

# MVAEA

## Happenings in the Valley

### MVAEA celebrates a successful conference

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The 2005 MVAEA conference is now only a memory, but it will be long-remembered for its excellent speakers and its great networking opportunities. On March 15-17, more than 250 registrants met in Overland Park, Kan., for the conference, which brought together adult and continuing educators from MVAEA's seven member states.

Aaron Davis kicked off conference events with his Leadership Academy address. And keynote speaker Mark Towers shared a compelling address over luncheon. Attendees also had the opportunity to choose from a wide array of concurrent sessions covering their personal and professional interests.

Other conference highlights included the awards ceremony and evening entertainment, along with the president's breakfast, silent auction, and more.

Angie Reid, KAEA's Webmaster, has done a remarkable job of compiling MVAEA

conference coverage. For a comprehensive perspective of this year's conference, visit [www.thekeae.org/conf05\\_2.htm](http://www.thekeae.org/conf05_2.htm).



#### TOP:

*Attendees consider silent auction items.*

#### ABOVE:

*Karen Ulanski, one of the conference organizers, fields a question from KAEA Secretary Florena Brodman of Independence, Kan.*

#### LEFT:

*Mark Towers shares his keynote address.*



**SPRING  
2005**  
volumes 1-2

## From the President

### Thanks for a wonderful conference!



by Kathy Petz (Kansas), MVAEA president

**W**ow...can it be over? MVAEA's 2005 conference is now history, and I can't begin to tell you what a great experience it was. Conference planning is a great opportunity to meet and work with a variety of people and programs, and the 2005 MVAEA conference was no different. We had 207 full registrations and 51 one-day registrations. Each state was represented, both in attendance and in presentations.

My heartfelt appreciation is extended to the people who staffed the various committees. As co-planner, Karen Ulanski did a terrific job supervising the registration process and keeping me on the straight and narrow. The committees were a wonderful,

energetic, and highly motivated group. No conference can be planned by a single person. Thank you to everyone involved!

Terry Ramig did an excellent job in planning the preconference Leadership Academy. Now in its third year with the MVAEA conference, the Leadership Academy is steadily growing in attendance. This year 81 people participated. Aaron Davis—definitely an “enthusiator”—brought with him a highly energetic style of presentation that led us into the “Power of Productivity.” Each participant came away with practical knowledge that will empower him or her in professional, and perhaps personal, endeavors.

Mark Towers was the luncheon keynote speaker. Mark is a former educator and understands what our membership is doing. He made a strong connection to many of our participants. In order to get a feel for what and who this organization is all about, he arrived well before his keynote time, and he stayed long after his presentation. His session evaluations came back with phrases like, “Thank you! Very

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## MVAEA Leadership Academy was a huge hit!

by Terry Ramig (Nebraska)

**A**lthough Aaron Davis had travel challenges getting to the 2005 MVAEA Leadership Academy, it didn't hamper his enthusiasm! His energy and excitement brightened the room as he shared his insight on how to live and work like a champion.

One of the highlights in Aaron's presentation was the exercise interviewing others in the Academy. The room was abuzz as

80+ participants went about the area meeting colleagues and hopefully making new friends.

Aaron's tips on the “Power of Productivity” gave valuable perspectives on making the most of each day. Those in attendance learned new methods, and they were also reminded of techniques set aside. I know I have been working to become more productive individual since Aaron's presentation, and I hope you have accepted the same challenge!

To learn more about Aaron Davis, visit his Web site at [www.aarondavisspeaks.com](http://www.aarondavisspeaks.com), or contact him for potential speaking engagements at [adavis@truthenterprise.com](mailto:adavis@truthenterprise.com).



## New president looks ahead

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inspiring!” and “Loved the stories and energy.” My favorite comment was, “Always stay grounded. Don’t get so involved in being a responsible adult that you forget to enjoy your job.” Mark was very interested in what MVAEA is about.

The sessions were very well attended. Some were actually overflowing! We had 31 quality breakout sessions. I want to issue a special thank you to each of the presenters. All participated as a service to our organization. The presenters are not paid, and they are responsible for their own expenses. What’s more, they are also active attendees in other sessions. The caliber of talent—and the willingness of that talent to share what they do—is amazing. They are a vital part of the conference experience. Kudos to you all!

Following in Evan Bensley’s footsteps will be a challenge. Evan has done a great job in managing the board. I am sure he will be an invaluable resource as I take on that challenge in the coming year.

We face strong challenges in adult

education. With funding changes and policy revisions, all of us will be looking at program issues. I come from adult basic education, but I know community colleges and training programs across the board are looking at, and dealing with, many of the issues that command most of my attention. In Kansas, we have taken a proactive stance in educating our representatives at the state and national levels. I look forward to hearing about the issues that involve the MVAEA membership and how we can be involved in the regional education process.

I encourage all MVAEA members to consider a position on the board. The learning process that attaches itself to board membership is a wonderful opportunity to expand your horizons. This is my second turn (first time as secretary), and I rejoice in the friendships that have developed. I look forward to the new friendships down the road.

Good luck to North Dakota in its 2006 conference planning efforts. I am sure their members will do an excellent job. Please plan to support them in any way you can. Conference dates will be April 26-28, 2006. It will be my first venture into that great state, and I look forward to seeing everyone in Fargo.

### WHAT’S NEW WITH YOU???

Please let us know if you have a new job, a life change, an innovative or interesting program to share, or ideas you’d like to pass along to your colleagues throughout the region.

*Happenings in the Valley* welcomes any articles or photographs that share about “what’s new with you” — so start planning your next contribution!

Submit your ideas, articles, or photos to Shari Kiple, editor, at [kiplecomm@cablone.net](mailto:kiplecomm@cablone.net).

## From the Past President

### It has been a great year for MVAEA



*by Evan Bensley  
(Iowa), MVAEA  
past president*

I can’t believe my term as MVAEA president has come and gone. It seems like only yesterday when Terry Ramig, Dale Amunson, and I met for the first time in Omaha to discuss the 2003 MVAEA conference facility arrangements and my position as MVAEA president-elect.

While serving MVAEA during the past

two years, I have learned much about the rich history of the organization. In the 67 years MVAEA has existed, it has become a premier organization leading the way in regional adult education. But it still faces many challenges.

Nebraska, for instance, has had a difficult time recruiting members to its state association as their adult educators splinter into smaller, specialized associations. South Dakota had considered dissolving its relationship with MVAEA over past year. It was due to diligent work by Lana Reich and Lori Kwasniewski that South Dakota has remained part of our group. The MVAEA board will continue to face these and other challenges—especially as funding for conferences and

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# MVAEA honors state award recipients

by Tom Haskell (Iowa), who served as host of the MVAEA award ceremonies on the evening of Thursday, March 17

## SOUTH DAKOTA Becki Lemke

Becki Lemke has provided adult education instruction at Cornerstones Career Learning Center for the past five years. In that time, she has been on the forefront of an evolution in changing adult education in South Dakota and especially in Huron.

Becki is receptive to change and she has implemented several changes to Cornerstones programs over the years. Our individualized

instruction moved to a more classroom center based instruction. She implemented different teaching strategies, techniques, and materials all of which required a great deal of tenacity while still being flexible to the needs of students and coworkers.

When faced with the challenge of adding greater

technology instruction to the classroom, Becki did more than “take the ball and run with it.” She created the ball. Already computer literate, Becki went beyond learning the new computer software that required implementation. She advanced her own skills by acquired Microsoft Office Specialist certification.

Becki’s other duties include Even Start program, ESL courses, Business Training programs, alternative school instruction, summer youth programming, and WIA eligibility and enrollment. Becki also identified the need for English Second Language in our community. She sought the information and skills needed to run an ESL program. She trained staff and implemented an instructional program that worked with 50 people last year. Her most recent business training accomplishment the Workplace Spanish program that she designed, implemented, and now supervises. Participating businesses range from medical offices to McDonalds.

Becki has completed training in family literacy education programs, apprenticeship, reading strategies, assessments, adult education, alternative school education, and more. She appreciates the opportunities to enhance her education—and to make changes to her programs based on what she learns.

Becki has been active in SDALL, serving on taskforces and workgroups, providing assistance to others with LitPro, providing assistance to Marcia Hess on special projects, and serving on the board of directors. She has also provided other members with training, including ESL Health Literacy training at the Summer Institute.

Finally, it’s important to note that Becki is a teacher—and a great one at that. She has helped hundreds of students earn their GEDs, and she has annually worked with a thousands of Cornerstone participants with various skill needs. People gravitate to Becki. She has a way of getting them to reach a little further and to achieve a little more.

## NORTH DAKOTA Bob & Lydia Age-Chase

*Deb Sisco accepted the award on their behalf.*

Lydia Age Chase has accomplished many outstanding goals since becoming ABE director about six years ago. She has not only tripled the number of GED graduates, but she has also encouraged many more students to work toward earning their GED diplomas.

She exemplifies the spirit and endurance that it takes to be recognized with the Adult



**ABOVE:**  
*Accepting on Becki’s behalf, Lana Reich (left) receives the award from Terry Ramig.*



**ABOVE:**  
*Accepting on Bob and Lydia’s behalf, Deb Sisco (left) receives the award from Terry Ramig.*

Educator of the Year Award. She has more enthusiasm and belief in her people than anyone. Because she arranged for an intensive GED program this past summer, for instance, 11 more GED graduates have diplomas. And her adult education program was recognized nationally by the Adult Education Honor society for highest percentage of inductees *in the nation* for an adult education center.

Also nominated to share this award is Lydia's husband and right-hand man, Bob Sage-Chase. He has put in many hours helping in the office, running errands, and more.

Lydia and Bob's outstanding team efforts reflect a positive and professional image for Fort Berthold Community College. They are exceptional educators and community servants.

## NEBRASKA Nancy Holman

Nancy Holman has taught as an adjunct in continuing education for the past 25 years and was a part-time coordinator for approximately five years before becoming the full-time director in 1996 for Southeast Community College in Lincoln, Nebraska. Her love for education started when she was fresh out of college serving as a home economics instructor for Mead Public Schools.

Nancy has been a member of ACEAN and MVAEA for several years; she has contributed to both organizations in many ways. Referred to as the "door prize queen," she devotes her time to the tasks for which many would say, "No." She has served on three Conference Planning Committees, including the 2003 joint MVAEA/ACEAN conference in Omaha. She has registered all ACEAN members for conferences and most recently served as treasurer for the organization.

As Mona Callies notes, "I have known Nancy for 16 years. My fondest moment is the day I called her at her 'day job' and asked her if she would come work with me. She hung up. Strongly committed, I called back the next day as she was freezing during recess on the Lincoln Public School playground. She asked, 'What exactly would I have to do?' A small

miracle occurred when she said, 'Yes.' I know a strong right arm when I see one!

"Nancy is talented in ways that make you gasp. She can multitask faster than an octopus and make a notebook out of virtually your entire life. She leaves you yellow 'stickies' in a trail to your car and serves coffee, and she will let you know whether you need a slap on the head or a hug—whichever you truly deserve. She is simply one of the finest."



**ABOVE:**  
*Nancy Holman (right) receives her award from Terry Ramig.*

## MISSOURI Mary Ann Kramer

Mary Ann Kramer, literacy coordinator for the St. Louis Public Schools, received the Don Fancher Outstanding Educator Award at the Missouri Association for Adult Continuing and Community Education conference held at Tan-Tar-A Resort last June. She displays enthusiasm and undying dedication to her students. In addition, she continually researches new techniques to help readers improve their skills. Mary Ann works with many agencies to obtain additional resources to improve service to families and adults.

Mary Ann has contributed to the field of adult education through her commitment to MAACCE—as evidenced by conducting seminars at MAACCE, Literacy Leap, and COABE. In addition, she earned the MAACCE Development Fund Award in 2000.



**ABOVE:**  
*Mary Ann Kramer (right) receives her award from Terry Ramig.*

## MINNESOTA Dr. Charlotte M. Knoche

*Charlotte Knoche was also the Development Fund Award recipient, awarded separately by Michelle Hanson.*

Charlotte M. Knoche served on the 2003 MACAE board, first as secretary and then as president-elect in 2004. The principle responsibility of the president-elect is to serve as the

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# MVAEA presents state awards and Founder's Award at 2005 conference

*continued from pages 4-5*

chair for the annual fall conference. Next, Char will become MACAE's 2005 president.

An overview of her educational background includes four academic degrees and many extra seminars. She completed her Ph.D. in the educational policy and administration from the University of Minnesota in 1997. Her dissertation focused on organizational behavior. She has two master's degrees—one in German and one in library science. She also holds a B.A. in German literature.

Char's work experience parallels her commitment to education. Since 1986, she has

worked at the Concordia University library, providing services to students, faculty, and staff. In 2003, she received tenure and became the library director in July 2004. She helped design the new Technology Center and taught in the School of Graduate and Continuing Studies, the School of Accelerated Learning, and the school of human services.

Of course, Char's work goes beyond Concordia's library. She has been involved in other programs at Concordia, including the Bush Grant writing team (2004-05), a Hmong culture and language program summer camp volunteer (2004), forming a Community of Peace Planning Committee (2003-2004), and FOCUS 2000. If that is not enough, Char also likes to travel abroad—including Thailand and Germany—and she has accepted the 2005 MACAE presidency.

Char has touched the lives of hundreds of individuals in the education arena. We may quantify her life, but the words of a colleague tell us more. "Char brings graciousness to the workplace. She speaks softly, but her heartfelt good intentions get the work done. Even with her world travels, she always comes back to us." We are all thankful for her commitment, efforts, and good spirit that she brings to MACAE and to MVAEA.



**ABOVE:**  
*Charlotte Knoche (far right) accepts her award from Terry Ramig. Bella Hanson (center) of St. Paul, Minn., also helped to congratulate Charlotte.*

## IOWA

### Evan Bensley

Evan Bensley demonstrated worthiness for this award by accepting the nomination for conference chair in 2003, successfully chairing the MVAEA conference in 2004, and presiding as president in 2005. He will serve in the traditional past-president roles through 2006.

Evan is also active in the Iowa Association for Lifelong Learning (IALL) and has led the Office Professionals Workshop Planning Committee for several years.

Dale Amunson noted that he had enjoyed working with Evan through MVAEA, and on various committees affiliated with Evan's job as EMS coordinator for Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon.

Evan's coworkers commend his coaching, mentoring, and instructional modeling for the EMS instructors. He is willing to go the extra mile for instructors and students. And it is not uncommon for him to continue his regular workday into the evening or on a weekend at off-campus locations.

Evan is an active paramedic in his own community and takes weekend shifts there. He was active in the design of the new health addition on campus. Only Evan could talk the administration into putting an actual ambulance in the classroom for hands-on instruction!

Finally, Evan is consistent in his work and extremely devoted to his young family.



### ABOVE:

*Evan Bensley (right) accepts his award from Terry Ramig.*

## KANSAS Sue Choens

Sue Choens began working in the Butler County College's Adult Basic Education program on Jan. 1, 1981, as an alternative school and GED instructor. On July 1, 2002, she became its director. Past learners still come to the center just to say, "Hi," and always give Sue an update about their lives. Current learners are welcome in her office, where she gives her own encouragement on a daily basis. She provides the same support to her staff.

In 2003, Sue was chosen to participate in Leadership Butler, and she was actively involved in planning the curriculum and facilitating learning activities for the next year's class. Sue also partnered with the Butler County Workforce Development Center, which solidified the role of adult education as part of the area's one-stop system.

David Basset, manager of the Kansas Department of Commerce's Butler Workforce Job Service Center wrote, "Sue is one of those rare people with the capacity to create a vision for her goals and those of the center through her leadership...She has the respect of her peers and shows a caring quality in daily tasks."

Sue has been a member of KAEA for more than 20 years. She has made adult education better by serving as KAEA's secretary and treasurer. Her efforts have continued with her membership and participation in the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association. She is a professional teacher and leader worthy of the MVAEA Achievement Award.



**ABOVE:**  
*Sue Choens (right) accepts her award from Terry Ramig.*

## FOUNDER'S AWARD Phil Wegman—Kansas

Phil Wegman is a long-time Kansan who has dedicated his efforts to adult education for 30+ years. Phil has been a member of MVAEA for more than 20 years—attending annual conferences in every state. He was Kansas' representative to the MVAEA board from 1991-93. As co-chair of the 1991 Conference Planning Committee, he was instrumental in planning an outstanding conference. Phil served as president-elect in 1997-98 and as president in 1998-99. He is MVAEA's current treasurer.

While serving as state representative, Phil was instrumental in acquiring and redesigning new display boards. During his tenure as president he supervised the refinement of the Web site, initiated a more effective data management system, and led the organization in increasing its membership through a recruitment/retention plan. Phil's loyalty and love for the "Valley" is evident in the time he has shared with the organization.

Phil is program director of skills enhancement in the community services division of Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kan. He is responsible for all youth sports clinics, ESL programs, and contract training with business and industry. Thousands of people benefit from his efforts.

Recently Phil's efforts have been directed to providing "Command Spanish" education to area businesses. His supervisor, Leann Wilson, spoke of Phil's dedication to the mission of community services, "He is a hard worker, expects quality performance from himself, and is dedicated to helping people."

Phil and his wife, Judy, live in Overland Park and have raised three daughters, one nephew, and one niece. Phil has a lifelong commitment to rural Kansas—working summers on his family farm. He is a dedicated father who enjoys his farming work and spending time on his Christmas tree farm.



**ABOVE:**  
*Phil Wegman (right) accepts the MVAEA Founder's Award from Terry Ramig. He was nominated for the award by fellow Kansan Joe Mildrexler.*

*The Founders Award is presented for notable accomplishment in the recipient's field, a record of outstanding service to MVAEA, and a record of active and consistent professional support to the organization*

## MVAEA presents Development Award

by Michelle Hanson (Missouri), Development Committee chairperson

**D**r. Charlotte Knoche, director of library services at Concordia University in St. Paul, Minn., is this year's recipient of the MVAEA Development Fund Award.



**ABOVE:**  
Michelle Hanson  
(left) presents  
the Development  
Fund Award to  
Dr. Charlotte Knoche  
of Minnesota.

Concordia University has seen an increase in the numbers of second language speakers, including Hmong and Somali students from the large immigrant population in St. Paul. They believe access to education and libraries is critical for the immigrants' successful integra-

tion into our country. The goal of Knoche's project is to better facilitate the integration of these new Americans by making their experiences as positive as possible.

The project includes training seminars tailored to train the supervisors in Instructional Technology/Library and Student Services to better facilitate the integration of these new  
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## President's Breakfast fosters discussion

by Terry Ramig (Nebraska)

**T**he annual President's Breakfast was held on March 16 at the MVAEA/KAEEA conference in Overland Park, Kan.

Representing the seven state associations and the MVAEA board, 21 individuals met to network and brainstorm a variety of items. Some topics of discussion included:

- Sharing activities within each state
- Sharing state associations' challenges
- Discussion of the Development Fund Scholarships
- Involvement with state and federal legislators, promoting adult and continuing education opportunities and benefits

Finally, we discussed the threat of potential cuts in adult basic education funding on the federal level. Participants were encouraged to contact their representatives immediately with concerns.

## Past president notes this year's success

*continued from page 3*

workshops has been reduced for so many of us. Each state has had to examine its options and consider what provides the best bang for its buck. MVAEA remains a tremendous value!

While serving as MVAEA president, the board has experimented with the "consent agenda" format used by state associations in Kansas and North Dakota. We have also examined the potential on our Web site for adding an employment listing page for regional education positions. The board also attempted to brainstorm some new ideas on marketing the Association and on improving incentives for membership. Unfortunately the threat of serious winter weather cut our meeting short. Overall, though, we accomplished a great deal in the past year.

My family and I had a wonderful time in

Overland Park, Kan., for the 2005 MVAEA conference. Many of you met my family, including our new baby boy, at the North Dakota reception.

Whether you attended the 2005 MVAEA conference or were not able to make it this year, I encourage you to renew your MVAEA membership for the upcoming year. We have a lot to offer you—and you have a lot to offer us. We would love to keep you in our membership.

It truly has been a privilege to serve as your president. I will always reflect on the experience with fond memories, and I will continue to strongly support MVAEA. I look forward to watching the Association become stronger as its dedicated board continues to serve the interest of MVAEA's membership.

I hope to see you all again in Fargo next year. Thank you!

# Board member reflects on past year

by Barb Eisenmenger (Iowa), past secretary

I have served as secretary of the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association for two terms. My experience during the past four years has been one of growth and friendship.

The first thing that comes to mind is the friendships I've formed with other adult educators from a seven-state region. I've connected with people who work in similar jobs as I do in northern Iowa, and I've learned that we have a common bond. Adult educators speak a common language. There is a common thread among us, even though we may work in different programs or have different funding sources to finance our work.

Whether we work in a community-based or a for-profit training company, local school district, community college, private or public university or college, the unifying thread is that MVAEA members help to improve the lives of their students or constituents. MVAEA and the state organizations provide a collective voice to help professionalize our field of work.

For example, I know I can send an e-mail message or pick up the phone and call any of these people I know to get an answer to a question or get some advice on a project I'm working on, and they will be there give assistance. That's an exchange of information called *networking!* What's more, working together makes the day-to-day tasks easier to accomplish and more enjoyable in the process.

MVAEA, along with my home-state organization of IALL, does an excellent job of supporting me and providing resources to make the journey worthwhile.

**Popular Theatre: A Useful Process for Adult Educators**  
[www.ericdigests.org/1998-1/popular.htm](http://www.ericdigests.org/1998-1/popular.htm)

**The Adult Education Teacher's Role in Career Planning**  
[www.ericdigests.org/pre-924/career.htm](http://www.ericdigests.org/pre-924/career.htm)

**Deterrents to Participation in Adult Education**  
[www.ericdigests.org/pre-924/overview.htm](http://www.ericdigests.org/pre-924/overview.htm)

**Learning, Culture, and Learning Culture**  
[www.ericdigests.org/1998-3/adult-education.html](http://www.ericdigests.org/1998-3/adult-education.html)

**Adult Civic Education**  
[www.ericdigests.org/1992-1/civic.htm](http://www.ericdigests.org/1992-1/civic.htm)

**Collaborative Learning in Adult Education**  
[www.ericdigests.org/pre-9220/adult.htm](http://www.ericdigests.org/pre-9220/adult.htm)

**Spirituality in Adult and Higher Education**  
[www.ericdigests.org/2002-3/adult.htm](http://www.ericdigests.org/2002-3/adult.htm)

**Ethical Practice in Adult Education**  
[www.ericdigests.org/1992-5/adult.htm](http://www.ericdigests.org/1992-5/adult.htm)

**Adult Literacy Education**  
[www.ericdigests.org/pre-921/adult.htm](http://www.ericdigests.org/pre-921/adult.htm)

**Reflective Practice in Adult Education**  
[www.ericdigests.org/1992-3/adult.htm](http://www.ericdigests.org/1992-3/adult.htm)

**Education for Homeless Adults**  
[www.ericdigests.org/1993/education.htm](http://www.ericdigests.org/1993/education.htm)

**Adult Education: Social Change or Status Quo?**  
[www.ericdigests.org/1997-3/adult.html](http://www.ericdigests.org/1997-3/adult.html)

**Managing Disruptive Student Behavior in Adult Basic Education**  
[www.ericdigests.org/pre-924/basic.htm](http://www.ericdigests.org/pre-924/basic.htm)

**Work Force Education or Literacy Development: Which Road Should Adult Education Take?**  
[www.ericdigests.org/1998-3/adult.html](http://www.ericdigests.org/1998-3/adult.html)

**Youth in Adult Basic and Literacy Education Programs**  
[www.ericdigests.org/2004-1/youth.htm](http://www.ericdigests.org/2004-1/youth.htm)

**ERIC and the Adult Education Act: 25 Years of Collaboration**  
[www.ericdigests.org/pre-9219/adult.htm](http://www.ericdigests.org/pre-9219/adult.htm)

**Adult Development: Implications for Adult Education**  
[www.ericdigests.org/pre-921/development.htm](http://www.ericdigests.org/pre-921/development.htm)

**Native Language Literacy and Adult ESL Education**  
[www.ericdigests.org/2000-4/esl.htm](http://www.ericdigests.org/2000-4/esl.htm)

**ESL Instruction in Adult Ed: Findings from a National Evaluation**  
[www.ericdigests.org/1996-1/instruction.htm](http://www.ericdigests.org/1996-1/instruction.htm)

**ON  
THE  
WEB**  
resources  
you can  
put to work  
right now

researched by  
Jim Lightbody,  
former Happenings  
editor



# STATE NEWS

## NORTH DAKOTA

[www.dpi.state.nd.us/adulted/index.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/adulted/index.shtm)

*by Deb Cisco*

Eight ABE teachers from North Dakota attended the 2005 MVAEA conference in Overland Park, Kansas, on March 17-18. This group hosted the North Dakota hospitality night on Wednesday, March 16, with food, drink and North Dakota trivia.

For example, did you know that milk is North Dakota's state drink and that there are famous people from North Dakota, too? We invite everyone to join us at the Holiday Inn in Fargo, N.D., for next year's MVAEA conference. Mark your calendars for April 26-28, 2006, and come north!

*In other news...*

GED via the Internet and GED classes via video conferencing are going strong in the state. It is nice to have technology available to us.

## MISSOURI

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

*submitted by Michelle Hanson*

The MAACCE Board meeting met Friday, March 11, 2005 at the Lake of the Ozarks Tan-Tar-A resort. John Henschke gave a report to the board about the research he had done on the tsunami fund raising efforts that would go specifically for adult education relief. There seems to be enormous pressure on local agencies in the areas for rental space in the main towns because the bigger relief agencies have taken what was still standing and are paying top dollars in rent—which the adult learning NGO groups cannot afford. After reviewing his

**Congratulations to MISSOURI! Their state earned this year's HERD award, which is presented to the non-hosting state with the largest representation at the MVAEA annual spring conference.**

information and the legitimacy of the effort, MAACCE voted to donate \$1,000 to the fund and will ask members to consider donating at the upcoming conference.

*2005 MAACCE Conference is on the way!*

The 2005 Annual MAACCE Conference "MAACCE Mardi Gras Celebrating Lifelong Learning" will be held at Osage Beach, Tan-Tar-A Resort, Golf Club & Spa, ([www.tan-tar-a.com](http://www.tan-tar-a.com)) June 22-24, 2005. The conference will open with our keynote speaker followed by a Mardi Gras parade, with beads, masks, boas, candy, food, entertainment, and floats—and that is only the first evening! You will need to be there to get the full feeling of Mardi Gras, MAACCE style.

Mark your calendars now for June 22-24, and watch our Web site for more information concerning concurrent sessions, silent auction, live auction, and keynote and capstone speakers. For details on how to register, go to [www.maacce.org](http://www.maacce.org). Don't miss out on the fun! Plan to attend and make it a family vacation stop. Our Conference Planning Committee is planning activities for spouses and children so they won't be bored while you attend exciting breakout sessions and events.

## IOWA

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

*submitted by Dale Amunson*

The Iowa Association for Lifelong Learning held its annual Legislative Breakfast on March 15 in Des Moines. Approximately 25 legislators attended the morning reception. As always, the breakfast provided a great opportunity for IALL members to inform legislators about adult and continuing education efforts throughout the state.

IALL also hosted its annual Office Professionals Workshop on April 19 at the Des Moines Botanical Center in Des Moines. More than 60 office professionals

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attended the event, which offered a range of practical sessions and insightful speakers.

IALL's board has finalized Ames, Iowa, as the location for its 2006 and 2007 conferences. In addition, the board has assigned a small subcommittee to consider its five-year strategic plan, which is due for an update in the year ahead. Connie Glandon, IALL's newly elected president, will work diligently with the board and its subcommittee to prepare for IALL's next five years.

## MINNESOTA

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

*submitted by Dr. Diana Cohen*

Minnesota Association for Continuing Adult Education (MACAE) members attended the MVAEA conference in Overland Park, Kan. Char Knoche and Fred Bartling, both from Concordia College in St. Paul, Minn., were conference presenters. Char shared a working session on evaluating Web sites for accuracy, authority, objectivity, currency, and coverage. Those attending the session found that Web sites are not necessarily reliable.

Secondly, Fred Bartling researched the members of MVAEA members' leadership styles for his doctoral thesis. He presented his results, including a discussion of leadership styles and behavior.

MACAE conducts "Issues Forums" at least four times annually. Held on April 14, the enneagram—an ancient Sufi system that identifies nine styles of personality and their relationship to each other. The enneagram is used to better understand personal motivations, motivations of others, and to realize spiritual growth. The presenter was Janie O'Connor, who will also talk about how the enneagram relates to learning styles.

The MACAE board is working to redesign the organization's Web site since it serves as a primary method to communicate with members and others who are interested in continuing adult education. This year, the board also developed a plan for institutional membership.

Looking ahead, the MACAE past presidents' dinner will be June 21 at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn. This annual event allows MACAE past presidents to catch up on current events and to help MACAE board members plan for the future.

Finally, MACAE's 2005 fall conference is Nov. 3 in the evening, and all day Nov. 4, at the University of St. Thomas.

## NEBRASKA

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

*submitted by Terry Ramig*

Mona Callies has resigned from her position as Nebraska representative to the MVAEA Board. In her place, Dan Jones was recently appointed to the position our ACEAN conference. Dan is also the new ABE director at Northeast Community College. I have worked with Dan to familiarize him with MVAEA and the duties of a state representative.

Dan's contact information is as follows:

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Northeast Community College  
P.O. Box 469  
Norfolk, NE 68702-0469  
Phone: 402-371-2020, ext. 7254  
Fax: 402-844-7400  
[danj@northeastcollege.com](mailto:danj@northeastcollege.com)

## KANSAS

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

*submitted by Kathy Petz and Karen Ulanski*

Kansas hosted the 2005 MVAEA conference in Overland Park, Kansas. For a summary of the conference, information on award recipients, and much more, please visit [www.thekaea.org](http://www.thekaea.org).

## SOUTH DAKOTA

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

# 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.

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## CONSULTANT'S

# OPINION

by Sharon Luhring, membership services consultant

If you could not attend the 2005 MVAEA conference in Kansas, please renew your MVAEA membership now by completing the membership registration form located on our Web site, which is [www.mvaea.com](http://www.mvaea.com). We would like to include all members in the upcoming directory. The 2005-06 MVAEA Membership Directory should be available in May. Watch for your copy!

As always, please contact me or one of the MVAEA board members if you have any suggestions regarding our service to you. Thank you for being a member of MVAEA. We welcome your continued involvement!

## Development Award given

*continued from page 8*

Americans. These seminars will examine issues of language and culture, as well as identifying potential for miscommunication. Objectives will include awareness, misunderstandings, and opportunity for personnel to collaborate and create workshop materials for training student staff. Their materials will be available for other MVAEA members experiencing similar situations in their schools.

## Coming Up

### April 28

MVAEA Board Meeting — Sioux City, Iowa

### August 1

Deadline for *Happenings in the Valley*

### November 15

Deadline for *Happenings in the Valley*

### February 15, 2006

Deadline for *Happenings in the Valley*

### April 26-28, 2006

MVAEA Leadership Academy and Conference — Fargo, N.D.

## It's never too early to start planning!

*submitted by Dale Amunson*

The Iowa Association for Lifelong Learning will hold its 2006 and 2007 annual conferences in Ames, Iowa, at the Gateway Hotel. Due to an increase in the number of fall conferences statewide in Iowa, it was evident that booking conference facilities two to three years in advance is necessary to ensure a convenient facility at reasonable rates.

As other state associations look to the future, you may also experience a similar situation when planning fall conferences. An excellent resource for conference planning can be found in the MVAEA conference planning handbook. This handbook is available through your respective state representative to the MVAEA board. This document has been used for many years to help plan MVAEA's annual MVAEA conferences, and it has been a valuable resource for all conference planners.

This planning manual is another great tool available to all members of MVAEA. Do you need help with your next conference and don't know where to go? Ask your state rep; you will be glad you did.

## Missouri Valley Adult Education Association — Membership Application

### Membership Category (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.

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 11 for contact information).