

### IOWA HOSTS 2004 CONFERENCE

## Embark on your own learning expedition

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FALL 2003

by *Evan Bensley (Iowa), MVAEA president-elect*

Preparations for the 2004 MVAEA conference are nearly finished! The Conference Planning Committee has been hard at work to bring you the **best possible conference**. This year's MVAEA conference will be held in Sioux City, Iowa, on March 31-April 2, 2004.

The **request for presentations** has been sent to all MVAEA members as well as members of the seven state adult education associations. We are searching for dynamic speakers who have new ideas to share with the participants. Our committee would like to expand the traditional boundaries of the conference to include many areas of adult education. I encourage you to participate if you have a great idea or presentation to share! The MVAEA conference request for presentations can also be printed from MVAEA's Web page. To access it, simply click on the link to the conference information page.

MVAEA's **Leadership Academy** will be held on Wednesday, March 31, from 12:30-4:00 p.m. The presenter will be Dr. Nancy Wegge who will speak on "Creating Teams That Work Real Magic." Nancy is a current member of MVAEA and past president of the Missouri Association for Adult, Continuing and Community Education (MAACCE).

Following the Leadership Academy, Kansas will host a **hospitality reception**. Participants will be transported from the Sioux City Convention Center to the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center to enjoy snacks and drinks

while viewing exhibits dedicated to Lewis & Clark's travels throughout the region.

The MVAEA conference will begin Thursday morning, April 1, with a keynote from Mark Johnson, a 20-year decorated Green Beret officer whose presentation is entitled, **"We Are Champions; Feel Good About It."** His dynamic and motivational presentation will be the perfect way to start your day.

**Concurrent sessions** will continue throughout the day. One particularly interesting concurrent speaker will be Frank LaMere, a Native American who will share what Lewis & Clark's expedition meant to his people. As the U.S. celebrates the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lewis & Clark expedition, this session and other MVAEA conference connections are incredibly timely.

The Thursday evening banquet and awards ceremony will have a certain **"Iowa-twist"** to the evening's activities. Everyone will have a wonderful time while they enjoy great food and entertainment. We will keep it a surprise until we have the festivities confirmed.

Our Friday capstone presenter is being finalized. If we have success in booking the speaker we have in mind, you will end the conference on the same way you began: motivated, inspired, and full of patriotic pride.

I realize that this is a time of state budget concerns, and that attending a conference may be difficult. However, I encourage you to make the MVAEA conference the **"can't miss" professional development event** of the year. You won't be disappointed! We'll see *you* in Sioux City!

# Why MVAEA?

## Longtime educator shares valuable insight

*by Dr. Bob Schlimgen, who was president of MVAEA in 1978 and served as a college dean of continuing education and president; to communicate with Bob, please contact Terry Ramig, MVAEA's current president*

The strength and viability of any nation, union, or organization is measured by its sustainability. It is relatively easy to begin any new concept but the real test of significance is measured by time.

Some examples that come to mind are a newsletter within your system. The concept is easy to sell and the first edition is a breeze. When the messenger becomes recognized as a communication source over the years, it is deemed successful. Longevity of nations, democracy, and Christianity are other living examples of strength over time.

MVAEA may be just a child compared to nations such as England or China, but when compared to other adult education organizations, it is ancient. It is the oldest regional adult education organization in our nation and maybe the world. It predates most of our national organizations.

You are a member of the greatest adult education organization in the nation. It took me several years to realize the significance of MVAEA. Only after serving on two national adult education boards did I find our organization a real gem. Without exception, I eventually heard each national board member say "I just wish our state or region had such a strong organization as MVAEA." In fact, very few regions even have such a regional association.

So what ingredients make our organization so strong? Its members, the volunteer board, and foundation are the special ingredients.

Just as the strength of adult education comes from volunteers in learning, so too, Missouri Valley's strength comes from its volunteer members. One case in point is AAACE. They did well for many years under Gary Eyre but folded three years ago. An attempt is being made to resurrect it under the leadership of MVAEA members Dr. Wendell Smith, Dr. John Henschke, and Dr. Noel Koranda. Once the continuum is

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The *Adult Perspectives* column was inspired by Jim Lightbody, former MVAEA newsletter editor.

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

### [www.allkindsofminds.org/](http://www.allkindsofminds.org/)

This Web site belongs to All Kinds of Minds, a nonprofit institute for the understanding of differences in learning.

### [www.owl.org](http://www.owl.org)

An exceptional resource for all types of teachers, from new-hires to seasoned veterans. Whether you're looking for the latest research on learning methodologies or the top 10 ways to beat first-day jitters, this site can help!

### [www.familyfun.go.com/travel/places/feature/seeamericafl\\_sa\\_tlp/](http://www.familyfun.go.com/travel/places/feature/seeamericafl_sa_tlp/)

If you're interested in traveling this winter,

check out this site! It's full of insider tips and fun information about destinations throughout the United States.

### [www.sites.si.edu](http://www.sites.si.edu)

Hosted by the Smithsonian Institution, this site features schedules and information on the Smithsonian's various traveling exhibitions, including Lunch Box Memories and other favorites.

### [www.holidayfun.com/](http://www.holidayfun.com/)

Providing one-stop shopping at its best, this site can connect you to the best variety of holiday sites on the Web.

## From the President

Thoughts on mentoring...

### Who are the lights in your life?

by Terry Ramig (Nebraska), MVAEA president

As people journey through life, many serve as mentors to others—often without knowing it. Looking back on my career in adult and continuing education, several people stand out as bright lights in my pathway. Their guidance, support, and insights have been key ingredients in my personal and professional development.

As I reflect on the development and growth of my career path, Bob Schlimgen stands in the forefront. Bob looked beyond the person with limited experience and education, and he focused on the potential within. Although my training with Bob lasted only one year, I gained a wealth of knowledge during that time and it proved to be the most valuable year of my professional career.

I have been involved with my state association—the Adult and Continuing Education Association of Nebraska (ACEAN)—for the past 18 years. Through the years attending conferences, Jim Lightbody has stood out among the crowd. This gentleman's genuine spirit, gracious demeanor, and commitment to the better-

ment of all have been evident in his professional career as well as his personal life. I have had the honor and privilege of serving on the MVAEA Board with Jim, and will always treasure the memories of these times.

Mary Brunning, past president of MVAEA, has inspired me through the years, as well. Her greatest impact on me as a mentor was through a presentation she and Jim Lightbody gave at a MVAEA Leadership Academy in 1990. Their presentation inspired me to continue my journey in education by completing my bachelor's degree and by broadening my involvement in MVAEA and ACEAN.

One of my role models today is Mary Honke. Serving as the division dean of continuing education at Northeast Community College, Mary exemplifies leadership as a team member. I gain knowledge, insight, and wisdom each day as I work with and observe her.

It is truly a gift to find a career you enjoy and have mentors along the way who inspire you. As you travel through life's journey, be sure to remember those who have blessed you and pass the torch to others along the way!

## Nominations needed for leadership, Founder's Award

by Greg Nolting (Missouri), MVAEA past president

MVAEA will soon solicit nominations for the following 2004 board positions: president elect, treasurer, and state representatives for Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Please consider possible nominations or volunteering.

Nominations will also be sought for the 2004 Founder's Award, the most prestigious award that MVAEA presents to its members. The Founder's Award may be made annually to one or more individuals who has served MVAEA with such distinction that his/her achievements are widely acknowledged by adult education colleagues throughout the seven-state region. Nomination forms will be sent soon after the first of the year.

Please consider making a nomination for MVAEA's leadership positions or its greatest honor.

For details or to make your nomination, please contact:

**Greg Nolting,**  
**900 West Vest**  
**Marshall, MO 65340**  
**660-886-6958**  
**noltingg@**  
**mail.mhsowls.**  
**k12.mo.us**

## ARE YOU IN NEED OF SOME MONEY???

# Apply for the 2003–04 Development Award

by Michelle Hanson (State), Development Award chair

Since the Development Award was not awarded last year, we are looking for some great proposals to award a grant this year. The due date to apply for the 2003-2004 Development Award is fast approaching.

If you have a new and innovative project or research you are conducting in an area related to adult education, make sure you apply. The application deadline is **Feb. 15, 2004**. The award will be presented at MVAEA's annual conference in Sioux City, Iowa on March 31–April 2, 2004. **Only MVAEA members are eligible**; applicants are encouraged to attend the conference.

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 other adult education concerns.

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.

When applying, please respond to **seven**

**key criteria** outlined in the application form. Each criteria is judged on a five-point scale. The highest point earned wins the grant. The award recipient will present at the next conference and present a brief description of the project and presentation to the *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 treasurer for payment.

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 2005 MVAEA annual conference. The recipient must complete the project by spring conference in 2005.

To apply, please submit an application found in this newsletter or on at [www.mvaea.com](http://www.mvaea.com). If you have questions, contact Michelle Hanson at 660-886-6958 or [mhanson@marshallschools.com](mailto:mhanson@marshallschools.com).

## What are you waiting for?

Do YOU have research news, a book review, or a great idea for an article to contribute to *Happenings in the Valley*? Please share it with other MVAEA members! Submit your contributions to the editor (see page 7).

## CONSULTANT'S

**O** by Sharon Luhring, membership services consultant

**D**uring these fall days, I hope this issue of the newsletter finds things going well for all of you. The Missouri Valley Adult Education Association membership is currently 198 people. This breakdown consists of membership from states within and beyond MVAEA's seven-state region! Here's the breakdown:

Colorado = 2	Kansas = 36	Nebraska = 47
Florida = 1	Minnesota = 10	Ohio = 1
Iowa = 35	Missouri = 25	South Dakota = 30
	North Dakota = 11	

As you look at the membership directory, if there are any additions/corrections, please contact me using the following information: Sharon Luhring, P.O. Box 336, Madison Lake, MN 56063; phone 507-243-4347; e-mail [sluhring@mctcnet.net](mailto:sluhring@mctcnet.net).

Best wishes for a great fall!

# Development Fund Application Form

## Conditions of Award

1. This 2003 Development Fund Award recipient will be announced at the 2004 MVAEA annual conference in Sioux City, Iowa, on March 31-April 2, 2004.
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, and any handouts or created materials will be submitted to the Board for review and shall henceforth become the property of MVAEA.
4. A short article summarizing the project will be submitted to *Happenings in the Valley*.
5. Recipient will submit a proposal to present a session about the project at the following MVAEA annual spring conference in 2005.
6. Recipient must be a 2002-2003 member of MVAEA and continue membership through 2005.

## Application Requirements

The application shall consist of the completed form below and a brief description or discussion of the following elements:

1. Description of the activity
2. The purpose of the activity
3. How the activity is to be implemented
4. The need for and 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

## Additional Information / Deadline

To learn more or to apply for the Development Award, please contact Michelle Hanson, MVAEA Development Award chair, by phone (660-886-6958), fax (660-886-3092), or e-mail (mhanson@marshallschools.com). Please return completed application form by **Feb. 15, 2004**, to Michelle Hanson, 900 West Vest, Marshall, MO 65340.

**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 appearing above.

## Former Development Award Topics

**1988** Monographs on Adult Learning in Minnesota

**1989** Incorporating Adult Literacy Skills with Movement Therapy

**1990** Adult Special Needs in a Rural Setting

**1991** Adult Education Video Production

**1992** The Enabling Professional

**1994** Monograph: Indian Adult Education†

**1995** LD Information Brochure

**1996** Empowering Your Staff: Leadership on the Reservation

**1997** ESL Drivers Tutoring Aids

**1998** Effective Teaching Inquiry

**1999** Literacy & Oprah Reading in Reality Book Club

**2000** Teaching the fx-260 for GED Math Test 2002

**2001** Study Proposing Education on Citizenship through Internet Accessible Locations

**2002** Literacy Central

**2002** Caring Non-Custodial Fathers: Enhancing Father-Child Relationships



# STATE NEWS

## MISSOURI

*submitted by Les Lang*

The fall MAACCE board meeting was held Friday, Sept. 19 at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. The conference location is changing this year as a new contract was finalized with Tan-Tar-A. President-Elect Jay Acock presided at the new planning committee's first meeting of the year held on Sept. 18. The committee finalized several committee assignments and began working on conference plans. The theme for the 2004 conference is *A Celebration of the 1904 World's Fair*. The slogan will be "Worlds to Share at the MAACCE Fair!" Our planning committee will meet again January 8, 2004. Meet me at Tan-Tar-A for the MAACCEE conference on June 16-18, 2004.

## SOUTH DAKOTA

*submitted by Lana Reich*

The Summer Institute for Adult Education teachers was held in Pierre on Aug. 12-14. Adult education teachers from across South Dakota attended sessions on the National Reporting System (NRS), numeracy, advanced math, teaching adults with learning differences, and communication survival skills. Attendees also had the opportunity for lots of networking with their fellow educators.

At the Summer Institute, Teresa Johnson was recognized as Region IV Correctional Education Association's "Teacher of the Year". Region IV consists of six states and two Canadian provinces. Teresa teaches at the Women's Prison in Pierre where she prepares women to take the GED exams and also teaches classes on a variety of subjects including corrective thinking as well as

anger and stress management. Congratulations, Teresa!

South Dakota has received a three-year VISTA grant. Nine adult education sites will recruit a VISTA volunteer to work with literacy.

Our hard work has paid off, and South Dakota was fortunate to receive incentive dollars for adult education. The decision was made to use these dollars to increase technology training for adult ed students. To increase the technology skills of our students, all sites will have at least one new computer and software purchased by this incentive money.

The ESL taskforce has developed certificates for the first four levels of ESL (based on NRS levels). The certificates will be a measure of achievement and recognition of their success. The back of each certificate lists the competencies the task force helps to develop; these are the competencies the student must meet in order to receive the certificate.

Finally, the "rip-roarin'" town of Deadwood was the site for the SDALL conference on Oct. 16-17. Entitled *Cross-Cultural Understanding*, the conference emphasized Native American culture.

## MINNESOTA

*submitted by Diana Cohen*

Our MACAE (Minnesota Association for Continuing Adult Education) board is strengthening the organization as they scrutinize the annual budget, sponsor a fall conference with the Vital Aging Network (VAN), and produce a directory of Adult Education programs in Minnesota.

A newsletter committee recommended to the board to e-mail MACAE's newsletter, similar to Missouri Valley's decision to e-mail the *Happenings* newsletter. The change will probably occur with the first 2004 newsletter.

MACAE's annual fall conference will

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be held in November. This year, MACAE and the VAN (sponsored by the University of Minnesota, College of Continuing Education) are holding conferences in conjunction on Nov. 6-7 at the Radisson Hotel in Roseville, Minn. The fall conference is MACAE's cornerstone program; it includes electing the new board and presenting awards to adult educators. Pauline Christensen is the conference chair, which means she is president-elect. She is a MVAEA past-president and serves as the director of graduate and continuing education at Winona State University in Winona, Minn.

The two-day conference themes are *Know and Grow: Education for Vital Aging and as Adult Learners and Adult Educators*. The MACAE conference (Nov. 7) addresses adult learners and educators throughout the adult lifespan, while the VAN conference (Nov. 6) focuses on adult learners. On the evening of Nov. 6, MACAE will host a reception and issues forum. Gil Kinnunen (MVAEA award recipient) will present "Connecting with One Another: Knowing and Growing Through Conversation." Gil is a renaissance man who is an employee development consultant for the State of Minnesota. He will transcend his civil servant post and allow the audience to explore and practice new communication techniques.

On Friday, MACAE presents its annual awards to individuals, programs, and contributors to the field of adult education—including a Missouri Valley award presented to a MACAE member who has contributed to adult education on a statewide, regional, and/or national level. Other conference highlights include a silent auction, book swap, and of course, connecting with MACAE members. For more information, visit [www.mnmacae.org](http://www.mnmacae.org).

A FINAL NOTE: As Arnold becomes governor of California, that state replaces Minnesota on the infamous list of "states with an acting governor." Amen!

## IOWA

*submitted by Dale Amunson & Scott Schneider*  
IALL held its annual conference festivities on

Oct. 15-17 in Ames. Our featured speakers were Bill Draves and Julie Coates from Learning Resource Network (LERN), a leader in adult education marketing and trending. The conference received combined support from the Iowa Department of Education and Iowa's community college continuing education deans and directors (in addition to IALL), who helped bring LERN to Iowa in an attempt to maximize resources for all involved. For conference highlights, visit [www.iowall.org](http://www.iowall.org) or watch the next issue of *Happenings!*

## Directory updates

*by Sharon Luhring, membership services*

Please note these changes to your 2002-03 MVAEA membership directory.

### Additions

Phil Wegman  
Johnson County Community College  
12345 College Blvd.  
Overland Park, KS 66210  
Phone 913-469-4446  
Fax 913-469-2586  
E-mail [pwegman@jccc.net](mailto:pwegman@jccc.net)

### Corrections

Jim Lightbody's e-mail address is missing the lowercase "L" before the @ symbol. The correct address is [jimdonnal@aol.com](mailto:jimdonnal@aol.com).

*Jim says hello to all his MVAEA friends!*

Robert A. Weng  
Supervisor, Adult Education and Literacy  
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Phone 314-367-5000  
Fax 314-367-3057  
E-mail [Robert.Weng@slps.org](mailto:Robert.Weng@slps.org) (*new*)

### Membership Renewed

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## MVAEA

*Happenings in the Valley* is published five times each year 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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## TEACHING TIPS

## Establish lasting impressions on your first night of class

Consider this: “You can’t get the first night of class back, so make plans to do it right the first time.” This quote from Harry Wong came from one of his many presentations across the United States. It drives home a point that educators establish a precedent on the first night that could very well serve as the standard for the entire course.

Here are a few reminders to help get off to a good start.

- Arrive early to welcome each individual to your class.
- Start class on time and wrap up in a timely way.
- Use an opening activity that involves students in an interactive manner.
- Introduce yourself and the course, including your expectations of students.
- Begin the actual teaching with an especially interesting aspect of the course.
- Provide the agenda for the class, including your learning objectives for students.
- Teach the class following your plan, using varied teaching methods as well as flexibility.
- Build in higher-order thinking activities.
- Assess each student’s understanding and his/her work.
- Plan strategic breaks to help maximize learning capacity.
- Have students provide feedback on the session.
- Evaluate your performance and begin planning for the next session.

Finally, remember that first impressions last. You won’t have that “first night of class” opportunity again. Be sure to make the most of it!  
— source unknown

## Higher education veteran shares thoughts on MVAEA

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broken, however, it is difficult to regain the lost momentum.

I was fortunate to have George Thompson propose the Founders Award during my tenure as your president. George taught me to love MVAEA. I didn’t know the founder, Everett Hosman, but George did—and his development of the criteria for this award gave me great insight to MVAEA.

When you consider the volunteer commitment of such MVAEA greats as George, Mary Bruning, Larry Warford, Elmer Miller, Clint Hammer, Ben Bryant, Conrad DeJardin, Barb Stephens, and Jane Sellen you can understand why MVAEA has been poised to withstand 60 years of existence.

Two cases in point are Jim Lightbody and Howard Hovland.

Jim was MVAEA’s publications editor for about 20 years. He had the same job deadlines as each of you but he found time to volunteer to prepare nine *MVAEA Happenings in the Valley* and about four *Quarterly Journals* each year for nearly 20 years. Imagine that! Every month comes along and you have to prepare copy for a MVAEA publication in addition to doing your job.

Howard Hovland has not only given of his time for 40 years, but he puts his money where his mouth is. He and his wife, Eunice, were instrumental in the founding of the MVAEA Development Fund Award. They also provided initial support in the development of similar awards in each of MVAEA’s seven state associations. That’s the kind of commitment that makes our adult education organization the best in the nation.

In summary, I leave you with a quote from Jimmy Valvano, coach of North Carolina State when he won an underdog national championship and later died at 46 from cancer: “**Never Give Up**” your membership in MVAEA.

## Coming Soon

### Deadlines for upcoming issues of MVAEA’s *Happenings in the Valley* newsletter

December 5

February 5

### MVAEA Board Meetings

October 30-31 in Sioux City, Iowa

February 12-13, 2004, in Sioux City, Iowa

### MVAEA Leadership Academy

March 31, 2004, in Sioux City, Iowa

### MVAEA Annual Conference

March 31-April 2, 2004, in Sioux City, Iowa