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MCAE NEWS



The Voice of Adult Education in Massachusetts

September 21, 2009

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We Want
Your Photos
and Stories!

The new MCAE website is [featuring programs](#) and [photos](#) from programs around the state. Please [submit](#) yours.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT - Connie Nelson

Welcome to the new MCAE News. We are pleased to be launching this as a vehicle to strengthen our communication as an organization. We have a great story to get out there: the work we all do to help adults get the basic education they need to pursue their goals in life. The story is a collection of the many successful stories created by our programs in so many venues around the state: learners changing their lives in community-based organizations, community colleges, school departments, libraries, volunteer programs, family literacy programs, correctional institutions, workplaces and union halls. The story also includes the ongoing need for Adult Basic Education and English for Speakers of Other Languages and the need for resources to continue and expand our work.

We have been pretty good at communicating this story to the Legislature and other policy makers thanks to years of work led by our Public Policy committee, and the many members of our organization who follow through when they see a Policy Alert. We have a reputation as an effective advocacy organization. We also communicate fairly well with all organizations such as the student organization MassAAL and many others, to coordinate and support each others' work. We haven't been as successful in telling our story to the general public via the media and in communicating with our own membership. We see MCAE News as a way to strengthen both of these, which in turn helps when we talk with our senators and representatives. We know the power of our learners' stories. We hope to help our members bring those stories to a wider audience.

This work is being led by our new Media Committee. I'd like to encourage you to join the effort by contacting Executive Director Kenny Tamarkin at ktamarkin@mcae.net or Committee Chair Linda Faria Braun at lindafbraun@comcast.net. Again, thanks for all you do every day to help these stories happen.

MCAE is Your Voice of ABE in Massachusetts

A MESSAGE FROM MCAE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - Kenny Tamarkin

I hope you had a pleasant summer. Welcome back to the new school year. No matter the season, MCAE works for you. Our Public Policy

committee leads statewide efforts to maintain financial support for Adult Basic Education programs. We have amplified our impact by collaborating with allied organizations such as the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA), Massachusetts Alliance for Adult Literacy (MassAAL), the Workforce Solutions Group (WSG), and the Massachusetts Workforce Alliance (MWA). We also work at the national level with the National Council of State Directors of Adult Education, and other state ABE advocacy organizations. Our upcoming NETWORK Conference on October 21-22 remains the largest annual ABE conference in New England.

As an MCAE member you receive the following benefits:

- Discounted registration fees to NETWORK and other MCAE sponsored professional development workshops or seminars.
- Updates on important statewide and federal issues affecting adult education through the MCAE Alerts and MCAE News.
- The opportunity to shape public policy, working conditions and public awareness of ABE through participation in MCAE committees.
- The ability to nominate your peers for MCAE Awards.
- Most important, your membership strengthens the voice of adult education in Massachusetts.

Our membership year begins October 1 and is fully tax deductible. Please [renew now](#) or [when you register](#) for NETWORK 2009. If you are not currently a member, please join us. If you work for an ABE program, we encourage you to support MCAE by paying for staff memberships and conference registrations.

We are optimistic about the future of ABE. We need you to continue to support us as we continue our work to improve the quantity and quality of ABE services in Massachusetts.

NETWORK 2009 - October 21 and 22, 2009

NETWORK is the largest annual ABE Conference in New England. This year's roster of over 70 workshop includes offering in teaching ESOL, Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Workplace Education, Workforce Development, Technology, Advocacy, Curriculum Frameworks, Student Leadership, Financial Literacy, Learning Disabilities, Assessment, Distance Learning, Corrections, Management, and Media Strategies for ABE Programs.

Registration is underway. To [download a program](#) or [register](#) for NETWORK, visit the [NETWORK 2009 page](#) on MCAE's new website.



TIME FOR MCAE AWARD NOMINATIONS

[MCAE Awards](#) honors outstanding students, practitioners and community leaders in adult basic education. This year's awards will be announced at the annual NETWORK Conference Award Luncheon on

Thursday, October 22, 2009.

Awards are given for Outstanding Teacher, Outstanding Student, Outstanding Volunteer, Outstanding Counselor, Outstanding Administrator, Outstanding Support Staff, and Outstanding Business or Labor Partner. In addition, MCAE annually presents a Special Recognition Award to an individual, organization or business or labor partner whose lifetime contribution merit this recognitions. The Working Conditions Committee also presents the Improving Working Conditions Award - given to a program that has demonstrated improvement in its working conditions through changes in policies and procedures.

To nominate someone, visit the [AWARDS page](#) on the MCAE website. Then click on the name of the award to download the form. Please note that nominators, but not the recipients, must be a member of MCAE. *All nominations must be received by email (preferred) or by mail by September 29, 2009.*

Each award winner will receive a a guide on how to publicize the award and a one year subscription to The Change Agent, an adult education newspaper for social justice.

Please visit our new [website](#) and let us know what you think! Since it is new - it is a "work in progress". Your thoughts, comments, pictures and videos of your program, are more than welcome.

Have a great year - and see you at NETWORK 2009!

Kenneth Tamarkin, Executive Director
Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education

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