

OFFICE OF ADULT EDUCATION

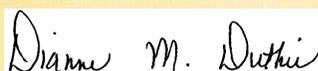
Monthly Newsletter

FROM THE DESK OF DIANNE DUTHIE, DIRECTOR EDUCATION AND CAREER SUCCESS

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Welcome to the first of the monthly newsletters to come from the Office of Adult Education and the Division of Education and Career Success. Our office has not done this for a while and we feel the need to reestablish the use of this tool of communication for everyone in the field of Adult Education. Each month we will feature a variety of articles that impact Adult Education and the Division of Education and Career Success. We will also try to share important dates and events as they become available to us. We are going to reinvent the yearly calendar showing important dates during the year. So many of you have asked that we do this to give you a better idea of how to plan for the year ahead. We always like to do everything possible to accommodate you and make your jobs easier. So, if you have a moment, send me an email if there are other things you would like to see in the newsletter or things we can do to help you during the course of the program year. I hope that all of you have had a good start to the New Year and that your second semesters began without any problems or concerns. Finally, if you have a best practice or special program you would like to showcase, let me know, and we can include it in the newsletter. It is always great to hear about the wonderful things you are doing in your programs.

Good Wishes,



*Education and Career Success
Workforce Development Agency
State of Michigan
Victor Office Center, 201 N. Washington Square, 2nd Floor
Lansing, MI 48913
517-373-8800 www.michigan.gov/adulthood*

OFFICE OF ADULT EDUCATION

UPDATES

MAERS 2.0 UPDATE

The MAERS 2.0 training has been completed at seven locations statewide. Approximately 350 individuals attended each of the three training sessions. If you would like to view the training materials, please visit the Office of Adult Education website at www.michigan.gov/adulteducation.

Since going live in November, 132 local programs have started entering their 2011-12 data. Programs that have MAERS 2.0 questions or system issues, should send an e-mail to MAERS2.0@michigan.gov with detailed information and screen prints, if possible.

We are currently working on changes for 2012-13. Stay tuned as we will be providing more information on the changes to NRS and MAERS for 2012-13. ***Please note that participant data must/should be entered monthly.***



SECTION 107 UPDATE

The 2011-12 Section 107 application reviews are wrapping up this week. Districts will be notified as to whether the application is approved, or requires any modifications or clarifications.

FEDERAL GRANT UPDATE

As a reminder, WIA Title II grant recipients are required to request application amendments for any new activity or any change in a line item that exceeds 10% of the approved budget. Amendments must be submitted and approved in the Michigan Electronic Grants System (MEGS+) before dollars can be expended for new projects or activities. All funded activities must be within funding guidelines.

WIA Title II grant recipients must request funds on an accrual basis at least quarterly in the MEIS Cash Management System, and may not request funds that exceed their needs for 3 days cash on hand.

CLUSTER ORGANIZATION UPDATE

As part of a reorganizational effort within the Workforce Development Agency, workforce development efforts have been adjusted around the support of industry clusters. Identified cluster areas include Agriculture, Energy, Health Care, Information Technology, and Manufacturing. The goal of each cluster is to foster innovation and entrepreneurship to deliver positive benefits to industries, workers, and regions. Importance in connecting to the needs of the clusters with what adult education programs have to offer will become key, in order to meet the demands of growing jobs and opportunities within each of the cluster areas.



MAETC 2012

The 2012 Michigan Adult Education and Training Conference will be held at the Grand Traverse Resort on April 24-27, 2012. Please be sure to register soon at www.maepd.org, as early bird registration ends on March 15th. Make sure to reserve your hotel room as soon as possible, as rooms are quickly filling up! When making your room reservation, be sure to mention that you are coming for the 2012 MAETC, to receive the discounted hotel rate. Special conference room rates expire on March 22nd.

The main conference will host a wide variety of sessions for teachers, program administrators and support staff. Included in this training is learning disabilities, transitional readiness programs, contextualized curriculum training, techniques for literacy tutors and sessions tailored for those working for MDOC with institutionalized participants.

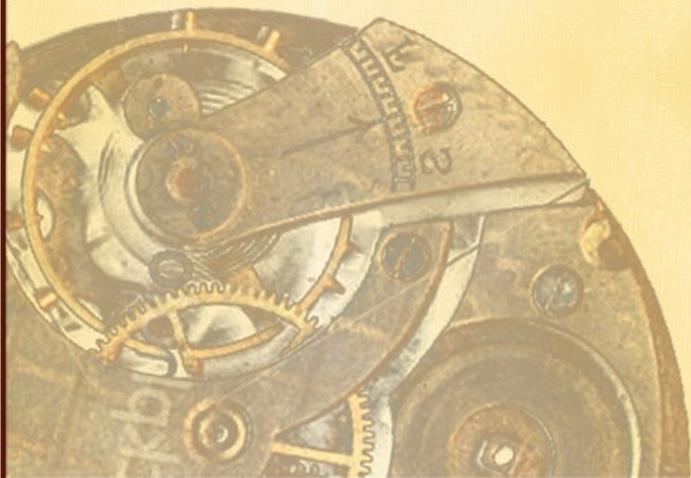
The conference will also focus on continued adult education regional collaborative efforts, with sessions to help with gap analysis, resource identification and true partnering for career pathways. MAACE-specific sessions, featuring hugely popular research-to-practice presentations, will be held on Thursday afternoon, April 26th, and Friday morning, April 27th.

GED 21st Century Initiative

The three primary components of the GED 21st Century Initiative will include:

- A new, more rigorous GED test aligned with Common Core State Standards designed to ensure career– and college–readiness;
- A national test preparation program featuring an expanding array of innovative and personalized learning resources; and,
- A transition network that connects GED test-takers to career and postsecondary educational opportunities.

A tentative CBT (Computer-Based Testing) date is scheduled for January 1, 2014.



MICHIGAN SHIFTING GEARS

With support from the Joyce Foundation's Shifting Gears initiative, Michigan created *No Worker Left Behind: Everybody In!*, an adult learning policy effort aimed at:

- **Helping communities work better together, and**
- **Educating workers more effectively.**

This effort sought to encourage regional strategies and programs among partners that include:

- Integrated pathways of educational programs and services
- Programs that help learners develop core academic, technical, and employability skills
- Programs and educational content that are contextualized and clearly oriented toward high-demand/high-opportunity jobs
- Wrap-around services and navigation support
- The use of distance learning
- Partnerships among organizations

Through Michigan's participation in Shifting Gears, a number of key accomplishments were made possible:

- Convened an Adult Learning Work Group
- Piloted ten regional partnerships between adult education, community colleges, and workforce development partners
- Developed a professional development toolkit
- Redesigned internal state systems to support a broad-based regional partnership approach

Based on a survey administered to adult education providers to gauge their progress in creating functional regional partnerships, 80-90% of respondents had all three of the core partners (adult education, postsecondary education and workforce development).

In 2012, the Office of Adult Education will continue to encourage regional partners to meet with one another, but have held less firmly to the regional boundaries and structure that were once identified. We have been encouraged by the new administration to stay the course of promoting collaboration.



MARCH TRAINING INSTITUTE

The Office of Adult Education is hosting a training institute at three separate locations on March 6-8, 2012. The trainings will focus on providing educators with the tools and resources they need in order to address the challenges in their programs. This institute will focus on three specific areas:

- ◆ Implementing career pathways
- ◆ Using technology to assist in implementing contextualized instruction for low-skilled adults
- ◆ Bridging the gap in ABE and GED programs to help students meet the challenges of the current GED Tests and successfully transition to higher levels of education and training

Training sessions include:

- ◆ **The Nuts and Bolts of Career Pathways Design**
- ◆ **Bridging the Gap in ABE/GED Programs**
- ◆ **MAEPD.ORG for Teachers**

Trainings will be offered at the following locations:

- ◆ **March 6**—Henry Ford MTEC, Dearborn
- ◆ **March 7**—Western Michigan University, Grand Rapids
- ◆ **March 8**—Lansing Ramada Inn, Lansing

This event is free, but pre-registration is required. To register, go to www.maepd.org and click on F2F Training at the top of the page.