

NEVADA

Connections

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

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Save the dates: October 16-18

The Nevada State Library and Archives and the Nevada Adult Education Association, in cooperation with the Nevada Department of Education, are collaborating to offer three days of special events for adult education. The 7th annual Literacy Awards luncheon will be held Friday, October 17, with "Focus Days" expanded on both ends to incorporate NAEA's Fall Conference highlighting best practices in adult education. Activities begin at noon on Thursday, October 16, in Carson City and run through Saturday afternoon, October 18.

The focus of much the training is on evidence-based reading, with Dr. Tom Sticht, a renowned authority on adult learning, providing the keynote address and leading an additional session on Friday. The program also includes workshops on a variety of topics and plenty of time to peruse the State Literacy Resource Center for free resources.

For information, contact:

- ▶ Susan Graf, Literacy Coordinator, 800/445-9673 or 775/684-3340, sgraf@clan.lib.nv.us
- ▶ Julee Henson, NAEA President, 702/799-8655, X341, jahenson@interact.ccsd.net



Another eight adult educators prove performance

Eight instructors and tutors from five Nevada programs submitted evidence of student outcomes and were awarded their ABE Certificates of Performance since last spring. These educators met the student retention and performance criteria outlined in the state's unique outcome-based recognition program.

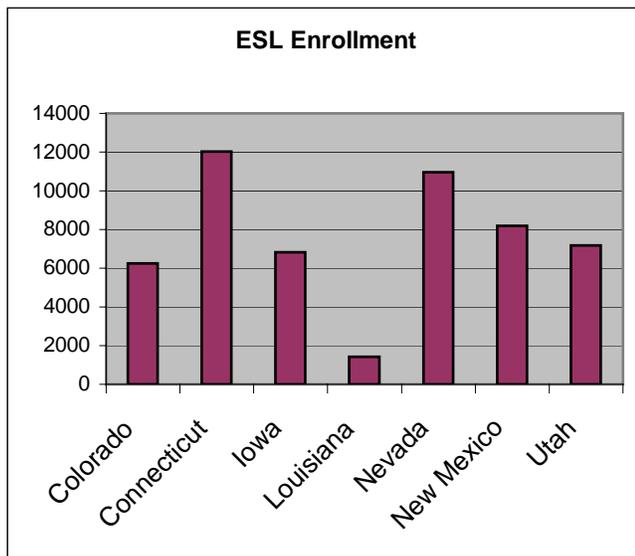
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For more information, contact Sharyn Yanoshak, 702/253-6280, saylv@cox.net or visit <http://www.literacynet.org/nvabecp/>.

Neighbors aren't just next-door



Adult educators in states with demographics similar to those of Nevada can be a source of great help — they understand “our” issues, face similar challenges, and may even have developed some helpful models or solutions. You might think some of our neighboring western states might “look” like us, and you’d be right. Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico have some similar characteristics. But so do Iowa, Connecticut, and Hawaii. Yes, Hawaii!

Researcher Margaret Patterson, who has extensive adult education experience in Nevada and Kansas, recently analyzed United States Department of Education data to determine which states were similar to Nevada with respect to various adult education demographics. She used the latest available data (FY 2000), which includes figures for

Nevada’s ABE, ESL, and Adult High School programs. At seven pages and with many graphics, the report is an easy read. You may access it at

<http://www.literacynet.org/nevada/neighbornevada/index.htm>, or email saylv@cox.net for a copy.

Ask Jeeves — no, ask ACVE — for adult ed!

The Adult, Career, and Vocational Education Clearinghouse (ACVE) is part of ERIC, a national education information network (see sidebar).

At www.ericacve.org is a link to various resources, such as *Eric Digests*, *Practice Application Briefs* and a list of the Web sites for journals indexed by ACVE.

In addition, the ERIC/ACVE Clearinghouse offers a personalized reference service, whereby experienced staff will do a search of the ERIC database to locate 10-15 citations relevant to a specific topic. Staff will also make recommendations about Web sites, organizations, and agencies that have information relevant to a particular topic.

About ERIC

The ERIC system (<http://www.eric.ed.gov>) consists of 16 subject-specific Clearinghouses, several adjunct Clearinghouses, and various support components. Each Clearinghouse identifies, acquires, selects, and processes documents and journal literature for the ERIC database, which is the largest, most comprehensive education database in the world. In addition, Clearinghouses produce major publications and a variety of user products, including *ERIC Digests*, which are two-page discussions of a topic based on the literature in the database.

A recent study that was part of the National Evaluation of Welfare-to-Work Strategies found that over three years, high school non-graduates who participated in basic education followed by post-secondary training or education earned an impressive 47% more than high school non-graduates who participated in basic education alone. — *Garrett Murphy, NAEPDC Policy Analyst, 12/30/02*

Editor's note: This month we begin a series spotlighting the people who work behind the scenes but are definitely at the forefront of Nevada's literacy efforts. Often heard but rarely seen outside of their local agencies, these unsung champions are critical to the success of adult education in Nevada.

Jeannine (super-worker) Woodward

The melodic voice you are likely to hear when you call Nevada's Adult Education Office is that of Jeannine Woodward, administrative assistant to Mary Katherine Moen, Nevada's adult education consultant.

"Hard worker" falls far short of describing Jeannine. When her Mom became ill, she took over her rural mail route in Fairbanks, Alaska; she subsequently worked in Juneau for American Sightseeing and for the Alaska Dept. Of Fish and Game. A single Mom by 1977, she moved to Carson City, where she worked for a janitorial service.

She credits WNCC and the CETA program for teaching her the office skills that moved her through Mission Linens, Best Western Downtowner Motor Inn, and eventually to the Nevada Highway Patrol in 1985.

She moved to the Department of Education in 1988, and since then has worked for four adult education consultants. Her experience and expertise – enhanced by her helpful attitude – make her one of Nevada's key educational resources.

She married Jon 12 years ago and enjoys time with their extended family, which includes three sons, two daughters, eight grandchildren, and three cats. If she is not crocheting a present for them or for her many colleagues and friends, you might find her on a beach or under a tree, as she enjoys "solitude and the break from the hustle and bustle of my working life in the city."

Luckily for the rest of us, she doesn't enjoy it too much, because she also likes "getting people their GED records for employment and education and helping with the grant funding process."

She looks so young, but has so much knowledge, it's hard to believe that Jeannine is only 51. Again, lucky for us. She's here to help us now – and to train additional adult education consultants for Nevada, should the need arise.



VLU is accepting registrations for fall ... and winter ... and whenever

Verizon Literacy University (www.vluonline.org) is a free national online training program for adult literacy and family literacy practitioners and prospective volunteers. The project was designed by ProLiteracy Worldwide and The National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL) and is funded by Verizon Communications.

Visitors to the VLU site can learn about adult and family literacy, find out about the many volunteer opportunities in the literacy field, and take online courses in literacy and related topics. They may also follow the "Volunteer Now" link to locate the nearest adult or family literacy program.

Course offerings include: Orientation to Volunteering in Literacy, Volunteers in Parent Education, Family Literacy, and Writing Without Fear. These courses are self-paced; instructor-led courses are planned for the future.

Most participants will be able to complete a course in 30 to 60 minutes or less. The courses are designed to supplement and enhance the training of volunteers; they are not intended to replace initial tutor training currently provided by local programs.

Connecting resources for Nevada's adult workforce

Hook up with LINCS

Nevada's literacy Web site, www.literacynet.org/nevada, is affiliated with the national LINCS system. Part of the National Institute for Literacy, LINCS (Literacy Information aNd Communications System) has expanded during the past eight years and now includes a host of adult education tools:

- ▶ Find resources: Click on the "LINCSearch" button in the upper left corner to search for literacy resources, information, and curricula across the LINCS Network and major national and international adult basic education and literacy sites.
- ▶ Search within a topic: Click the "Collections" oval near the top of the page to access LINCS' Special Collections. There are eleven Collections, each built around a specific content area or topic, such as ESL, science and numeracy, workforce education, etc.
- ▶ Discuss an issue: Click the "Discussions" oval near the top of the page to communicate with people around the world about a specific topic.
- ▶ Discover what's hot: Click the "Hot Sites" oval to access resources LINCS has found to be especially noteworthy.
- ▶ Look locally: The buttons along the left, under "Features," "Literacy Resources," and "Quick Reference" will lead you to items created by or specific to Nevadans.

Learn more about LINCS and how to use it effectively from the Director of Western/Pacific LINCS October 17-18 at the Focus Days/Fall Forum in Carson City (see article on page 1.)