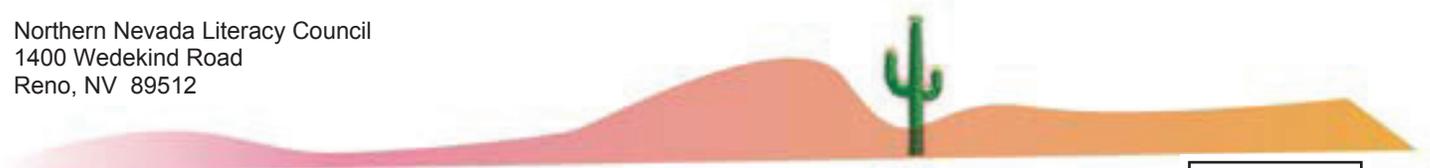


Northern Nevada Literacy Council  
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## Calendar of Key Adult Education Conferences

**What:** CASAS National Summer Institute 2015, June 23-25, 2015, San Diego, CA  
**Contact:** [www.casas.org/si](http://www.casas.org/si)

**What:** National Career Pathways Network Annual Conference, October 28-30, 2015, Dallas, TX  
**Contact:** [www.ncpn.info](http://www.ncpn.info)

**What:** National College Transition Network, November 9-11, 2015, Providence, R.I.  
**Contact:** [www.collegetransitions.org/conference.overview](http://www.collegetransitions.org/conference.overview)

**What:** American Association for Adult and Continuing Education, November 15-17, 2015, Oklahoma City, OK  
**Contact:** <http://www.aaace.org/>



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*Bringing Resources to Nevada's Adult Education Community*

Volume 18, Number 14

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## **Sweeping Education Reforms Signed into Law**

Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval recently signed into law major education reform legislation passed during the 78th Legislative Session, which will add nearly a billion dollars in new funding for Nevada schools, allow parents the ability to use public school funds in private schools, creates funding streams for English Language Learners and children living in poverty, and increase access to distance education. A few highlights from the bill signings include:

**A.B. 448:** The bill creates the Achievement School District (ASD), a sweeping education reform which will convert the lowest performing schools in our state to achievement charter schools. The State Board of Education will review and approve the schools placed into the new District as recommended by the ASD Executive Director.

**A.B. 483:** School districts will be enabled to reward their top performing teachers through salary increases. Pay-for-Performance compensation plans will be exempt from collective bargaining and districts will be required to set aside sufficient funding to provide bonuses for highly effective teachers and principals.

**A.B. 394:** In his State of the State Address, Governor Sandoval articulated the need to examine the size of school districts to ensure they are meeting the needs of Nevada's students. Assemblyman David Gardner introduced and shepherded this measure which is the important first step in the process whereby Nevada will reorganize school districts when necessary.

**S.B. 514:** The funds appropriated by the bills signed recently will provide the first major investment in the UNLV School of Medicine and deliver significant funding for the UNLV Boyd School of Law, UNLV Harrah Hotel College Building, and UNLV International Center for Excellence in Gaming Regulation.

**S.B. 515:** Senate Bill 515 contains unprecedented investments in Nevada's K-12 education system and represents a part of the Governor's strategic plan to reform and modernize the way we deliver education to Nevada's students. Additionally, SB 515 funds many of the Governor's new education policy priorities, which includes more than \$300 million over the biennium.

**S.B. 508:** Senate Bill 508 will make significant and meaningful updates to the Nevada Plan and is considered a landmark reform in the Governor's education package. The original Nevada Plan was originally enacted in 1967 at a time when Nevada's entire population was roughly 450,000, which is less than today's total enrollment in all of Nevada's public schools. This measure changes the Nevada Plan to begin evaluation and the process of providing student weights or a multiplier of the basic support guarantee for students who have disabilities, limited English proficiency, are at risk, or are gifted. This legislation addresses the diverse needs of our state and growing population and will improve Nevada's overall delivery of education.

# 100 Hours of Learning Pays Dividends

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Career, Technical & Adult Education (OCTAE) commissioned Dr. Stephen Reder, professor in the Department of Applied Linguistics at Portland State University, to analyze the long-term impacts of adult basic skills (ABS) program participation on a range of outcome measures. Dr. Reder utilized the university's Longitudinal Study of Adult Learning data to study the long-term impacts of nearly 1,000 high school dropouts' participation in ABS programs. The study assessed their literacy skills and skill uses over time, along with changes in their social, educational, and economic status, to provide a more comprehensive representation of adult literacy development. The key findings are:



- ★ Participants in ABS programs experience significant, and, in some cases, substantial increases in long-term educational and economic outcomes.
- ★ The enhanced **outcomes require an average of 100 or more cumulative hours of attendance** and typically don't appear until several years following program participation.
- ★ The **income premiums to ABS program participation average \$10,000 per year** (in 2013 dollars).
- ★ The overall GED (now generally referred to as High School Equivalency, or HSE) attainment rate is estimated to have increased between 16% - 36% because of ABS program participation. PDFs can be accessed at: <https://lincs.ed.gov/>

## *My Journey submitted by Kathē Fanelli*

Seven years ago, I began the journey to go back to school. At first it was not something I really wanted to do. I felt I was too old (now 69) and still raising kids and grandkids. I had to drop out of school in my sophomore year in 1972. I was hooked up with Washoe Adult Education to prepare for the GED. I was terrified to take the test, but they had me do the practice test, and I found the only subject I struggled with was math. I went through the math class to prepare for the GED, and when the time came to take the test and, despite my fears, I was able to pass. On April 30, 2007, I received my HSE Certificate!

This was a great accomplishment and was urged to pursue a college education. I thought I can't go to college! This was something way beyond my abilities. I was separated from my husband at the time with 3 daughters in high school. I was trying to support myself with a daughter graduating and my youngest acting out and getting into trouble. I was taking care of two of my granddaughters and had a cleaning business. But despite these obstacles, I registered at Truckee Meadows Community College. I was interested in becoming a bookkeeper or something in accounting. I tried taking a couple of classes at a time but with things at home not going very well, I moved back home with my husband to work on our marriage. I didn't know where I was going with this college business so I took just the required classes. Math seemed to always be the struggle, and it took several attempts to pass and move forward. It wasn't until I was at UNR that I finally passed math with an A!

In 2011, I moved out to be on my own as all my children were grown and starting their own families. I had never been on my own before and wasn't sure I could do it. I registered at UNR to begin my new life, and at first, I was majoring in Psychology but decided to take a social work intro class and fell in love. I changed my major to social work., and during the first year, I was introduced to gerontology. I was invited to a gerontology students club meeting and within a few months was voted the president. Also during this time, I was invited to become a member of the National Society of Leadership while I was working full time and going to college full time. I took all the required classes to receive my minor and certificate in gerontology and was accepted into the professional field of social work. I have just recently graduated with my Bachelors in Social Work and am working on getting my Masters. I interned at Senior Outreach Services and am in the process of getting my LSW license. I am more confident in my abilities and can't wait to see my future!



# Making Connections Work for the Workforce

by Jake McClelland

One-Stop System Director



The enactment of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), signed into law last summer by President Obama, will soon be upon us! For Workforce Connections – the Southern Nevada Local Workforce Development Board – the implementation process has been in full swing for many months and we are anxious to see our planning finally be put into action.

One of the most exciting aspects of WIOA is the way it will bring together all of the various workforce and education partners into a single, cohesive system, and with no partner is the excitement more eagerly anticipated than with Adult Education.

As has been a recurring theme throughout the recovery from the Great Recession, despite unemployment rolls that remain in the millions, businesses are still insisting that they have a hard time filling open positions. One common explanation for that seemingly illogical disconnect is that many job seekers simply lack the basic skills that are required by employers..

In working with job seekers coming through our One-Stop Career Center every day, this is one instance where the anecdotal evidence certainly backs up the data. There is no tougher task as a case manager or job coach than working with an individual who is so eager to get back to work, only to have their hopes deflated by a lack of reading or other basic skills.

We are looking forward to integrating the workforce development system with Adult Education so that these job seekers can at last find equal footing in the labor market with their peers, as well as working on innovative projects, such as using integrated basic education and training models to create prosperous career pathways to the middle class.

July 1, 2015 promises to be the beginning of a beautiful partnership!

## **Please give us your input on *Nevada Connections!***

We welcome your suggestions for stories and input on this newsletter. Please contact Susan Robinson with suggestions, ideas, and input at [director@nnlc.org](mailto:director@nnlc.org) or call 775.356.1007.

Nevada Connections is also available at <http://nvedu.org/nc>.