



OFFICE OF ADULT LEARNING

Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth / Bureau of Workforce Transformation

Adult Learning Newsletter
Spring 2009

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✚ From the Desk of Dianne Duthie ✚

As spring is finally here, many of you will begin to wrap up the school year and look forward to summer vacations. This has been an eventful year for adult education in Michigan with many more exciting changes ahead of us. At our recent conference we shared best practices and discussed our vision for adult education. I hope that you found these discussions to be uplifting and motivating. Attached is a letter addressed to your students, recognizing their hard work and overcoming obstacles to reach their educational and career goals. As always, I commend your hard work and dedication to adult learners in Michigan. I look forward to continuing our work towards creating a top notch adult education system in Michigan.

Assessment Policy Changes: You've Got Questions, We've got answers

In February, we conducted three technical assistance meetings to discuss changes to the assessment policy. During these sessions participants were allowed to ask questions. Below you will find some highlights of these discussions.

1. Will there be consequences if we do not meet the 65% post testing requirement?

In the current year of 2008-09 there will be no sanctions; this policy does not go into effect until July 1, 2009.

2. If a student only attends 2 hours a week how will a program ever be able to post test a student? This is an issue of program intensity and duration. Assessment is an integral part of a program; you need to design your program around your assessment.

3. How will performance based funding be measured?

70% will be base funding, for the costs of providing instructional services. The remaining 30% is as follows:

- 10% to programs that meet the 65% pre- and post- test rate, 5% to programs with a pre- and post test rate between 55% and 64%.
- 10% to programs that meet or exceed the state negotiated performance measures for educational functioning levels and
- 10% to programs that meet or exceed goal attainment percentage.

For more questions and answers regarding the assessment policy, please visit our website at www.michigan.gov/adulteducation

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Rotarius at 517-373-6911 or rotariusn@michigan.gov

IMPORTANT DATES



August 10-13, 2009
Taskforce Workshops
Location: TBD

August 17-20, 2009
Program Directors'
Training
Location: TBD

2009 MAETC was a Success

The 2009 Michigan Adult Education and Training Conference was held April 28-30 at the Ann Arbor Marriott Eagle Crest Conference Resort in Ypsilanti. Participants learned and shared best practices to help ensure that adult learners improve literacy, succeed in postsecondary education, and obtain employment.

"Lifelong learning is directly tied to economic prosperity," said Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth (DELEG) Director Stanley "Skip" Pruss. "We must ensure that adult learners experience greater success in the new economy through improved skills and that no worker will be left behind."

"Reaching Out-Changing Lives" is the theme of the conference which reflects the unique role and purpose of adult education in Michigan. More than 500 adult education administrators, teachers, counselors, literacy council volunteers, and workforce developers attended the conference and training sessions.

The conference featured outstanding speakers from DELEG- Deputy Director, Andy Levin, and Deputy Director of the Bureau of Workforce Transformation, Janet Howard.

This year at the Michigan Adult Education and Training Conference the following people and programs were recognized: Administrator of the Year: **Christy Nelson of Traverse City**, Teacher of the Year: **Connie Samoluk of Pontiac**, Support Staff of the Year: **Scott Goodwin of Kalama**, Support Staff of the Year: **Kimberly Burch-Darling of Detroit**, Lifetime Achievement Award: **Irene Sinclair of Detroit**, Advocate of the Year: **John Almstadt of Pontiac**, and Best Practice: **Education and Training Connection in Midland**.

DELEG is investing in Michigan's future by preparing for the new energy economy, helping to create the jobs of today and tomorrow, ensuring that our children and adults have the skills these jobs demand, making Michigan a better place to do business, and training and placing those who need jobs now.



2009 Michigan Adult Education Conference and Training Award Winners

NWLB Programs: Setting it straight

In our visits in the field, we have found that there is a lot of confusion regarding eligibility for NWLB programs. In order to set the record straight we have pulled some frequently asked questions from the NWLB website, www.michigan.gov/nwlb

1. Who may be eligible for NWLB? Any person, who is currently unemployed, or any person who has received notice of termination or layoff from employment, or any employed person whose family income is \$40,000 or less per year. Participants must be at least 18 years old, must not have graduated from high school in the last two years and must not be full-time college students. (Individuals who have graduated from high school in the last two years may qualify for Michigan Promise. You may get more information on the Michigan Promise at www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid. There is no maximum age limit).

The starting point for determining eligibility and completing the assessment for NWLB is your local Michigan Works! Agency office.

2. Can a student take training in any area they want? Participants must pursue a degree or occupational certificate in a high-demand occupation, emerging industry, or in an entrepreneurship program. Local Michigan Works! Service center staff are available to help participants identify high demand occupations in their region.

3. Is there a limit on training costs? What does it cover? Yes, the tuition assistance is capped at \$5,000 per year for two years, for a total of \$10,000 per person. This covers tuition or instructional costs, books, materials, fees (such as application costs, registration, and laboratory fees) and academic supportive services (counseling and career advising).

4. What are the requirements of the program? Participants must pursue an associate's degree or occupational certificate in 1. a high demand field, 2. emerging industry, or 3. entrepreneurship program. However, bachelor's degree completion and even master's programs are allowable if the educational program meets all other core criteria.

5. Is there any assistance with day care/child care? Yes, under No Worker Left Behind, providing resources for childcare expenses is allowable. Each Michigan Works! Agency determines if they will be covered and to what level.

6. Can a student register for classes prior to going through the required assessment at the Michigan Works! Agency and if so, will they be reimbursed? NWLB is not a reimbursement program. All tuition is paid directly to the training institution by the Michigan Works! Agency. The starting point for determining eligibility is your local Michigan Works! Agency.

Governor Granholm Announces NWLB Funds for Adult Education Partnership Grants

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm awarded \$2.5 Million through the No Worker Left

Behind program to increase the number of adults with the basic education and skills necessary to participate in No Worker Left Behind funded postsecondary education and training. The funding was awarded to AWARE: Adults Who are Returning to Education Programs, Monroe County Learning Bank Network, Northwest Michigan Adult Learning Partnership, Oakland Adult Learning Collaborative, Project E3: Excellence in Education and Employability, Southwest Michigan Regional Adult Learning Network, Adult Education Enhancement Initiative, Career Pathway Academy, Making College Accessible, and Washtenaw Regional Adult Education Collaborative.

"A highly skilled workforce is key to retaining and attracting employers who want to grow their business in Michigan," said Granholm. "This funding will help Michigan citizens upgrade their education and skills to be successful in a global economy where employers are demanding more specialized skills and knowledge."

Granholm announced the No Worker Left Behind (NWLB) program on August 1, 2007; an innovative plan to train 100,000 citizens in three years for jobs in high demand occupations and emerging industries or entrepreneurial endeavors. By reorganizing and augmenting federal funds currently used for workforce development, NWLB will provide up to two years of free tuition at any Michigan community college, university, or other approved training program for qualifying participants. In the first 18 months, 58,845 workers have been enrolled in training for in-demand jobs through No Worker Left Behind.

Out of the 33 proposals submitted, 10 regional partnerships were funded statewide to better prepare adult learners for No Worker Left Behind postsecondary education and training leading to career success. This will be accomplished by addressing the unique needs of adult learners; increasing the effectiveness of adult learner programs; and accelerating and connecting pathways to postsecondary education and training. The grant period runs through September 30, 2010.

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