Adult Education Association

Scholarship Program Y2000

MPAEA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR GRADUATE STUDIES

MPAEA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP

MPAEA SCHOLARSHIP FOR INNOVATION

Are graduate studies among your dreams?
Would a workshop or conference enhance your professional development?
Do you have an innovative idea but lack funding?

Applications are available through:

- MPAEA Web site: www.uvsc.edu/depts/commorg/mpaea/ (follow the link to "What's New")
- NAEA (Nevada Adult Education Association): Vicki Newell, President. 775/356-1007; director@nnlc.reno.nv.us
- MPAEA Board Members: Julee Henson. 702/799-0170; grannyhens@aol.com
- Sharyn Yanoshak. 702/253-6280; syank@ix.netcom.com

ON YOUR MARK ... GET SET ... GO FOR YOUR GOALS!

Literate Nevada ... Literate Communities

—Vicki D. Newell, Project Director, 775/356-1007

Task Force update

The Literate Nevada Task Force welcomed a new member of national acclaim at its September 17th meeting—Mr. Jay Thiessens. Jay was the first Nevadan to receive the National Blue Chip Enterprise Initiative Award. The award is given to small business owners who overcome hardship to make their businesses successful. Jay's hardship: his inability to read above a second grade level. Jay's business: B & J Machine and Tool, Inc. in Sparks, Nevada—a multi-million dollar company he started on a shoe string when he graduated from a local high school.

Two comments Jay made are food for thought for Adult Basic Education (ABE) Program Coordinators.

- First, he and his tutor, Ella Moss, floundered around with various curriculum materials and found that phonics helped him most.
- Secondly, he is concerned that literate people are writing curriculum for illiterates without input as to their needs from the end user.

The Attorney General's Task Force on Adult Literacy met on October 7th and made progress in laying the foundation for Parole and Probation officers to be educated about the symptoms of low-literacy proficiency so they can better refer the clients to ABE and Adult High School Diploma programs for assistance.

Community update

Truckee Meadow Literate Community's fearless leader, Nancy Cummings, along with Marta Hall, Task Force Chair, and yours truly, stirred some interest at our presentation during the Nevada Library Association conference in Elko at the end of September. Representatives of Fish Lake Valley, Amargosa Valley, and Pahrump who attended the presentation are concerned about literacy in their communities. En route to our Elko performance, we had a great lunch at the Martin Hotel in Winnemucca with Jackie Kearns and Wendy Raynor. Jackie will assist us in finding Literate Community leadership in Nevada's potato capitol.

What is a Literacy Action Plan?

Once a community has developed its Literacy Profile, the next step in the criteria is to develop the community's Literacy Action Plan. The Plan addresses what steps the Oversight Committee will take to address the gaps and barriers identified by an in-depth analysis of the Literacy Profile:

1. Are literacy services available for all age groups?
2. Are family literacy services available for all families in need of services?
3. Can the existing literacy service providers adequately service the need?
4. If existing providers have limitations in servicing the need, how can the limitations be overcome?
5. Are employability and workplace programs available?
6. Are all those in need of services aware of the availability of services? If not, how can they be made aware?
7. Of those in need—have their basic needs been met, so that their minds are free to learn? If not, how can basic needs providers assist?

NAEA Annual Conference:
MPAEA Annual Conference:

March 29-31, 2000; Las Vegas
April 26-29, 2000; Salt Lake City

Two sources for free books



Laubach Literacy has grant applications available for the 1999 National Book Scholarship Fund (NBSF). The purpose of NBSF is to distribute direct in-kind assistance to local literacy providers throughout the United States. NBSF grants typically range from \$500 to \$5,000 and are intended to provide the New Readers Press books and other materials essential to begin a new literacy outreach program or to significantly expand an existing effort.

The deadline to submit applications is in December of 1999. To receive an application package or for more information, contact Mara Roberts, Project Administrator, The National Book Scholarship Fund, Laubach Literacy, 1320 Jamesville Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13210. Phone: 315/ 422-9121, x345; email: mroberts@laubach.org; Web site: www.laubach.org/



The Literacy Empowerment Foundation (LEF) is a non-profit group that will be distributing over one million free books to schools and literacy programs during this school year. LEF has many programs designed to meet the needs of literacy programs in a variety of ways. Contact Ron Orendi at 717/791-6210; email: rorendi@literacyempowerment.org; Web site: www.literacyempowerment.org/

Why register?

There are many on-site workshops and statewide videoconferences planned for this year. You'll be asked to pre-register, usually by calling a phone number.

Is pre-registration necessary? You bet it is!

Organizers need to ensure adequate space. Presenters need to know how many handouts to bring. And most importantly, there may be a change in the site—unexpected and unavoidable, but necessary. Training organizers need to let you know!

So do pre-register. It takes but a minute. Just leave your name and the best way to reach you (phone, fax, or email).



What have you learned?



I've learned that you can make some one's day by simply sending them a little note.—Age 35

I've learned that the greater a person's sense of guilt, the greater his or her need to cast blame on others.—Age 44

I've learned that motel mattresses are better on the side away from the phone.—Age 50

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