

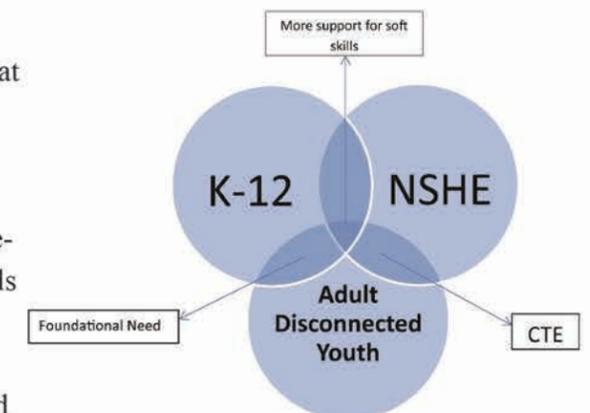
## The “Proble-tunity” Facing Nevada According to Dale Erquiaga

Nevada has a “proble-tunity” according to Governor Sandoval’s Chief Strategy Officer Dale Erquiaga who recently presented to the Nevada Adult Education Director’s Meeting in Reno. A “proble-tunity” he defines as a hybrid between a problem and an opportunity and that is the huge skills gap that exists for millions of Nevadans.

Mr. Erquiaga had been the Superintendent of Public Instruction until August, 2015, when Governor Sandoval named him Chief Strategy Officer, a newly created position. In this new capacity, he works directly as the liaison to education and workforce development agencies as they implement new programs and legislation passed during the 78<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session. This change is “to take the next step toward creating a Nevada with a world-class education system, workforce development training to complement the diversified economy, and an infrastructure that keeps up with a growing population,” said Governor Sandoval.

Mr. Erquiaga points out that a skills gap exists for 1.5 million Nevadans of working age who lack the skills needed for the jobs that are coming available in the New Nevada. More than 60% of these jobs will need a post-secondary credential, and employers increasingly complain they can’t find enough workers to fill jobs that require more than a high school diploma but not quite a bachelor’s degree. Stackable credentials may be a solution. Stackable credentials are part of a sequence of credentials that can be accumulated over time to build up an individual’s qualifications and help them to move along a career pathway to up a career ladder to a different and potentially higher-paying jobs. The stackable credential model fits especially well for those who are already employed but looking for further opportunities. It allows them to enroll one course at a time, then “stack” each new certification or skill toward a raise, promotion or position in a new company.

At this time, more than 270,000 Nevadans lack a high school diploma or its equivalent, and adult education providers will be working as a part of the State of Nevada’s Unified State Plan under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 which will align education, career training and workforce development into an integrated workforce system that improves Nevada’s economy and the lives of Nevadans.



*The shaded areas indicate opportunities for adult education to work with other entities to help more people be successful.*

Nevada Connections is a State Leadership activity/professional development project funded by a grant from the Nevada State Department of Education, Workforce Investment Opportunity 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.

### Calendar of Key Adult Education Conferences

**What:** Commission on Adult Basic Education Conference, April 10—13, 2016, Dallas, TX  
**Contact:** [www.coabe.org/conference2016home](http://www.coabe.org/conference2016home)

**What:** Mountain Plains Adult Education Association Annual Conference, April 27-30, 2016, Boise, ID  
**Contact:** [www.mpaea.org](http://www.mpaea.org)

**What:** CASAS National Summer Institute 2016, June 21-23, 2016, San Diego, CA  
**Contact:** [www.casas.org/si](http://www.casas.org/si)



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## Nevada's College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS) Stars!



Nevada's very own State Leadership CCRS facilitators and coaches have been working hard to help Nevada programs effectively implement the CCRS. State English Language Arts (ELA) facilitators Claudia Bianca, Diana McIntyre, Barbara Stephano, and Linda Bogle, along with State Math facilitators Joy Zimmerman, Michelle Berry, and Heather Marshall are working diligently to train and mentor program coaches to guide teachers at their programs in implementing the CCRS in their classrooms.

Facilitators received specialized training from the United States Department of Education's Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education in order to train key staff at state agencies to understand how to align curriculum and instruction as well as assess the implementation of the CCRS.

Adult Basic Education program coaches include the following talented individuals:

Catholic Charities ELA coach: Robbie Fink.

Community Adult Learning in Libraries ELA coaches: Eileen Mason, Hanafi Shakur.

College of Southern Nevada ELA coaches: Glorious Fealing, Laura Porreca.



Pictured top left to right: Laura Porreca, Glorious Fealing, Eileen Mason.  
Bottom left to right: Robbie Fink, Hanafi Shakur.



College of Southern Nevada Math coach:  
Carmelo Pinzon.



Great Basin College ELA coach:  
Brenda Gonzales.

Northern Nevada Literacy Council ELA coach: Marianne Rasmussen.  
Northern Nevada Literacy Council Math coaches: Heather Marshall, Mary Diebel.



Pictured left to right: Mary Diebel, Heather Marshall.

Truckee Meadows Community College ELA coaches: Aida Hashemi, Edward Joaquin.

Truckee Meadows Community College Math coach: Linda Schneider-Erger.

Western Nevada College ELA coaches: Jody Coxon, Hallie Murphy.



Pictured left to right: Hallie Murphy, Marianne Rasmussen, Edward Joaquin, Aida Hashemi, Jody Coxon.

State leadership is grateful to this dedicated team who continues to foster Nevada's five year Sustainability Plan of ensuring that all classroom teachers at every level, will be fully implementing the CCRS at their agencies by 2018.

Contributed by Nevada State Leadership