



# MAACE Messages

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## MPAEA Provides Discoveries for All

The annual MPAEA conference provided plenty of opportunities to discover the journey of adult education. Nearly 200 people joined the “Voyage of Discovery” April 29 – May 1 in Bozeman. Keynote speakers Lennox McLendon described the “Blinding Flashes of the Obvious” or BFO’s that guide program improvement and Kim Ratz inspired and entertained with songs of appreciation for adult educators. Breakout sessions covered the many facets of adult ed. And the Ringling 5, Friday’ evening’s entertainment, may be inviting Nancy Reynolds, of Miles City to tour with them in the future. The next time you see Nancy, ask her for her best cock-a-doodle-doo!

The conference was further proof that Montana and the West have many committed and talented adult educators. Volunteers from across Montana did a great job organizing all the conference details. A special thank you to Gloria Gregg for serving as conference chair and making sure it all went so well.

Montanans presented on a whole variety of topics including program improvement (Donna Bakke), health literacy (Kim Heist), math (Rose Steiner and Kathie Daviau), internet activities (Billings program), and diversifying your budget (Dixie Stark), just to name a few.

Tara Andrews, county extension agent from Miles City gave a great hands-on presentation on financial calculators. If you missed this practical session for life skills, you can find the entire lesson on the web at [www.montana.edu/extensionecon/publications/fincal.html](http://www.montana.edu/extensionecon/publications/fincal.html).

Mark Willmarth, human resource specialist from Great Falls, gave an extended session on generational differences in the workplace. You might remember him from the conference in Great Falls in 2002. Baby boomers should take note that their up and coming replacements see the value of work in very different

ways. If you are struggling to communicate with your 20-year-old students, Willmarth provided some interesting explanations.

If you missed one of these sessions, find that presenter on the MAACE webpages or at the next conference. We’re sure they will take a moment to share their knowledge with you!

### MAACE hires new secretary

The MAACE Board hired a new executive secretary, Amy Fabey of Billings. Fabey has experience in administration, office management and nonprofit work. She and her husband, a youth pastor in Billings, have two children. She will attend the June MAACE Board meeting for training and will take over for Kristin Bay on July 1. Amy is looking forward to working with the MAACE board and meeting all of you!

## Legislative Update

The Workforce Investment Act legislation is stalled and no action is expected until after the November elections. In the interim, the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act has been extended for a year and Montana programs will be applying for a renewal of their current grant.

During the upcoming campaign season, adult educators need to be proactive in electing candidates who support the mission of adult education. Take any opportunity you have to provide information about the importance of adult education to candidates. As the year passes, keep in touch with newly elected and incumbent legislators. Send information to legislators that demonstrates the impact adult education has on your community. Encourage your students to write letters to local representatives and senators expressing how your program helped them reach their goals. Invite legislators to any event that you plan at your site. Do everything you can to build a good relationship with your local legislators.

Montana's next legislative session will be difficult because of the recent lawsuit that overturned Montana's funding formula for K-12 education. Legislators may be looking for budget items to cut or eliminate when they try to meet the needs of K-12. Again, we need to be proactive! Take the time to talk to your local senators and representatives. It will be important to have as many allies as possible when the legislature looks at educational funding in our state.

## Veterans eligible for honorary diplomas

At MPAEA State Superintendent Linda McCulloch mentioned a house bill that allows veterans to receive an honorary high school diploma from the state of Montana. Applicants must have served in WWII, Korea or Vietnam, be current or former Montana residents and have been honorably discharged. Contact Debbie Casey at OPI (444-4438 or [dcasey@state.mt.us](mailto:dcasey@state.mt.us)) for specific requirements and applications.

## Fall Conference 2004

Mark October 21-22 on your calendar. It is time to start thinking about the MAACE fall conference. This year Butte will be our destination. The Butte ABE and Even Start Programs along with the Anaconda and Deer Lodge programs will host this event. Conference planners will be Donna Bakke, the president-elect; the MAACE secretary; and staff from the host programs. At the June board meeting, board members will determine a theme and set professional development topics for this conference. We are considering a different format for this conference based on the response to our professional development survey and because we just hosted the MPAEA conference. One of the things we are contemplating is long workshop sessions covering a variety of topics. The board is open to suggestions and would like input from MAACE members. Call or email any board representative with ideas you would like us to consider.

## Help Wanted: Board Members Needed

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! All MAACE members are encouraged to seek elected office. You can help shape the path of professional development for adult educators by running for the MAACE board or President-Elect. Current president-elect and board members will be contacting active MAACE members this summer to run for board and president-elect positions in the elections this fall.

Board members serve three-year terms beginning at the fall conference. We meet three times per year: October, February and June. This is a great opportunity to learn more about adult education, work closely with other adult educators from across the state, and have fun while performing a great service to the MAACE organization.

The president-elect serves a two-year term, learning about the organization and working with the president. If you are interested in helping provide leadership for our state organization, call Donna Bakke at 542-4015.

## MPAEA TSHIRTS

We still have plenty of neat MPAEA t-shirts and sweatshirts in all sizes if you didn't get yours at the conference. Contact Cathy Smyers at [csmyers@mcps.k12.mt.us](mailto:csmyers@mcps.k12.mt.us) or [catsmyers@aol.com](mailto:catsmyers@aol.com) if you would like to place an order or find out more.

## President's Corner

Greetings!

Thanks to all of you who helped out with the MPAEA Conference. You definitely made it a success. Moreover, thanks to all of you who presented at the conference. The region is lucky to have such talented people who are willing to share their expertise. And finally thanks to Gloria Gregg for organizing a very successful event.

Also the MAACE Board will be meeting June 14 and 15 to discuss a possible new direction for MAACE based on the last survey. If you did not get a chance to complete the survey, take a look at the results that were in the packet you recently received. Please contact your Board members regarding any concerns you have.

Now that the MPAEA Conference is over, we are getting ready for the MAACE 2004 fall conference in the wonderful city of Butte America. Please pencil in October 21 and 22 on your calendars. It will be a good one!

Finally, I end this message on a bittersweet note. As of June 30, Kristin Bay, the MAACE executive secretary, will no longer be working for MAACE. Thanks, Kristin, for your professionalism, work ethic, and flexibility as we learned how to effectively implement the executive secretary position. Fortunately, Kristin leaves us in good hands with her successor, Amy Fabey. Kristin, you will be missed; we wish you only the best!

*Norene Peterson, MAACE President*

# MAACE & MPAEA Honor Top Teachers, Learners

MAACE and MPAEA recently presented the following awards to Adult Basic Education (ABE) educators, students and affiliates at the MPAEA conference in Bozeman at the end of April.

## MAACE Education Leadership Award

This award was presented to Gloria Miller from the Lewistown Adult Basic Literacy Education Program who has provided exemplary leadership in adult education. Miller has been the lead ABE instructor at the Lewistown Adult Education Center for 12 years and was an elementary education teacher for the 26 years before that.

Miller has assisted innumerable adult learners achieve their GED, find better jobs and go on to college. She oversees instruction at the center in Lewistown and in Roundup and makes arrangements for teaching isolated students in the six counties their program serves. Miller pursues her own professional development and serves on several local and state committees for adult education as well. MAACE is pleased to honor Gloria for many years of dedication to her program and her work with the more than 1,000 students who she has served.



*Gloria Miller, Lewistown*

## MAACE Outstanding Adult Learner Award

This award was presented to Jodey Greninger, an exemplary student in the Missoula Adult Basic Education Program. Greninger received her GED in December 2003 and is planning to pursue a college degree in social work. "She is truly one of the best peer role models I have seen in adult education," said instructor Cathy Smyers. While working hard on her own classes, she told others about the program, helped fellow students study, and even called students who were absent for a few days. Several students persevered in the program due mostly to Greninger's care for them, said Smyers.

## MAACE Community Leadership Award

The Billings ABE program nominated the MSU-Billings Advising Center for the MAACE Community Leadership Award. They conduct tours, hold seminars, come to the adult ed center and are always willing to meet and give campus tours to students.

## MAACE Outstanding Volunteer Award

Julie Schreck of Hamilton received the Outstanding Volunteer Award for her faithful work with Literacy Volunteers of America Bitterroot. Schreck has volunteered for the English as Second Language classes since their inception three years ago.

Schreck adapts lesson plans to the needs of individual students; does one on one tutoring; and is always encouraging to the students. But most of all they appreciate her faithfulness and reliability.

## MPAEA Award of Merit

Norene Peterson, a 30-year veteran of Billings adult education and current president of MAACE, received MPAEA's highest honor, the Award of Merit.

"She inspires learners to become students in the true sense of the word," Mike Joyce, Billings ABE counselor, said. In a positive, fun and enthusiastic style, Peterson promotes learning and is a dedicated manager of the educational process. She goes above and beyond the classroom to promote lifelong learning, not only with her students but with her colleagues, added Joyce. She spends hours of her own free time training others in professional development. Additionally, she is editor of the school newsletter, coordinator of technology, and totally involved in the work of the association (MAACE).

## MPAEA Legislator of the Year Award

Kim Gillan, four-term Billings state legislator, received the MPAEA Legislator of the Year Award. Gillan has always shown a dedication to excellence in education and a commitment to adequately funding Montana's schools, said Mike Joyce. "She has a lifelong learning focus that sees the clear relationship between providing a good education system as the foundation for sound economic development."

## MPAEA Award of Excellence

Terry Kelley, Missoula English as a Second Language teacher, received the MPAEA Award of Excellence. Kelley has taught Missoula's ESOL students for over twelve years and has 30 years of experience teaching ESL/EFL in the United States and around the world.

"Kelley is a living, breathing encyclopedia," said colleague Donna Bakke. "His wealth of knowledge about language acquisition, cultural issues, and teaching techniques brings all the ABE/Even Start staff in Missoula to his door on many occasions."



*Norene Peterson, Billings, and Terry Kelley, Missoula*

He shares his lesson plans and has designed a comprehensive ESOL curriculum that integrates text, recourse materials, audio-visual and computer assisted language-learning programs for all levels of students – beginning through post-secondary preparation. His classroom has provided many

volunteers and interns with excellent learning opportunities and he himself is a full-time graduate student in the MsED-TESOL program at Shenandoah University.

## NEW NCSALL RESOURCES

The National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy has published five new professional development resources that are intended to give practitioners the opportunity to read, discuss, and use research to help improve their practice. They can be downloaded from NCSALL's Web site (<http://ncsall.gse.harvard.edu>), by clicking on "Publications," then "Teaching and Training Materials." STUDY CIRCLE GUIDES (designed to help practitioners read, discuss, and use research to improve their practice):

- *Learner Persistence in Adult Basic Education*. In this nine-hour, three-session study circle, teachers will read NCSALL research about what helps learners persist in reaching their educational goals.
- *Adult Multiple Intelligences (AMI)*. This nine-hour, three-session study circle introduces teachers to Howard Gardner's theory of Multiple Intelligences (MI) and its application in adult basic education.
- *Teaching and Learning in Authentic Contexts*. In this nine-hour, three-session study circle, teachers will learn about research that examines the relationship between two dimensions of literacy instruction (the degree of authenticity of activities and the degree of teacher/student collaboration) and changes in the literacy practices of students outside the classroom.

MENTOR TEACHER GROUP GUIDE (combines the approach of study circles with mentoring, where an experienced teacher observes participants' teaching and provides feedback):

- *Adult Multiple Intelligences (AMI)*. This twelve-hour, four-session mentor teacher group introduces teachers to Howard Gardner's theory of Multiple Intelligences (MI) and its application in adult basic education.

NCSALL SEMINAR GUIDES (designed to engage practitioners, program directors, state staff, and other policymakers in reading and discussing research or policy papers on topics of importance to the field):

- *Establishing an Evidence-based Adult Education System*. This three-hour, one-session seminar engages participants in reading and discussing NCSALL's proposal for creating an evidence-based system for adult education, and then understanding and judging the relevance of such a system to their work.



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