

NEVADA

Connections

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

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At the summit

For more than a year, a process has been underway to engage the adult literacy field and its partners in developing a vision and action agenda to guide the field over the next decade. On February 14 and 15, 2000, researchers, administrators, teachers, students, heads of national organizations, and various others involved in adult education met at the National Literacy Summit in Washington D.C. Hundreds of people from various stakeholder groups throughout the country then provided input through a series of meetings. On September 7 (the eve of National Literacy Day), a background paper and action plan, "From the Margins to the Mainstream: An Action Agenda for Literacy," was released.

Action Plan

The plan outlines action steps to increase resources, maximize access, and improve the quality of our adult education, language, and literacy system. Some of the steps outlined include: persuade Congress to appropriate \$1 billion annually to the system, require states to provide a 50% cash match, increase funding for technology, lower student/teacher ratios, enhance services to welfare clients, offer tax incentives to supportive employers, provide universal access, ensure accountability, and increase support services and testing for learning disabilities.

Next steps

Jon Randall (301.588.5304, jrandall@fedstrategics.com) and Linda Hoover (612.872.3621, ljoover@hotmail.com) are guiding the Action Plan on behalf of the National Coalition for Literacy. (The NCL includes the nation's major literacy organizations and various federal agencies.) In an interview with *Report on Literacy Program*, (1/13/2001), Jon said, "My responsibility will be to help national, state, and local programs identify commitments that they are willing to make to advance the [summit] action agenda, to facilitate discussion and provide technical assistance in helping them to do so,

and to solicit from them progress reports on their efforts." Linda is to report on progress of the various participants in an annual report scheduled for release on Literacy Day (September 8).

You may access the 16-page "Margins to Mainstream" report at www.nifl.gov. Better yet — hear Jon Randall give the keynote address at the MPAEA conference in Albuquerque, April 25-28.

Goal: By 2010, a system of high-quality adult literacy, language, and lifelong learning services will help adults in every community make measurable gains toward achieving their goals as family members, workers, citizens, and lifelong learners.

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We must be the change we wish to see in the world.
—Mohandas K. Gandhi

Let's get "associated"

A reinvigorated Nevada Adult Education Association joined the Nevada Association of Alternative Education and cosponsored the March 6 conference in Henderson. Educators chose from a wide variety of sessions, including several especially geared to adult basic education, such as ESL Strategies, Classroom Diversity, Strategies for Math Proficiency, and the New Adult High School.

Along with conferences, networking and other benefits, NAEA is the legislative advocate for adult education in Nevada. In the mid-nineties, the organization spearheaded a letter-writing campaign to protect federal funding. Four years ago the organization helped obtain an additional \$250,000 in state funds, and two years ago NAEA was instrumental in helping to maintain funding for our Adult High School Diploma programs.



Jackie Kearns, NAEA President

Your support is important to ensure service to those most in need! Annual dues is only \$18; remit to Treasurer Jeanie Thibault, CCSN, 2409 Las Verdes, Las Vegas, NV 89102.

NAEA Officers for 2001-2002:

President	Jackie Kearns	775.623.6218	jkearns@join.org
Treasurer	Jeanie Thibault	702.651.4065	jeanie_thibault@ccsn.nevada.edu
President-elect	Vacant	Past Pres. Vicki Newell	Secretary Amy Hyams
Regional Directors	Marta Hall (north)	Julee Henson (south)	Dixie Tienken (rural)

NAEA is an affiliate of MPAEA, the Mountain Plains Adult Education Association, which includes members from eight western states. The annual conference is a top-notch event and will be held in Albuquerque, April 25-28. Early registration for members is \$169; annual dues is \$20. Contact Leonard Begay (505.768.4125) or Rebecca Gault (800.233.7587); www.mpaea.org

Nevada's MPAEA Board Members for 2001-2002:

Julee Henson, 702.799.0170, grannyhens@aol.com
Vicki Newell, 775.356.1007, director@mlc.reno.nv.us



"Community" technology funds available

The US Department of Education has recently announced plans to make applications available for Community Technology Center (CTC) discretionary grants sometime in March 2001. CTCs are aimed at providing access to technology to those who have the greatest need — adults and children who don't currently have access to computers and who will benefit from linking to educational resources through the Internet. Adult education and literacy providers are eligible to apply for the CTC grants.

Funding for the CTC Program has increased from \$32.5 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 to \$64.95 million for FY 2001. This increase will enable the Department to fund more projects than in previous years. For more information, see the Policy Update posted at the National Institute for Literacy's (NIFL) Web site: <http://www.nifl.gov/policy/01-01-11.html>. You may sign up to receive an application and notification via e-mail at <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OVAE/CTC/ctcnews.html#newsletter>

How to get the most from your conference

Editor's Note: This piece was excerpted (and modified a bit) from a piece in ASTD Magazine on preparing yourself for an ASTD conference and exposition. These tips seemed especially appropriate as we enter the conference "season."

You've just gotten approval to attend the conference, but now what? According to Bob Pike, many times people don't know how to make the most out of a conference. Here are a few of his tips to experience the conference to the fullest:



1. Develop five questions that, if answered, would make your conference attendance worthwhile for you.
2. Develop five questions that, if answered, would make your conference attendance worthwhile for your organization. What can you learn through the conference or through networking that will really benefit your agency? Sit down and have a dialogue with your boss and coworkers.
3. Attend the conference for those "back home." Often you're attending the conference not only for yourself, but also for others. Maybe there's a supplier you can stop and see because someone back at the office values that resource. Attend sessions that might be relevant for colleagues. Take notes, swap business cards, and think about how you can take advantage of resources that can help someone back at the office.
4. Choose sessions based on the questions you want answered most. Don't wander from session to session. Work the conference; don't just walk through it.
5. See speakers as resources and gatekeepers. Ask the presenter for advice and recommendations; speakers can be wonderful resources. Presenters can also steer you toward other helpful sessions.
6. Develop a proxy learning team. If you're at the conference with a number of people from your organization, then you can divide up the sessions and make sure the sessions that you're interested in get covered. But if you're at the conference by yourself, the chances are that you're going to miss out on some of the sessions you'd like to attend but just can't. The solution? At the very first session, or at Networking Night, put together your own group of three or four people. Find out what sessions everyone is interested in, decide who will attend which sessions, and check back in with each other later in the conference to share notes and get first-hand reports. Suddenly all the resource materials you're getting at the conference have greater value.



Resolutions for the 21st Century

—From a presentation by Dr. Bill Rudd, Boise State University, at the Idaho Lifelong Learning Association Conference (October 2000, Sun Valley, ID), printed in MPAEA newsletter, November 2000.

1. I will be a niche-picker, not a broad-sider.
2. I will not be out-buzzed. I will keep current.
3. I will go where the ducks are. Small business owners generate 75% of the new jobs.
4. I will remember Glamour is the name of a magazine.
5. I will get my network working. It's what you know about whom you know.
6. I will take personal inventory of my strengths and weaknesses.
7. I will see that the package is as attractive as its contents. Hence, I will upgrade my skills at every opportunity.
8. I will never take my references for granted.
9. I will volunteer in my community.
10. I will learn to communicate my thoughts better.
11. I will always try to deliver more than I am asked to deliver.

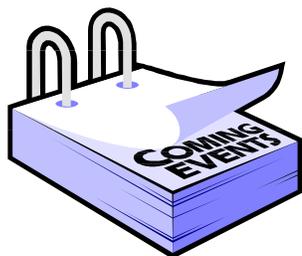
Connecting resources for Nevada's adult workforce

Survey results

Thanks to the many adult educators who took the time to provide feedback about this publication. The results validated what we do and encouraged us to:

- emphasize features about programs and projects
- provide information about resources, training activities, and funding opportunities
- seek out pragmatic ideas and tips for the classroom
- keep providing hard copy

Michele Oke, Executive Director at the Family Resource Center of Northeastern Nevada in Elko, won the drawing for which all survey respondents were eligible. She plans to purchase a video series for use in the teen-parenting program with her "winnings."



National Ctr. for Family Literacy Conference

March 18-20, 2001 Dallas, TX www.famlit.org

COABE (Commission on Adult Basic Ed.) National Conference

March 31-April 4, 2001 Memphis, TN Chas Durant 865.974.4109
www.coabe.org

MPAEA (Mountain Plains Adult Ed. Association) Conference

April 25-28, 2001 Albuquerque, NM Leonard Begay (505.768.4125) or Rebecca Gault
(800.233.7587); www.mpaea.org

CASAS National Summer Institute

June 19-21, 2001 San Diego, CA 800.255.1036, ext. 300; www.casas.org