



MPAEA Conference successful on all counts



*Putting on the finishing touches, from left:
Bob Henry, Dave Sultzbach, Cynthia Pierrott,
Linda Bogle, Jodi Ruback*

With only 11 months to plan it, Nevada hosted the 67th annual MPAEA Conference in Las Vegas March 1-4. It was an exhilarating success by all measures!

Approximately 250 attended — a testament to adult educators' dedication and resourcefulness in overcoming travel and budget challenges.

Session and overall conference evaluations were overwhelmingly positive. The Nevada Adult Educators organization will split the profits with MPAEA; preliminary reports indicate each group will net about \$10,000.



*Congratulations
and best of luck in
retirement to
Shirley Pollock!*

Several notable Nevadans were recognized:

- ★ Lay Leader of the Year: Chancellor James E. Rogers
- ★ Legislators of the Year: Nevada Senator Steven A. Horsford and Assemblywoman Bonnie Parnell
- ★ Educator of the Year: Shirley Pollock
- ★ Award of Excellence for Nevada: Robert T. Henry
- ★ Learner of the Year: Vicente Gaona

Special thanks to Conference Chair Teri Zutter and her Committee Chairs:

Kathy Biagi (program), Cynthia Pierrott (registration), Ronna Timpa (exhibitors), Sharyn Yanoshak (publicity), Ken Zutter (Web site and all-around "fireman"); the NAE Board members who helped throughout (Bob Henry, Brad Deeds, Linda Bogle, Kathleen Jameson, Sam King, and Mary Ramirez); and the many others who pitched in wherever needed!



Thank you, Team Zutter!

Complete photo gallery at <http://picasaweb.google.com/nvadulted.org>

Education leader forecasts a welcome storm

At the American Council on Education's Annual meeting on February 9, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan described "a perfect storm for reform — a historic alignment of interests and events that could lift American education to an entirely new level. Given the state of our economy, the pace of technological change, and the scope of our collective challenges—no other issue is more pressing."

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Pathfinder widens the road

Begun in 1989, the Outreach and Technical Assistance Network was a pathfinder in providing adult education resources. OTAN recently redesigned their Web site and continues to provide electronic collaboration/information and support for instructional technology and distance learning to literacy and adult education providers worldwide.

Although some of OTAN's services are geared and available only to California's adult educators, many resources are available to all at www.otan.us. For example:

- The "teaching tools and resources" button leads to resources organized by program type (ABE, ESL, Corrections, etc.), where you'll find lesson plans, classroom activities, media (graphics, photos, sounds & video clips), project-based learning, sites to use with students, and articles on teaching and learning. A link to "professional development" lists 35 online sites for professional growth.
- The "ed technology and media" button provides links to videos and other classroom resources.
- The "research and reference" section contains an excellent adult education dictionary and other resources.

Getting there: helping adult learners overcome barriers to success

The January 2009 issue of *Texas Adult & Family Literacy Quarterly* focuses on how adult education programs can help adult learners set educational goals and develop strategies to accomplish them. Several readers contributed pieces on topics such as goal setting, transitioning ESL learners, and Chickering's Seven Principles of Good Practice. You may access the publication at <http://www-tcall.tamu.edu/newsletr/pub09.htm>.

Math for the trades: you can count on this!

Alaska has posted a "Math for the Trades" curriculum, a 20-30-hour course geared to people who want to get into apprenticeship programs. Downloadable at www.ninestar.com, click on "teacher resources" along the left.



Upcoming conferences

Additional events at www.literacynet.org/nevada (click on calendar)

- What:** 43rd Annual TESOL Convention and Exhibit, March 26-28, Denver, CO
Contact: www.tesol.org/s_tesol/convention2009/, 703/518-2517
- What:** CATESOL 2009 Statewide Conference, April 16-19, Pasadena, CA.
Contact: www.catesol2009.org, 925/253-8683

What: Commission on Adult Basic Education (COABE) 2009 Conference, April 18-22, Louisville, KY
Contact: <http://www.coabe.org>, 315/422-9121

What: National Learner Leadership Institute and Adult Literacy Congress, May 3-5, Washington D.C.
Contact: www.valueusa.org (under "our programs"), 484/443-8457
Conference is designed especially for adult learners; literacy practitioners very welcome. Agenda includes training on how to meet with legislators, Congressional meeting, rally, and mock Congressional debate.

What: CASAS National Summer Institute, June 23-25, San Diego, CA.
Contact: www.casas.org, 800/255-1036

What: "Effective Transitions in Adult Education," November 16 – 17, Providence, RI.
Contact: www.collegetransition.org
This conference is sponsored by the National College Transition Network at World Education, in partnership with the Nellie Mae Education Foundation. The event will focus on strategies and promising practices that help adult learners succeed in postsecondary education and training.

NAE News — On to the next project



Seventy NAE members attended the MPAEA Conference in Las Vegas last month, and nearly all of them attended Nevada's state meeting on March 3. Energized by Art Ellison's presentation, the availability of resources to guide action, and timely need, the group agreed to focus on advocacy for NAE's next project.

Nineteen people volunteered to work on the NAE Advocacy Committee. Brad Deeds (TMCC, bdeeds@tmcc.edu, 775/829-9052) and John Childress (WNC, elfaro@hotmail.com 775/246-5084) will be heading up this effort. They welcome your help and your ideas!

"Your ideas will certainly be appreciated and if you are able to help with NAE's Initiative, that would be even better," said NAE President Bob Henry. "We need all the support we can get if we are to make a difference in the legislature!"

The mission of the Nevada Adult Educators (NAE) organization is to promote and support lifelong learning in Nevada. NAE:

- Fosters collaboration, communication, networking, and the sharing of ideas and resources among members, providers, and stakeholders.
- Promotes and provides educational and career development opportunities for adult educators.
- Expands public awareness of the importance of literacy, adult education, and lifelong learning.
- Supports adult, continuing, and community education.

To your health

The Change Agent's March 2009 issue on health contains 56 pages of short articles, illustrations, cartoons, math lessons, and quizzes. Explore students' experiences dealing with health challenges and their individual and community-based responses to those challenges. Learn about the U.S. health insurance industry, student-recommended home remedies, students' experiences of health disparities, the connection between mental and physical health, and much more. Featuring ready-to-use lesson plans, personal stories, and many graphics, *The Change Agent* is perfect for a multi-level ABE and/or ESOL classroom. See <http://nelrc.org/changeagent/>.



Healthy sites for students

http://esl-lab.com/health/healrd1.htm	A healthy lifestyle - reading and listening practice
http://ipl.org/div/subject/browse/hea00.00.00/	Health and nutrition topics - reading practice
http://mcedservices.com/medex/medex.htm	Reading medicine labels. This site includes translations into Arabic, Hmong, Somali, and Spanish.
http://mcedservices.com/medex2/medex2.htm	Nutrition - provides guided and detailed listening practice
http://www.esl-lab.com/office/offrd1.htm	Doctor's appointments - listening practice
http://www.literacynet.org/vtd/index.html	Visiting the doctor - reading practice
http://www.cal.org/co/domestic/toolkit/health/index.html	This site provides a general orientation to the U.S. health care system, including the need and options for health insurance. Also includes information on how to receive health care, first aid procedures, personal hygiene practices in the U.S., and mental health services.

Helpful fact sheet summarizing key research study findings on the relationship between health literacy and health outcomes:

www.health.gov/communication/literacy/quickguide/factsliteracy.htm

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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.

NIFL offers Collections, hosts communities of practice

Resource Collections

The National Institute for Literacy recently announced three new Resource Collections, each a compendium of high-quality instructional material, resources, and research. The Collections are rigorously vetted by experts in the field; most items are Web-based.

- The Basic Skills Resource Collection focuses on reading, writing, mathematics, and numeracy for use by adult educators to improve instruction in basic skills.
- The Program Planning Resource Collection focuses on assessment, learning disabilities, and program improvement.
- The Workforce Competitiveness Resource Collection focuses on workforce basic skills education, English language acquisition, and technology.

- ✓ Go to www.nifl.gov/lincs .
- ✓ Select the "Resource Collection" link in the navigation bar to the right

Communities of Practice

NIFL's online discussion lists have become true communities of practice. Thousands of literacy researchers, policymakers, administrators, practitioners, and students meet to discuss critical issues; ask questions of subject experts; share resources, experiences, and ideas; and improve teaching and learning. Each discussion list is moderated by a national organization with expertise in the topic area.

List topics include: Adult English Language Learners, Adult Literacy Professional Development, Assessment, Diversity & Literacy, Family Literacy, Health Literacy, Learning Disabilities, Special Topics, Technology & Literacy, and Workforce Literacy.

- ✓ Go to www.nifl.gov/lincs
- ✓ Select the "Discussion List" link in the navigation bar to the right
- ✓ Click on the List you'd like to join
- ✓ Submit the short form