

MAACE Messages

Issue I

Volume VI

September 2005

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Corps of Learning

Have you received a copy of the 193-page program yet? If not, ask your program coordinator/director to see the MEA/MFT conference brochure. This is what co-conferencing is all about! Explore the Possibilities! MAACE is dedicated to bringing more opportunities for you to develop as a professional and this conference is no exception.

Explore hundreds of sectionals on every subject imaginable. Energize yourself through MAACE's offerings of relevant adult education sectionals. Expand your knowledge by attending our keynote speakers, Dr. Tom Sticht and Dr. Christine Fiore. Enjoy the pre-conference reception, our hospitality room, and

reception at the Missoula Carousel. Embrace the MAACE mission at the annual business meeting Friday morning at 7:30 with the usual prizes and fun. Encourage every adult educator to attend!

Dr. Christine Fiore will present a workshop Friday morning on motivational interviewing. This will be extremely helpful to educators who want to motivate learners holistically. Christine Fiore, Ph.D. is an associate professor of psychology at The University of Montana. She earned her doctorate in clinical psychology at the University of Rhode Island in 1990 under the tutelage of Drs. Joe Rossi and James Prochaska. Her dissertation focused on the application of the Transtheoretical Model of Behavior Change on adolescent delinquent behavior. Since then Dr. Fiore's research interests have focused on application and translation of this health behavior model to understanding stay-leave decision-making for women in violent relationships, diabetes, and psychotherapy change. Her interest led her to receive training as a trainer by Drs. William Miller and Steve Rollnick in Motivational Interviewing in 1999. In her small clinical practice, Dr. Fiore works with children, adolescents, adults, and families who face the challenges of life and change.



Dr. Tom Sticht, our keynote speaker, is an International Consultant in Adult Education. Previously he was President and Senior Scientist, Applied Behavioral & Cognitive Sciences, Inc. (the ABC's). He has been Associate Director of the National Institute of Education, Visiting Associate Professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a Noted Scholar at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. In the 1998 report entitled "Beyond 2000", Dr. Sticht reported on trends for adult education that might emerge at the turn of the millennium. Today, the context for adult education has changed dramatically. Dr. Sticht's presentation will focus on the present United Nations Literacy Decade with its theme of Literacy as Freedom.

Register now for this one of a kind conference by referring to the insert in this newsletter or visit: mea-mft.org and click on educator's conference under "other".

The President's Corner

The Year in Reflection

This year has been an amazing roller coaster ride for MAACE! It started with a successful annual conference in Butte featuring workshops, round table discussions, politicians, and delightful local flavor. From there, MAACE tackled the issue of increased funding for adult education in the state of Montana. Representatives from MAACE met with Governor Schweitzer and Linda McCulloch in hopes of securing additional funding in this year's legislative session. Through those meetings, we learned of the importance of proactive advocacy. Our legislative committee is currently working on an action plan that will help this organization support an increase in adult education funding at the state level and to promote awareness and support for our work at the federal level.

Politics was not our only focus. MAACE provided its members with two regional workshops on reading assessment and instruction. Rosalind Davis from Harvard presented her research on reading assessments and Cathy Smyers from the Missoula program along with Norene Peterson from the Billings program spent a day with the workshop attendees sharing their expertise on appropriate materials and teaching techniques to use with students at all learning levels.

This spring, MAACE advocacy efforts focused on the reauthorization of federal legislation that supports adult education. When President Bush presented his budget to congress, he recommended cutting funds for adult education. Through very organized and diligent state and local work, Senator's Baucus, Burns, and Representative Rehberg received hundreds of phone calls and letters from Montana students and supporters of adult education. MAACE members Jake Gustin and Steve McCoy, and board member Dixie Stark visited Washington D.C. and met with key staff members of our congressional contingency. Because of these efforts, our congressional representatives supported full funding for adult education. MAACE members offer a sincere thank you to the programs that helped make the Washington D.C. trip possible: the Front Street Learning Center in Helena, Salish Kootenai Community College, and Bitterroot LVA, Inc.

Summer came and congress adjourned without passing reauthorization for adult education. Even Start, a family literacy program, is also fighting for funds as President Bush recommended completely cutting their program. MAACE and all of its members will need to work together with the legislative committee to continue our successful advocacy work.

As we look forward to the upcoming MAACE/MEA/MFT conference in Missoula, another year will begin with new board members and a new president for the organization. When I started with the board, I did not know many of the adult educators across the state. Because of MAACE, I have had the opportunity to meet and work with many people. Names on the membership list now have faces and memories attached to them. The board members have laughed together often, even when meetings got long and every email was a request for a report or more work. There are some great people in this organization. I encourage all of you to become more involved and find out how much you can gain from becoming a MAACE board member.

Thanks to all the board members for a great year – Sandy Meyers, Vickie Mattingly, Cathy Smyers, Dixie Stark, Detlef Johl, and Jan Huff. Appreciation for jobs well done go to Amy Fabey and Margie Sylvester. Without them, this organization would not function as it does. My wish for Paula Arneson, our incoming president, is to have a successful and enjoyable year. Last but not least, I want to recognize Norene Peterson for the support and mentoring she has provided for the last two years. Many people have benefited from her dedication and the great work she does. Now, she can really retire, as I become the Past-president.



Was this in a mailbox near you?



Scholarship information for the 2005-2006 program year should be in a mailbox near you.

This year, for the first time, applications for MAACE scholarships were not mailed out. The application information and form are available online through LINCS. Go to <http://www.nwlincs.org/mtlincs/maacescholarship/05-06.htm> to access the form.

Anyone needing a hard copy of the application may receive one via regular mail by request. Contact the MAACE treasurer, Margie Sylvester at 248-3774 (Billings) to request a copy.

Scholarships are funded by money MAACE receives from OPI each year for professional development activities to benefit MAACE members. This year, the established priority for that money is to encourage attendance among MAACE members at in-state professional development events, especially the MAACE fall conference in Missoula and regional workshops to be

offered during the program year at other locations.

This year, the MAACE board has earmarked \$10,000 of the professional development funds to provide scholarship assistance to members participating in continuing-education events. This amount will allow for twenty \$350 scholarships (20 x \$350 = \$7,000) for the fall conference, and five \$600 scholarships (5 x \$600 = \$3,000) for other out-of-state events.

Scholarship applications are judged by their completeness and the quality of the responses to the questions asked. Reviewers primarily look for connections between the event and its potential for professional benefit to the applicant and his/her program. Applicants are asked to type their responses on the form; handwritten or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

For more information, contact the MAACE Treasurer, margiesylvester@yahoo.com.

The MAACE Mission

MAACE promotes learning as a lifelong process through advocacy, professional development and collaboration among local, state, tribal and national organizations.

INSIDE!!



FALL CONFERENCE INFORMATION



SCHOLARSHIPS



AWARD NOMINATIONS



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