



On My Way Out the Door...

Ready or not, summer is upon us! Summer can be many things. It can be a time for a well-deserved rest. It can be time for that long anticipated, exciting trip to faraway places or just a trip to visit the grandkids. It can be a time to plan for the coming fall and a new school-year. Or it can just be that time of year when you spend every minute at work, wishing you could be outside at the water's edge, fishing, swimming or just soaking in the rays! Whatever it means to you, enjoy!

Your MAACCE Board is all taking a deep breath and a short relaxation period before we begin to plan for next year's conference. I hope

you enjoyed the conference just as much as I did. We had great presenters, wonderful vendors and great support from the hotel staff. I won't say there weren't a few glitches, here and there, but all in all, everyone seemed to have a good time and hopefully have taken back to their programs and classes, new and exciting ideas and strategies. A big Thank You to all the board members for their hard work!

And a big Thank You to the folks from DLLR for their presentations at the conference. Hopefully their presence at the conference answered some questions, opened some eyes, and started the ball rolling for a smooth

transition from MSDE to DLLR. Better alignment between Adult Education and Workforce promises to be a real bonus for our learners.

This will be my last newsletter as your President. I am so excited that Todd Elliott will be following me. He is a hard worker with great ideas for making MAACCE even better. So in closing, I just want to say thanks for all your support and encouragement this past year. It's been fun and exciting and I wouldn't have missed it for the world! Take Care and Keep up the Good Work!

Melinda

Melinda Brown



MAACCE Board of Directors, 2008-2009

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MAACCE bids Farewell to Patricia Bennett

On May 26, 2009, Patricia Bennett, the State Director for Adult Education in Maryland, announced "with mixed emotions" that, she will be leaving the Maryland Adult Education program and assuming a new job as the Associate Director of the National Institute for Literacy (NIFL) in Washington, D.C. She will be working with the staff at NIFL to deliver their services and resources to many of us in the field of adult and correctional education. She will also be assisting with transitioning the Institute from a separate entity to its new role within the US Department of Education.

Being the gracious lady she is, she stated that she is "very fortunate to have been a partner...in transforming adult education in our state." In her letter, she cited some of the important accomplishment in Adult Education in the state of Maryland under her tenure:

- Increase in state funding for adult education from \$750,000 to \$6.8 million;
- Achievement of the national performance measure targets for adult education for eight consecutive years;
- Creation of a statewide internet based data system (LWIS) to meet the requirements of the National Reporting System;
- Development of a statewide network of paid local staff to support professional development (Instructional Specialist), intake and assessment (IAS) and management Information (MIS Specialist);
- Creation of uniform statewide standards for program, for teacher, for ESL Content standards and for technology;

- Implementation of online instruction for students (GED-i) and professional development.
- Expansion of English Literacy services with the addition of a state ESL Specialist for technical assistance and the implementation of English Literacy/Civics statewide;
- Support for workplace initiatives through the addition of a state Specialist for Workforce and bringing national grants and projects such as AECAP to Maryland;
- Expansion of support for teachers with the addition of a state Specialist for Professional Development and implementation of Bridges to Practice to enhance instructional skills for teachers to improve achievement for individuals with learning disabilities;
- Initiations of family literacy including local funding and programs and supported by a state Family Literacy Specialist;
- Enhancing adult diploma options by bringing CASAS to the national EDP Program and developing MGETS;
- Implementation of financial incentives for local program performance.

She closed the letter by saying, "I am fortunate to have been part of your work and I will always look to you as my benchmark for the best. I wish much success and good fortune to you and your students in the future."

Prior to leading the state adult education program, she was the Assistant Director for program operations at the Maryland Rehabilitation Center in Baltimore (now the Workforce Technology Center). She has also worked as a professional development man-

ager and certified vocational rehabilitation counselor.

She is the Vice President of the National Coalition for Literacy. She is also a member of the Executive Committees of the National Council of State Directors of Adult Education (NCSDAE) and the National Adult Education Professional Development Consortia (NAEPDC). She serves on the National Policy Board for Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS), and the National Council for the National External Diploma Program (NEDP). Previously, Patricia has been the President of the Maryland Rehabilitation Association and the American Society for Training and Development (ASTD) Maryland Chapter.

Patricia has authored several publications on job coaching for individuals with traumatic brain injury, workplace literacy, and adult literacy including *Stepping Up to the Future: Adult Literacy Challenges at Work, at Home, and in the Maryland Community*, the final report of the Superintendent's Panel on Excellence in Adult Education.

It is also with mixed emotions that MAACCE says goodbye to Patricia. She has been a liaison to the board for many years, bringing with her, knowledge, experience and expertise. She has always been a strong supporter of MAACCE and she will be greatly missed. We wish her well in her new adventure, and know that she will continue to work tirelessly to improve the levels of literacy not only in Maryland but now also in the whole nation. Thank you, Patricia, and best wishes for continued success in all you do.



Student Awards

Mubasher Ahmad
Howard Community College

Mauricio Argueto
Calvert County Public Schools

Tor Ajaneg
RAP – Baltimore City Community College

Gokhan Ayhan
Calvert County Public Schools

David Ball
Calvert County Public Schools

Cheryl Ball
Calvert County Public Schools

Paco Carter
Harford Community College

Anthony Chamblee
Howard Community College



Ruby Edelen
St. Mary's County Public Schools

Rabia Fagee
Literacy Council of Prince Georges County

Claudio Lopez
Calvert County Public Schools

Anger Lual
Baltimore City Community College

Leila McClanahan
Literacy Council of Prince Georges County

Stella Okeny
Baltimore City Community College

Eddy Paule
Howard Community College

Regina Rent
Anne Arundel Community College

Angelica Scott
St. Mary's County Public Schools

John Slavotinek
Howard Community College EDP

Dorothy Smith
Anne Arundel Community College

Olivia Walker
South Baltimore Learning Center



Scholarships

Regina L. Milio Scholars

Pat D. Caniford
Hagerstown Community College
MD GED-i / Frederick Co. Adult Education

Austin P. Carmody
Montgomery College
Howard Community College
Adult Education

Olga Fetisova
Montgomery College
Wicomico County Adult Learning

Mark A. Gopshes
Cecil College
South Baltimore Learning Center

Arminda Kovalchik
Montgomery College
Montgomery College Adult ESOL & Literacy-GED Program

William B. Merrick
Hagerstown Community College
Correctional Education TBC School

Salvatore O'Donnell
Salisbury University
Frederick Co. Adult Education – Up County Family Center

Lacy A. Pertee
Baltimore City Community College
Brock Bridge Correctional Education

Jordan Scheminant
Chesapeake College
Chesapeake College / Talbot Co. Family Support Center

Samantha N. South
Garrett College
Garrett College Southern Outreach Center

Joseph W. Zelby Grant

Paula Bartlett
Cecil Community College

Joseph P. DeSantis & Judy Cost Nagel Scholarship

Anne Arundel Community College

Carroll Community College
Adult Education Programs

Harford Community College

Howard Community College

The Literacy Council of Prince George's County



Professional Awards

Teacher/Instructor

Jeffrey Jackson
St. Mary's County Public Schools

Beth Kubicki
Baltimore City Community College

Practitioner/Facilitator

Linda Schwirian
Community College Baltimore County

Administrator Award

Judy Conway
Harford Community College

Community Award

Berwyn Heights Elementary School
Literacy Council of Prince Georges County

Volunteer Award

Ed Krikorian
South Baltimore Learning Center

Aide/Assistant Instructor Award

Marsha Sloger
Literacy Council of PG County

Business/Agency Collaborator Award

Carroll County Business and Employment Resource Center
Carroll Community College





Andy Moser, from DLLR



Carol Osgood, up to her eyeballs in books!



Sandi Myrick-Nelson, our favorite bag-lady!

Conference 2009



Great Sessions, Great Presenters!



Keynote Speaker, Dr. Peter Waite



Melinda Brown, left, and Dr. Nancy Grasmick



Becca Swick, the lady behind the scenes



Todd Elliott, Becki Maurio and Becky Lessey, happy to see the end of a great conference!



And On My Way In The Door...

When I accepted the role of President-Elect (now Vice President) just over a year ago, I have to admit I wasn't sure I knew what I was getting into. What a challenging and rewarding year to take such a leap!

I don't need to remind you of everything Maryland – and the country – has been experiencing. We know that program budgets to serve our learners next year are not the brightest spot on the horizon, and that we have more learners waiting to take advantage of classes we can't offer. As with any new fiscal year (most of us "begin" July 1) there are always the hurdles and unknowns that confront us.

What I would prefer to do is mention the options ahead of us: improved and expanded professional development, enhanced communication and message sharing, and continued advocacy. More people need to hear about our successes, opening doors of support to meet the overwhelming need, and you, our members, deserve quality assistance to do your jobs more effectively.

There are likely other areas to explore, and the MAACCE Board is ready for what's next and to consider all the options. We need your help, though – you are MAACCE, and with your participation we can be a

vibrant, vocal advocate for our profession and the learners we serve. If you have ideas (and

I've already gotten a few from you at the conference in May!) please contact me. The Board will be formalizing the year's priorities in August.

I am excited to get started with our new Vice-President, Becki Maurio, and I am very pleased that so many of our experienced Board members will be returning, with the addition of Michael Dabney of Baltimore Reads.

So as we move into another year and greet new challenges, please know that MAACCE is here for you, providing leadership to advance education as a lifelong process

My door is always open.



Todd Elliott
410-261-3520
Fax 410-261-3506

