

# NEVADA Connections

*Bringing Resources to Nevada's Adult Education Community*

Volume 13 Number 2

August 2008

## National GED Conference honors Nevadans

By Teri Zutter, [tzutter@wnc.edu](mailto:tzutter@wnc.edu), 775/445-4451

*Editor's note: Teri Zutter received her GED in 1986. She currently serves as director of Western Nevada College's ABE Program and is a GED Examiner based in Carson City.*

Mary Katherine Moen, Nevada's GED state administrator, hosted the annual GED Administrators' Conference in Sparks July 15<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 200 people from the U.S. and Canada attended, including Nevada Examiners Mary Koscinski, Mich Glazier, Kathleen Jameson, Jackie Kearns, and Mark Bechtel.

The program included a keynote address by Cheryl Keenan from the U. S. Department of Education, a panel of presenters discussing various methodologies and data surrounding transition programs, and a variety of workshops. However, the highlight of the conference certainly occurred Wednesday evening at the annual Awards Banquet, where eight successful GED holders each received a \$2,500 scholarship to further their postsecondary work.



*From left, back row: Alysse Silverthorne, Alicia Larsen, Georganna Reynolds, April Perkins, Eli Soto, Italia Babcock. Front Row: Brandi Mondragon, Barbara Callahan.*

*NAE (the Nevada Adult Educators organization) donated the ladies' corsages and a boutonniere for Eli.*

- ★ The American Nurses Credentialing Center sponsored the scholarship given to Georganna Reynolds, who is studying at the Orvis School of Nursing, University of Nevada, Reno and is slated for graduation in December.
- The GEDTS program awarded three scholarships:
- ★ Alicia Larsen, who was instructed by Mary Koscinski of the Hawthorne Adult High School Diploma program, plans to attend beauty school.
  - ★ Brandi Jeanne Mondragon, a single mother, is studying criminal justice at Western Nevada College. She volunteers five hours each week assisting students who are working on their GEDs and doing office work for the ABE department.
  - ★ April Perkins, a single mother of four and former auto mechanic, has completed her prerequisites for the radiological technology program at Truckee Meadows Community College. She plans to continue her coursework and apply for the program next spring. April was instructed by Carmen Hirsch of TMCC's ABE Program.
- Four GED recipients will matriculate with the help of scholarships from Nevada's colleges:
- ★ Eli Soto, known as "Eli the party guy," hopes to become known as "Eli the Machine Tool guy." He begins his coursework in machine tool technology in the fall at WNC.
  - ★ Barbara Callahan obtained her GED proficiency skills under the direction of Lyn Pizor at Community Multicultural Center and is enrolled at College of Southern Nevada for the fall term.
  - ★ Italia Babcock's ultimate goal is to obtain a Master of Science in nursing; she begins her journey at Great Basin College this fall.
  - ★ Alysse Silverthorne worked with Shirley Pollock, veteran GED instructor in Reno, and begins coursework at TMCC this fall.

## White House nominates Nevadan to NIFL Board



President Bush recently announced he would nominate Diane Barone to serve on the National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board for the remainder of a three-year term expiring Jan. 30, 2011. The Board, created by the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA), provides input to an interagency group comprising the departments of Education, Labor, and Health and Human Services. This interagency group then provides policy direction and guidance to NIFL.

Barone is a professor of literacy studies at the University of Nevada, Reno. She can be reached at [barone@unr.edu](mailto:barone@unr.edu), 775/682-7870.

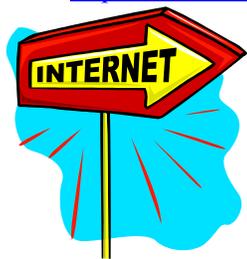
## Online learning

### For adult educators ...

Heinle, a leading publisher of ESL teaching materials, is now offering professional development courses for English language teaching professionals (novice teachers, experienced teaching professionals, and program coordinators and administrators).

Courses last six weeks and are taught online with lectures written by leading specialists in the field. They begin monthly and are coded so it is easy to find courses specifically for adult educators. Other features include: practical assignments for each lesson, a moderated discussion board, a five-question quiz per lesson, and pre- and post-program assessment. Participants earn a Certificate of Completion by passing the final exam.

Individual course price is \$55.00. College credit is available for an additional fee. To view the full list of offerings visit <http://eltadvantage.heinle.com/>.



### ... and their students

Adults with low-level reading skills now can learn basic computer and Internet search skills while they practice reading and writing using a free online course developed by a partnership between ProLiteracy and Superpages.com®.

"Getting Started with Superpages.com" ([www.superpages.com/adultlearners/](http://www.superpages.com/adultlearners/)) is designed for adults with a fifth grade reading level who are familiar with computers and the Internet.

The course consists of five lessons. Each lesson demonstrates a specific search skill — getting directions to a specific location, for example, or using the keyword search to find a specific type of business. The demonstrations are narrated to support adult learners who have trouble reading the screen text.

The student then practices exactly what was seen in the demonstration. The lesson ends with the student using Superpages.com to perform a similar search for businesses in his or her own city.

"The course is designed so that teachers or tutors can facilitate the lesson, but the audio component makes it possible for adult learners to use the course on their own as well," said David C. Harvey, ProLiteracy president and CEO.

Also free and downloadable:

- ✓ *Teacher's Notes* that offer discussion ideas for introducing each lesson, identify key vocabulary, and provide ideas for expanding the activities.
- ✓ *A Student Workbook* with step-by-step directions for the features highlighted in the lesson and worksheets for the activities.

**"This program offers adult learners a wonderful opportunity to improve not only their reading and writing skills, but their computer literacy skills as well," Harvey said. "The ability to use the Internet and find information quickly is an important aspect for living and working in today's technology-driven society."**

Editor: Sharyn Yanoshak ■ Phone: 702/253-6280 ■ Fax: 702/651-4538 ■ E-mail: [saylv@cox.net](mailto:saylv@cox.net)  
College of Southern Nevada, 3200 E. Cheyenne Ave. – K1B, North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030

Back issues archived at: <http://www.literacynet.org/nvadulthood/newsletters.html>

Direct address changes to: [marlana.lozano@csn.edu](mailto:marlana.lozano@csn.edu) Phone: 702/651-4974 Fax: 702/651-4538

# Your Invitation to Become a Charter Member!



Nevada Adult Educators is a new organization of educators, providers, and stakeholders in adult education formed to promote and support lifelong learning in Nevada.

The group collaborates, networks, and shares ideas and resources; works to expand public awareness; advocates for support; and provides educational and career development opportunities for adult educators.

## **Our first major event:**

\*NAE will host the 2009 MPAEA Conference  
March 1-4 in Las Vegas!

\*NAE is one of the eight western states affiliated with the Mountain Plains Adult Education Association ([www.mpaea.org](http://www.mpaea.org)).

# Join Today!

NEVADANS - Your charter membership is free during the 2008-2009 academic year.

Join now by visiting the NAE website - [\*\*www.nvadulted.org\*\*](http://www.nvadulted.org)

Cynthia Pierrott, Membership Chair  
(702) 651-4296

*The State Tree of Nevada is the Bristlecone Pine, one of the oldest living things on earth. It is hardy, drought-resistant, and determined to grow where other things cannot. It is used as a symbol for Adult Education in Nevada because it reflects tenacity, durability, and dedication to purpose.*

Workforce & Economic Development  
Leadership Activities, ABE Nevada-K1B  
Community College of Southern Nevada  
3200 E. Cheyenne Ave  
North Las Vegas, NV 89030-4296



NSHE Board of Regents  
Chair: Michael Wixom  
Vice Chair: Howard Rosenberg  
Mark Alden  
Dr. Stavros Anthony  
Cedric Crear  
Thalia Dondero  
Dorothy S. Gallagher  
Dr. Jason Geddes  
Ron Knecht  
James Dean Leavitt  
Dr. Jack Lund Schofield  
Steve Sisolak  
Bret Whipple

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Las Vegas, NV  
Permit No. 1618

This professional development project is a leadership activity funded by a grant from the Nevada State Department of Education, Workforce Investment Act, Title II (Adult Education and Family Literacy). There is no discrimination or denial of participation on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion or religious creed, national origin, sexual orientation, ancestry, or disability.

## Here's your chance to headline in Las Vegas!



Book your presentation now in the entertainment capital of the world! MPAEA will hold its annual conference in Las Vegas March 1 - 4. The Call for Presenters is posted at <http://www.mpaea2009.org/>; deadline is September 15.

The Conference Committee seeks a comprehensive and diverse slate of presentations representing all areas of adult education, including ABE/literacy, ESL, GED, Corrections, family literacy, and community, continuing, and higher education. Program Chair is Kathy Biagi, [kbiagi@nevadaculture.org](mailto:kbiagi@nevadaculture.org), 775/684-3341.

The Mountain Plains Adult Education Association represents eight western states ([www.mpaea.org](http://www.mpaea.org)); presenters from throughout the nation are welcome!