

## TMCC's ESL retention off the charts!

Brad Deeds, ESL department manager for Truckee Meadows Community College's ABE program, recently announced exemplary results for fall (session II) ESL classes. "One of our data-driven goals is to achieve at least 70% student retention (post-tested/originally registered) as a department," he said. "For the September 3 – October 16 class session, the Reno Community ESL Program averaged 72.7% retention, the Tahoe Community ESL Program 76.7%."

Especially noteworthy were these top performers:

### 80% Super-Stars

★	Class #31	Edgar Concha	Low Beginning	80.00%
★	Class #43	Joan Howard	Intensive ESL Reading	80.00%
★	Class #3	Dawn Wiegel	Low Intermediate	80.56%
★	Class #41	Gail Hettich	Intensive ESL Writing	81.25%
★	Class #90	Aiko Nagao	TAHOE Beginning	82.35% (08/20-10/02)
★	Class #33	Jim Mueller	Low Beginning	84.62%
★	Class #5	Silvia Rodriguez	Advanced	85.00%
★	Class #47	Rochelle Mueller	Low Intermediate	88.89%

### 90% Hall of Fame

★	Class #6	Paul Krefting	Multi-Lingual I	91.30%
★	Class #32	Bob Balderrama	Low Beginning with a whopping	94.29%!

## *E Pluribus Unum* PRIZES

RECOGNIZING EXCEPTIONAL U.S. IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION INITIATIVES

The Migration Policy Institute (MPI) recently announced a new national awards program to provide four \$50,000 awards annually for exceptional initiatives that promote immigrant integration.

The J.M. Kaplan Fund is providing support for these awards in each of the next three years to focus attention on successful integration initiatives and to inspire and provide program models to others in the United States who might also undertake such efforts.

The [E Pluribus Unum Prizes](#) will recognize exceptional initiatives, be they led by individuals; nonprofit and community organizations; private businesses; religious groups; or government entities, agencies, or officials.

The application procedure and rules are at <http://www.migrationinformation.org/integrationawards/>. The deadline for this year's applications is January 31 at 9 p.m. EST. Questions? Contact [awardsinfo@migrationpolicy.org](mailto:awardsinfo@migrationpolicy.org).

### What is immigrant integration?

MPI defines immigrant integration as the two-way process by which immigrants and their children come to feel — and be — Americans and by which American identity and culture expand to reflect each new generation of immigrants.

## New naturalization test

In order to provide a more standardized, fair, and meaningful naturalization process, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) launched its new naturalization test on October 1, 2008. The test was redesigned to ensure that naturalization applicants have uniform, consistent testing experiences nationwide.

The new test, with an emphasis on the fundamental concepts of American democracy and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, includes revised civics questions to better assess applicants' understanding of U.S. government and history.

Vocabulary lists are available and applicants will receive a new English and civics [study booklet](#) when they are fingerprinted at USCIS application support centers.

Visit [www.uscis.gov/newtest](http://www.uscis.gov/newtest) for more information.



## Teaching resources

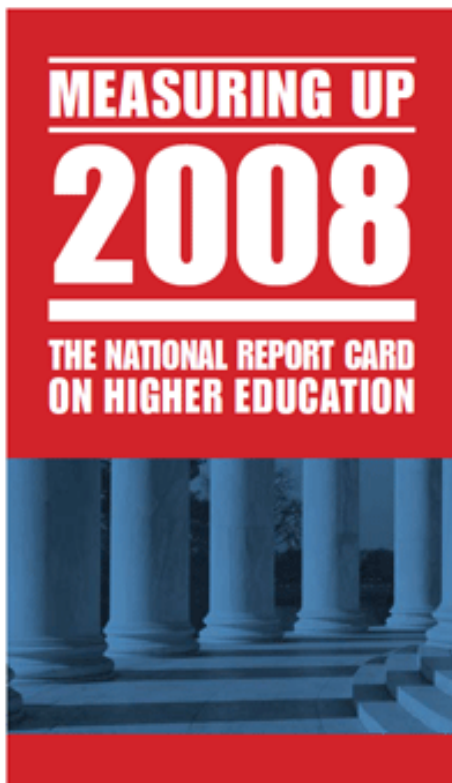
The Office of Vocational and Adult Education has partnered with the Department of Homeland Security to provide professional development on citizenship instruction for teachers of adult English language learners.

Three free, self-paced online courses — on U.S. history, U.S. government, and the naturalization process — are available now at [www.elciviconline.org](http://www.elciviconline.org). The courses allow teachers to obtain lesson plans and download relevant resources. A course on civics engagement is coming soon.

## Web sites for students

Communicating at Work (<http://aaca-boston.org/caw/>) is a free Web site created by the Asian American Civic Association in Boston, MA in response to the concerns of its ESOL and training program graduates now working in mainstream American companies. The site is very interactive and features dialogues, scenarios and quizzes to help adult learners improve their communication skills with supervisors, co-workers, and customers. Remind students to turn on their speakers!

Various topics: Students can watch and learn from free videos at <http://www.studio4learning.tv/>. Categories include math, sciences, English, languages, social sciences, finding a job, and others. Teachers may upload their own video lessons, too!



## How are we doing?

The rest of the world may be bypassing the United States when it comes to postsecondary education, according to a new report from the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, a non-profit, California-based group.

The report, [Measuring Up 2008](#), raises concerns about persistent U.S. disparities in access and completion for low-income students and underrepresented minorities. These fast-growing populations will dominate a U.S. workforce that must compete in a global economy as better educated workers retire. According to the report, data from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development show that between 2003 and 2006, the U.S. slipped from fifth to seventh in the percentage of adults ages 18–24 enrolled in college, and from seventh to 10th in the percentage of adults 25–34 holding an associate degree or higher.

The report also offers state-by-state report cards on six key measures of educational performance: preparation for college, participation, affordability, completion, benefits, and learning. It can be accessed at <http://measuringup2008.highereducation.org/>.

*Measuring Up 2008* is the fifth in a series of biennial report cards that provide the general public and policymakers with information they can use to assess and improve postsecondary education in each state.

# NAE News — membership update

## Are you one of the 161?

One hundred and sixty-one adult educators have become charter members of the Nevada Adult Educators organization. If you're not reflected in the list below, why not join? Membership is free to Nevadans through June 30, 2009.



Albuquerque	1	Gardnerville	1	N. Las Vegas	6
Carson City	13	Hawthorne	2	Panaca	1
Casper	1	Henderson	6	Pioche	1
Dayton	1	Las Vegas	63	Reno	32
Elko	7	Laughlin	1	Sparks	5
Ely	3	Lovelock	7	West Wendover	2
Fernley	1	Mesquite	1	Winnemucca	5
		Minden	1		

NAE's first event is a big one — hosting the MPAEA Conference March 1-4 in Las Vegas — and the Board has many ideas for future activities. Join and be a part of the team! Go to [www.nvadulted.org](http://www.nvadulted.org), click on "Join NAE."

## Lifelong Learning *It's more than luck!*

Attending the MPAEA conference? Be sure to meet with Nevada colleagues at the state meeting on Tuesday afternoon. See conference details at [www.mpaea2009.org](http://www.mpaea2009.org).

## Online professional development: take "Advantage!"

Heinle, a part of Cengage Learning, offers regularly scheduled online professional development courses for adult educators working with English language learners.

The TESOL-approved courses include lectures written by leading specialists in the field of ESL/ELT. Both novice and experienced teachers have given them an A+! Each course lasts six weeks and includes practical assignments for each lesson, a moderated discussion board, and pre- and post-program assessment.

Courses include An Introduction to English Language Teaching, Practical Ideas for the Adult ESL Classroom, Assessing Language Ability in Young Adults and Adults, Teaching ESL Grammar, Teaching ESL Reading, Communicative Teaching for the ESL Classroom, and many more! They begin on the third Wednesday of each month and are only \$55 each.

Visit <http://eltadvantage.heinle.com/> to take advantage of these offerings!



## Additional online coursework

Several additional sites offer high quality professional development geared to adult educators. Here are three of them:

- ProfessionalStudiesAE.org, [www.ProfessionalStudiesAE.org](http://www.ProfessionalStudiesAE.org), a collaboration between ProLiteracy and World Education, offers a wide variety of self-paced and facilitated courses. Some are free.
- Thinkfinity, sponsored by Verizon, provides free, self-paced courses at [www.thinkfinity.org](http://www.thinkfinity.org); click on "Literacy Network" along the top.
- At <http://www.c-pal.net/course/index.html> are links to five free, short, self-paced courses for adult literacy instructors new to the field. The site is sponsored by OVAE (Office of Vocational and Adult Education).

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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.



## An assignment for 2009

Adapted from *First Monday Tip from Kit*, December 2008  
Kit Prendergast, Career and Life Coach, [www.careerconnectionsSN.com/](http://www.careerconnectionsSN.com/)

As 2008 comes to a close, I'm struck by the wonderful image of a fireplace, hearth, and of people gathered warmly around it. In ancient cultures, the wisest elders take their places closest to the fire, where they are recognized, honored and appreciated for their wisdom.

For me, the end of the fiscal year is a time for reflecting on the wisdom, learnings, and accomplishments of the past year. It's also a time to reach out and share lessons learned, and so I challenge you to reflect and expand your thinking:

**Honor your accomplishments.** Brainstorm with yourself. Think of five things you did, produced or accomplished in 2008 — things you are proud of. Write them down. Then do five more. You'll surprise yourself, I promise.

**Consider next year.** What do you want to take forward with you into 2009? Will it be some of those accomplishments, building further on them? Will it be some evolution from them?

Reflect on the future year.

**Share.** Make a personal commitment to share your wisdom and lessons learned with your community. Mentor, volunteer, and make yourself available to others in your field.

Finally, be confident that there is enough to go around, and share that sense of abundance with those around you.