



# OFFICE OF ADULT LEARNING

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

Adult Learning Newsletter  
Winter 2009

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## || From the Desk of Dianne Duthie ||

CHANGE is a word that is radiating in many areas of our society and we in Adult Education are no stranger to this term. As we embark on a transition of adult learning in Michigan we are focused on enhancing the skills and abilities of our workers and helping them attain the knowledge that will prepare them to access new, emerging markets. I recognize that change can be frightening; however, I hope that we can come together to work towards a common focus of lifelong learning.

I am honored to announce that I have been named as the Division Director of Lifelong Learning. I will be overseeing No Worker Left Behind Training, Adult Learning (formerly Adult Education), Trade and Globalization, and Postsecondary Education. Due to my new role, Dr. Cliff Akujobi will be overseeing the Office of Adult Learning. In this edition of our newsletter we will give you details about the changes that are taking place. I assure you that all these alterations are focused on our mission:

*To assure that adult learners obtain the highest quality education, leading to the attainment of secondary education, literacy, and numeracy skills necessary to succeed in employment and post-secondary education.*

## Competing in a New Economy: Department of *Energy*, Labor & Economic Growth

The Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth (DELEG) has officially opened for business on December 28, 2008. Governor Granholm signed Executive Order 2008-20 on October 27<sup>th</sup> 2008 to streamline state government by aligning all renewable energy and energy efficiency programs together and adding these to the Department of Labor & Economic Growth. In recognition of this concentrated effort, what was formerly known as DLEG has been renamed DELEG—the Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth.

Granholm appointed her special advisor on renewable energy, Stanley "Skip" Pruss as director and as the state's new Chief Energy Officer to oversee the workforce and economic development efforts to prepare for Michigan's new energy economy.

The new DELEG brings together state employees from the Departments of Agriculture, Environmental Quality, the Energy Office and the Public Service Commission to work on energy-related initiatives. This new office will partner closely with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's tax incentive and business attraction efforts.

"Michigan is uniquely positioned to be a force in renewable energy due to our strength in research and development and highly skilled workforce from the manufacturing industries; advanced energy training at our colleges and universities; as well as our abundance of natural resources," said Pruss. "Our staff is very excited by this unified focus on energy to make Michigan a leader in emerging new energy industries."

## IMPORTANT DATES



### January 30<sup>th</sup>

Task Force Advisory  
Group Meets

### January 31<sup>st</sup>

MAERS second quarter  
data for PY0809 due

### February 1<sup>st</sup>

GED tests from '08 are  
due back to GEDTS

### February 11<sup>th</sup>

Count Day

For upcoming  
professional  
development  
opportunities visit  
[www.maepd.org](http://www.maepd.org)

or

[www.macae.org](http://www.macae.org)



## Updates

Since our last newsletter, the Adult Learning Workgroup presented implementation recommendations to the Council of Labor and Economic Growth on December 8, 2008. These recommendations have been approved.

The guiding principles of the recommendations are accountability, responsiveness, agility, contextualization, entrepreneurship, and transformation of the system. From these principles, eight recommendations and action steps set the framework for the transformation of adult education.

- **Transform Michigan's adult learning infrastructure to create a unified strategic approach to increasing basic skills and post-secondary credential attainment.**
  - Create a unified state strategy and commitment to adult learning that cuts across agency boundaries and funding streams to deliver substantial and sustainable impact.
- **Engage a range of partners in service delivery to meet the diverse needs of adult learners.**
  - Require that adult learning services be delivered through regional, collaborative partnerships.
- **Build clear connections between learning and the promise of good jobs.**
  - Require regional partnerships to connect adult learning to employment as a key dimension of program design.
- **Use accelerated and connected pathways to help adult learners reach their goals.**
  - Require regional partnerships to develop and implement individualized learning pathways leading to basic skills and post-secondary attainment.
- **Increase access to adult learning.**
  - Require regional partnerships to include solutions to major adult learning barriers in their program design.
- **Make basic skills development a priority within every funding source that can legally support it.**
  - Complete a thorough resource audit to determine what funding can be leveraged to support basic skills development for adults.
- **Hold regional partnerships accountable for success and measure outcomes at the partnership level.**
  - Develop a new framework for performance management.
- **Engage a broad coalition in communicating the urgent need to improve basic skills.**
  - Implement a public awareness campaign intended to create a culture in Michigan committed to lifelong learning and the conviction that learning helps adults achieve their goals.

These recommendations were accepted by CLEG and plans are being made to move forward to attain these goals. As various stages of this transition come into action we will keep you posted through this newsletter, the adult education listserv, and the State of Michigan Adult Education website. We encourage you to discuss these changes with your community members and collaborate to ensure that adult learners are prepared to thrive in this new economy.

## MAETC IMPORTANT INFORMATION



### Dates to Remember

**February 13th**

Presenter Proposals Due

**March 13th**

Award Nominations Due

**March 24th**

Early Registration Ends

**April 28th–30th**

Conference

at

**Marriott Ypsilanti Eagle  
Crest Conference Center**

1275 S. Huron Street  
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48107

**FOR CONFERENCE  
REGISTRATION AND  
UPDATES VISIT**

[www.maepd.org](http://www.maepd.org)

## From Tradition to Transition: The Bureau of Workforce Transformation

A year ago, the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth announced the creation of the new, integrated Bureau of Workforce Transformation. Its purpose includes a focus on lifelong learning as central to the success of workers and employers in Michigan's rapidly transforming economy. The new bureau takes the place of the former Workforce Programs and Career Education Bureau with a plan for improvement.

The Bureau of Workforce Transformation is designed to maximize our services and resources that focus on employers and workers. The creation of the Bureau of Workforce Transformation represents the most significant change in the structure of Michigan's workforce programs in 15 years. This new framework shifts from a traditional structure organized by federal funding source and program to an innovative structure organized by customer needs and best practice-based strategy.

Michigan's two primary workforce customer groups are the employers who need trained workers and the workers who need opportunities. The new bureau will knock down silos and barriers and attack the problem of unemployment from both ends. It will place greater emphasis on employers as the creators of jobs—the demand side of the workforce equation—so that our efforts to help Michigan workers upgrade their skills are targeted to jobs employers need filled now and filled in the future.

The new bureau is structured to drive Michigan's fundamental strategic decision to emphasize meaningful training rather than reemployment alone. "Simply helping people find the next job isn't good enough anymore," said DELEG Deputy Director Andy Levin. "When we facilitate a person getting a certificate or degree in an occupation that is in demand in our state, we don't only help the worker's family improve its prospects—we help Michigan compete in a knowledge economy."

The director of the bureau is Liza Estlund-Olson. Janet Howard functions as the Deputy Director overseeing programs for workers and Marsha Black-Watson is the Deputy Director for employer programs.

The Worker side has four divisions:

- **Accelerating Reemployment** (Dir. Gary Clark): Reemployment Services, Online Services, Low-Wage Worker Strategy.
- **Lifelong Learning** (Dir. Dianne Duthie): NWLB initiatives training, Adult Learning, Trade and Globalization, and Postsecondary Services.
- **Spanish-Speaking and Migrant Worker Services** (Dir. TBA) Alignment of all current Spanish Speaking and Migrant Worker Services.
- **Veterans' Services** (Dir. Lt. Col. Mary K. Jones): Alignment of all current veterans' programs.

The Employer side will have two divisions

- **Regional and Sectoral Strategies** (Dir. Linda Patrick)
- **Employer Recruitment and Training Needs** (Dir. TBA)

*"This is a historic day for Michigan's employers and workers. We're aligning the bureau around strategies we know can work to transform our workforce into the most skilled and agile in the land."*

— Andy Levin, Deputy Director of DELEG

## ASSESSMENT WEBSITES



Check these out!

### CASAS

[www.casas.org](http://www.casas.org)

### TABE

[www.ctb.com](http://www.ctb.com)

### Work Keys

[www.act.org/workkeys](http://www.act.org/workkeys)

## The New Assessment Policy: What are the Changes? How Will It Affect My Program?

**Staff from the United States Department of Education Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE)** conducted a monitoring and technical assistance visit to the Office of Adult Education in May 2008. OVAE found that DLEG's assessment policy was insufficient as a guide to appropriate test administration under the policies of the National Reporting System. OVAE has required that the policy be revised and training be provided regarding for implementation.

**The major difference between the new policy and the old policy** is that the new policy is aligned with publisher's guidelines and has changed the allowable time for posttesting. For example, posttesting for

TABE must occur after 60–90 hours of instruction and CASAS after 40–90 hours of instruction. The new policy also provides greater detail and new procedures for pretesting, continued eligibility, testing administration training, accommodations for students with disabilities and special needs, distance learning assessment procedures, and quality control. The assessment policy is currently in draft format and pending federal approval. There will be a technical assistance meeting regarding the assessment policy. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Nancy Rotarius at [rotariusn@michigan.gov](mailto:rotariusn@michigan.gov)

## Highlighting a Partnership That Works: The Muskegon/Oceana Consortium Michigan Works! Agency

The Muskegon/Oceana Consortium Michigan Works! Agency is a partnership of services, support, and opportunities on the west side of the state. Its six sites located within a two county area have led to improved student learning, an enhanced workforce, stronger families, and healthier communities. The partnership brings together diverse individuals and organizations, including businesses, state agencies, media, community service organizations, teachers, school superintendents, school boards, higher education, health and human service agencies and other community leaders to expand opportunities for adults in the area. Many organizations are housed within the one-stop center, offering a seamless approach to a variety of services. Four other sites are housed in their respective local school buildings. This collaboration effort has fostered strong

community involvement and has been successful at utilizing state and federal funding. The partnership operates with a high level of communication and teamwork between its partners and exemplifies collaborative excellence. The Muskegon/Oceana Consortium Michigan Works received the State of Michigan Office of Adult Education 2008 Partnership Award.

**This program's director will be presenting a how-to on collaboration**

**"Building and Nurturing Partnerships"**

**Join us at the  
MAETC Conference  
April 28-30<sup>th</sup>**

## Task Force Updates

Over 50 adult education practitioners from around the state meet on a quarterly basis to ensure that adult educators have the resources and tools they need to ensure the success of their students. In their five years of operation, these five task forces have accomplished a lot. Here is what they're focusing on this year:

**Accountability Task Force:** Develop policies and procedures for transitioning students to employment or training programs, update requirements for GED testing centers, and create a plan for literacy program monitoring.

**Curriculum Task Force:** Revise content standards, make a crosswalk between ABE Content standards and TABE 9/10, revise the content of generic technical assistance papers, create a Moodle board for the discussion of content standards, develop a policy paper for adult education and the new Michigan Merit Curriculum, share information from the High School Completion Survey, and create joint ABE/Literacy content standards.

**Data Task Force:** Update Adult Education Definitions/Acronyms in *Adult Education Guidebook*, improve Snapshot of Adult Education (annual report), have the Department of Corrections report into MAERS, survey pilot programs, create adopt-a-literacy-council and mentoring for new directors programs, and outline best practices with MAERS data.

**Literacy Task Force:** Review and follow up on annual survey, update the directory of services, draft a "how-to" manual, tie in ABE content standards to literacy tutoring, plan professional development opportunities and possibly pro-literacy and leadership accreditation.

Updates and task force meeting minutes are available at [www.maepd.org](http://www.maepd.org)

## Are You Familiar with the New Content Standards?

During the last few years, the Curriculum Task Force rolled out the ESL, ABE, and GED content standards. In order to provide consistent delivery of instruction throughout the state of Michigan, adult educators need program area performance standards and curricula that will enable them to meet their student's needs. The content standards have benchmarks that describe what skills students need at specific levels and should be able to accomplish for a given standard. The specific levels are based on NRS "Measures and Methods for National Reporting System for Adult

Education." The content standards can be found on the [Adult Education Website](#).

Additionally, the Curriculum Task Force has designed a Moodle site for you to give feedback on the standards for future revisions. This is a tool to share how you are applying the content standards in the classroom and contextualizing them to show adult learners where they can use these skills in real life. The Moodle site can be reached through [MAEPD](#).

### Sneak Peek: MAETC INTENSIVE SESSIONS

GED Examiners' Training  
CASAS Training  
1<sup>st</sup> Year Directors Training  
2<sup>nd</sup> Year Directors Training  
Building and Nurturing Partnerships  
Using Data for Program Improvement

Learning Disabilities  
Data Reporting  
Data, Grants and Reports  
Preparing Workers Math  
Distance Education

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