

In This Issue

Adult perspectives:
Adult education
results from a
national survey
page 2

President's message:
Summer reflections
page 3

Web resources
page 3

Development fund
application details
pages 4-5

State news
pages 6-7

MVAEA members:
Put on your
thinking caps!
page 7

Consultant's corner
page 8



LATE SUMMER
2006
vol. 1, no. 3

Are you ready to meet the challenge?

by *Terry Ramig (Nebraska), former past president*

With the resignation of the MVAEA president last fall, the MVAEA board of directors was faced with many challenges. One of the items of concern was filling the past president's position the following year.

After a brief "sidebar" discussion, four MVAEA past presidents agreed to share the position's responsibilities for the 2006-07 term. Although I agreed to serve as the "identified" past president, the duties are being equally shared by Phil Wegman (Kansas, 1998); Sharon Luhning (Minnesota, 2000); and Greg

Nolting (Missouri, 2002). What you should also know is that in addition to sharing these duties, each serves on the board of directors in other positions.

Each of us has taken specific assignments and is working diligently to accomplish these activities for MVAEA. Why would we accept this mission? We do so because we believe in the organization and its membership. And we enjoy what we do!

Have you considered serving MVAEA in a board position? We can testify that it's a great experience! I encourage you to discover how rewarding the opportunity can be...and make some lifelong friends along the way!

Adult Education Trivia

The University of Wisconsin, in 1904, was the first academic institution in the US to offer what today would be considered an identifiable continuing education program.

And in 1969, Empire State

College, a unit of the State University of New York, was the first institution in the United States to exclusively focus on providing higher education to adult learners.

—submitted by Jim Lightbody

Highlights from a national education survey

by Kimeiko Hotta Dover

Participation in adult education is prevalent and has been increasing over the past three decades, according to the National Households Education Surveys of 2001 conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) of the U.S. Department of Education.

WHAT ARE THE KEY FINDINGS?

Key findings of the study included:

- Participation in adult education has risen from 40% in 1995 to 46% in 2001.
- More women than men participate; 49% of women and 43% of men engaged in some type of educational activity.
- Adults under the age of 50 are more likely to participate. Adults in three age groups between 16-50 years of age participated between 53-55%, compared to 41% for adults 51-65 years of age, and 22% for adults 66 years of age and older.
- Prior educational attainment is positively related to participation in adult education. The study showed that 22% of adults who had not completed high school participated, compared to 34% with high school diploma or equivalent, 48% with some college education and 66% with a bachelor's degree or more.
- Employment is related to participation. Employed adults were more likely to participate (54%) than unemployed (25%).

WHAT IS "ADULT EDUCATION"?

The following formal and informal learning activities were considered adult education:

1. English as a Second Language: Classes for adults whose main language is not English.
2. Adult Basic Education (ABE): General Educational Development (GED) preparation and adult high school programs.
3. College or university degree programs: Part-time degree or certificate programs. Full-time enrollment in postsecondary degree or

diploma programs was not considered as adult education for this study.

4. Vocational/technical diploma programs.
5. Apprenticeship programs: Formal, on-the-job training leading to journeyman status in a skilled trade or craft.
6. Work-related courses: Classes related to work, not including credential or apprenticeship programs. Work-related informal learning activities included supervised training or mentoring, self-paced study using books, video tapes or computers, attending presentations, conferences or conventions, and reading professional journals or magazines.
7. Personal development courses: Classes led by instructors that are not included in categories above including courses related to hobbies and interests.

The study found the most common adult education activities were work-related courses (30%), personal interest (21%) and college or university courses (4%).

WHAT ARE THE SOCIETAL FACTORS?

Societal factors influencing participation in adult education activities include demographic changes such as an aging population, the reentry of women into the workplace, and an influx of immigrants. Moreover, the global economy and technological advancements have impacted adult education.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

Dated Oct. 11, 2004, this online article can be found at <http://adulted.about.com/cs/studiesstats1/a/participation.htm>. When you visit this site, you can also read and download the entire report, which is entitled "Participation in Adult Education and Lifelong Learning: 2000-01." An earlier study is also available online at "Participation in Adult Education in the United States: 1998-1999."

Online
Research
Source:
Jim
Lightbody,
former
editor of
Happenings

From the President

Summer reflections...

by Mary Schaefer, MVAEA president



Fall has its own special energy. Some say the spring in our step is the result of many years

of conditioning. Who of us cannot remember the headiness of smelling that new box of crayons and the memories of backpacks brimming with unsharpened pencils and blank notebooks? It is the sense that every year we do get a fresh start, and it happens in September.

I have a theory that all that is true, but it is only part of the story. I think the real sense of the new energy and creative force comes from what happens before September. It results in that special “oasis” in our lives which is my favorite season—summer.

Living in the North country, I savor every day of that delicious sunshine. I delight in the taste of fresh raspberries and garden tomatoes. I store up memories of the sunsets at the lake knowing they will have to

last me through short winter days. I relish the break in routine.

I believe to find our new creative energy in the fall, we need that special “oasis” to step back from everyday business and find the quiet. Rest provides restoration. Recreation allows us to be able to re-create new ideas and fresh visions in the crisp days of autumn.

At our conference last April, speaker Ann Dolence provided a number of guidelines to image our goals to action and reality. She said that opportunities for success present themselves when we free up our belief system to have our desires delivered in an infinite number of ways. We must be open to opportunities delivered in unfamiliar packages. That requires a rested and open mind.

After the business of the past year, this summer has been an especially sweet respite for me. As the school year begins again, it is time to be open to new paradigms and have energy for visioning new dreams.

Hopefully you have found a place to savor the summer, find the quiet, and reconnect with energy to realize your own visions this coming year. Have a great beginning to a new school year!

<http://novel.nifl.gov/>

This is the site of the National Institute for Literacy, and it features a variety of resources—including publications, programs, services, and discussion lists. *Site suggested by Jim Lightbody.*

<http://www.aaace.org/>

The American Association for Adult and Continuing Education hosts this information-intensive site. AAACE refers to itself as, “The nation’s premiere adult education organization

dedicated to being the leading source in the field of adult learning.” *Site suggested by Jim Lightbody.*

<http://www.utexas.edu/world/comcol/state/>

This site links to a list of Web sites for community colleges across the country, and it should provide a good reference for community education and/or training trends and ideas. *Site suggested by Terry Ramig from Northeast Community College.*

**Visit the MVAEA
Web site —
www.mvaea.com
— to learn more
about what’s
happening in
Missouri Valley !**

**ON
THE
WEB**

**resources
you can
put to work
right now**

Development Fund supports worthy projects

by Rhonda Jones (Missouri), Development Fund Committee chairperson

PAST AWARDS

Monographs on Adult Learning in Minnesota

Incorporating Adult Literacy Skills with Movement Therapy

Adult Special Needs in a Rural Setting

Adult Education Video Production

The Enabling Professional

Monograph: Indian Adult Education

LD Information Brochure

Empowering Your Staff: Leadership on the Reservation

ESL Drivers Tutoring Aids

Effective Teaching Inquiry

Literacy & Oprah Reading in Reality Book Club

Teach the fx-260 for the GED Math Test 2002

Study Proposing Education on Citizenship through Internet Accessible Locations

Literacy Central

Caring Non Custodial Fathers: Enhancing Father-Child Relationships

Spanish Newspaper *El Heraldo*

Are you wishing for a few dollars to fund a project that is innovative and enhances the field of adult education? **Apply for the 2006-07 Development Award!**

The deadline to apply for the 2006-07 MVAEA Development Award is approaching. If you have an innovative project or groundbreaking research in an area related to adult education, please make sure you apply.

The application deadline is March 1, 2007. The award will be presented at the MVAEA annual conference to be held in Bloomington, Minn., on April 18-20.

Only MVAEA members are eligible for consideration. All applicants are encouraged to attend the conference.

KEY CRITERIA

When applying, please respond to these seven key criteria:

1. **Description of the activity**
2. **The purpose of the activity**
3. **How the activity is to be implemented**
4. **The need for the impact of the activity on adult education practices**
5. **The anticipated outcome of the activity**
6. **A general description of the budget**
7. **Any innovative aspects of the activity**

Each item of the criteria is judged on a five-point scale. The highest point earned wins the grant.

EXPECTATIONS

The award winner will present at the next conference and present a brief description of the project and presentation to *Happenings in the Valley*. One copy of the final project is to be presented to each of the association's state representatives. At the end of the project year, a check will be sent based on a reimbursement form submitted to the Development Committee chair, which is then forwarded to the MVAEA treasurer for payment.

ALLOWABLE EXPENSES

Allowable expenses include materials and resources needed to carry out the project, travel to and from the next conference, and materials to reproduce the final project.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Applications will be judged by a panel of your peers on a point system based on the seven criteria. Upon completion of the project, the winner will need to disseminate the knowledge gained to other MVAEA members through an article for the MVAEA newsletter, a project paper for the archives, and a presentation at the 2007 annual MVAEA conference.

Applications are due March 1, 2007. The award will be announced at the conference in Bloomington, Minn., in April. The recipient will have until MVAEA's 2008 spring conference to complete the project.

Only current MVAEA members are eligible for consideration. The emphasis is on a project that is new, innovative, practical, replicable, and/or just plain good for adult education. It may address professional development, program administration, classroom applications, or any other adult education concern.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply, submit an application found at left *or* on MVAEA's Web site at www.mvaea.com. If you have questions, contact Rhonda Jones at 314-367-5000 (phone), 314-367-3057 (fax), or Rhonda.Jones@slps.org (e-mail).

LAST YEAR'S RECIPIENT

Our most recent grant recipient was Betty Randall from the Dickinson Adult Learning Center in Dickinson, N.D., who used grant funding to work on testing for a computer manual rewrite project.

DEVELOPMENT FUND APPLICATION FORM

CONDITIONS OF THE AWARD

1. This 2006-07 Development Fund Award will be announced at annual MVAEA conference festivities in Bloomington, Minn., on April 18-20, 2007.
2. Each recipient will have up to one year to complete his/her project and will receive up to \$1,500 for expenses—upon submission of an itemized statement at the conclusion of the project.
3. A summary narrative, findings, or conclusions, along with any handouts or created materials, will be submitted to MVAEA's board for review and shall henceforth become the property of MVAEA.
4. An article summarizing the project will be submitted to *Happenings in the Valley* for publication.
5. The recipient will submit a proposal to present a session about the project at the MVAEA annual spring conference in the following year.
6. Recipient must be a 2006-07 member of MVAEA and continue with membership through 2008.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The application shall consist of the completed form below as well as a brief description or discussion of the following components:

1. Description of the activity
2. The purpose of the activity
3. How the activity is to be implemented
- 4 & 5. The need for and the impact of the activity on adult education practices
6. The anticipated outcome of the activity
7. A general description of the budget
8. Any innovative aspects of the activity

DEADLINE

Please return completed application form by **March 1, 2007**, to the following address:
Rhonda Jones, 5078 Kensington Ave., St. Louis, MO 63108

Title of Project: _____
Location of Project _____
Applicant Name _____
Organization/Institution _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone (Work) _____ **(Home)** _____
E-mail Address _____

Information for Second Applicant (if applicable)

Applicant Name _____
Organization/Institution _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone (Work) _____ **(Home)** _____
E-mail Address _____

Please attach 1-2 sheets in response to the application requirements noted in this newsletter.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

To apply for the grant *or* to learn more about this opportunity, please contact Rhonda Jones, MVAEA Development Award chairperson, in the following ways:
 314-367-5000 *phone*
 314-367-3057 *fax*
 Rhonda.Jones@slps.org *e-mail*



STATE NEWS

MINNESOTA

www.mnmacae.org

submitted by Bella Hanson

On May 18-21, the University of Minnesota hosted the Adult Education Research Conference (AERC) with “The Many Faces of Adult Education” as its theme. This annual North American conference provides a forum for adult education researchers to share their studies with colleagues from around the world.

There were 237 local, national, and international attendees who participated in 83 workshops on papers and 18 roundtables. The sessions represented a wide range of topics and presenters.

The next AERC will be held jointly with the Canadian Association for the Study of Adult Education (CASAE) at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada from June 6-9, 2007. The deadline for paper proposals is Oct. 9, 2006; visit the AERC Web site (<http://www.adulterc.org/>) for information.

The Adult Basic Education 2006 Summer Institute was held Aug. 2-4 at St. John’s University, with approximately 300 ABE staff attending. The theme was “Minnesota ABE: Reframing for the Future,” with an emphasis on ABE as a valuable partner with employers. ABE enrollment in fiscal year 2006 was 76,736—with 51% of the learners in ESL programs.

IOWA

www.iowall.org

submitted by Dale Amunson

Planning for the Iowa Association for Lifelong Learning (IALL) annual fall conference is well underway thanks to the leadership of

former MVAEA president Evan Bensley. Evan stepped down from his role with MVAEA to become more active in IALL.

Using “The Mosaic of Lifelong Learning” as the conference theme, our Conference Planning Committee members have developed a great conference agenda. The dates of the conference are Oct. 19-20, with a preconference program held on Oct. 18. The site for this year’s conference is the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center in Ames, Iowa.

Evan and I would like to cordially invite all MVAEA members to come to Iowa to attend IALL’s conference in October. For further information about the conference—or to register—please visit the IALL Web site at www.iowall.org.

NORTH DAKOTA

www.dpi.state.nd.us/adulted/index.shtm

submitted by Deb Sisco

North Dakota hosted the MVAEA conference in the late April. We were very pleased with the number of people who attended the conference, and we hope everyone had a good time in North Dakota.

The North Dakota Association of Lifelong Learners (NDALL) will hold its annual conference in Bismarck, N.D., on Sept. 21-22. The conference title is “Building Cornerstones of Education.”

MISSOURI

www.maacce.org/

submitted by Michelle Hanson

Missouri held its 2006 summer conference at Tan-Tar-A Resort at the Lake of the Ozarks, Mo., on June 21-23, along with a number of pre-conference held on June 20. This year’s conference theme was “2006: A MAACCE Fiesta—Enhancing Learning in Times of Change.” There were around 400 attendees, and there were a variety of

continued on page 7

WHAT’S NEW WITH YOU? Let us know! We’d like to include your news in the next issue of the MVAEA newsletter. Submit your articles or photos to the Happenings in the Valley editor using the information on the facing page of this issue.

continued from page 6

sessions from which to choose. This made the conference interesting to all who attended.

The old and new MAACCE boards met on June 23 following the conference. A committee has been formed to work on the 2008 COABE National Conference which will be held in St. Louis. Since this will be a joint COABE/MAACCE conference, a large number of attendees are expected, and much work must be done to make this conference a big success.

KANSAS

www.thekaea.org

NEBRASKA

www.acean.org

SOUTH DAKOTA

www.sdall.org

MVAEA members: Put on your thinking caps!

by Terry Ramig (Nebraska), past president

Each year MVAEA recognizes an individual within the Association's seven-state region who has served MVAEA with distinction of achievements. This award is known as the Founders Award, and it is given each year at our annual conference.

Qualifications for the recipient of this award include a record of notable accomplishment in his/her field, a record of outstanding service to MVAEA (i.e. participation in annual conference programs, service on the executive board and/or committees), and record of active and consistent professional support through MVAEA membership.

The call for nominations of this award will come later this year, but now is the time to put on your thinking cap and consider someone who you believe is deserving of the MVAEA Founders Award.

A note of clarification from Founders Award recipient

by Dale Amunson (Iowa representative)

I'd like to thank everyone who contributed to my nomination for the MVAEA Founders Award at the MVAEA annual conference in Fargo this past April. I especially want to thank Barb Eisenmenger for her role in the process. Barb is not only a very special professional friend of mine, but we also have become personal friends as we have shared time in vehicles going to and from MVAEA and IALL functions together.

As I read through the article in the last issue of *Happenings*, I noticed a couple of statements that I feel should be clarified to more accurately reflect my position at Hawkeye Community College.

Though I would like to take credit for the opening of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center in Waterloo, it was actually founded many years before I came to Hawkeye. My role with the Center was as supervisor of its operations and staff for several years.

In addition, I served as a liaison of the College on the advisory board to the Center. I was very proud of the staff and how hard they worked to meet the needs of the neighborhood where it was located. I still am very proud of the Center and see it as one of the most satisfying components of my position with Hawkeye Community College.

The staff was ably coordinated by Mary Therioth, who was assisted by Gloria Stigler and La Tanya Graves. These three did a yeoman's job at operating a facility that was small but held a mighty presence in the Waterloo community. They also doubled as fundraisers for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. banquet held in January each year.

MVAEA

Happenings in the Valley is published by the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association to provide news, information, and assistance to those interested in continuing education and lifelong learning.

Editor

Shari Kiple

Contributors

Dale Amunson
Kimeiko Hotta Dover
Bella Hanson
Michelle Hanson
Rhonda Jones
Jim Lightbody
Sharon Luhning
Terry Ramig
Mary Schaefer
Deb Sisco

Submit articles or story ideas to:

Shari Kiple
ph: 712-276-5176
kiplecomm@
cableone.net

For address change or info on MVAEA:

Sharon Luhning
Membership Services Consultant
P.O. Box 336
Madison Lake, MN
56063
ph: 507-243-4347
sluhning@mctcnet.net
or sluhning@
myclearwave.net

CONSULTANT'S

O by Sharon Luhring, MVAEA membership services consultant

R **G**reetings! The 2006-07 directory is off the press! As of the end of July, our total MVAEA membership is 173. The breakdown per state is as follows:

N	Colorado	1
E	Florida	1
R	Iowa	19
	Kansas	17
	Minnesota	15
	Missouri	14
	North Dakota	76
	Nebraska	9
	Ohio	1
	South Dakota	20

Your state representatives will disseminate the directories to MVAEA members in your state. Thank you once again to our state representatives for distributing the directories!

Your state representatives are Dale Amunson (Iowa); Sue Choens (Kansas); Bella Hanson (Minnesota); Michelle Hanson (Missouri); Beth Przymus (Nebraska); Deb Sisco (North Dakota); and Lori Yost (South Dakota).

If there are any changes to your address, phone numbers, e-mail information, etc., please contact me via e-mail at sluhring@myclearwavenet or by phone at 507-243-4347.

Finally, if you have any suggestions regarding our service to you, I encourage you to please contact me, MVAEA's officer, or any of the state representatives. Thank you for supporting the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association!

Coming Up

October 12-13

MVAEA Board Meeting
Sioux City, Iowa
(Meeting will begin at 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 12, and continue through the end of the day. The group will reconvene at 8 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 13, and continue through no later than 12 noon.)

November 15

Deadline for *Happenings in the Valley*

April 18, 2007

MVAEA Leadership Academy
Bloomington, Minn.

April 19-20, 2007

MVAEA Conference
Bloomington, Minn.

May 1

Deadline for *Happenings in the Valley*

Missouri Valley Adult Education Association – Membership Application

Membership Category (please check one)

Individual (\$35) Life (\$300) Student (\$15) Retiree (\$15) Institutional* (\$120)

*For institutional membership, please attach a list of up to four persons who will be part of the membership.

New Renewal

Name _____ Title _____

Organization _____

Organization Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Please submit form and dues, payable to MVAEA, to Sharon Luhring (please see page 7 for contact information).