

Did you catch a glimpse of this?

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FALL 2010
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This was the scenic view of the Arkansas River from the MVAEA/KAEA joint conference hotel in Wichita. A total of 142 participants attended this year's combined conference, which was held on June 15-17.

*photos by
Tom Haskell*



Dr. Sarah Fishback was the featured presenter at the MVAEA/KAEA Leadership Academy on June 15 in Wichita. A total of 136 people attended the MVAEA/KAEA Leadership Academy, which was held on the day before the MVAEA conference. Fishback spoke about how learning is intertwined with a multitude of areas—including neuroscience, motivation, curiosity, cognition, creativity, and self-direction. Considering learning, motivation, and neuroscience (all at the same time) can assist educators in understanding and aiding their learners.

2010 CONFERENCE

MVAEA recognizes members with awards

*text provided by
Tom Haskell,
MVAEA treasurer
and host of the 2010
MVAEA conference
awards presentation*

*photos provided by
Michelle Hanson
and Tom Haskell*

Kansas: Terina Platt

Nominated by Karen Ulanski, Terina Platt has been an instructor of the Osawatomie Community Learning Center in Osawatomie, Kansas, for the last three years. The Center was struggling when Terina came on board, and she was an instrumental part of turning things around. Terina is a breath of fresh air. She goes the extra mile. She serves the students of the Osawatomie Community Learning Center in every way possible. She is committed to doing the work it takes to be successful in the competitive grant process that Kansas Board of Regents mandates all adult education centers in Kansas to do.

Terina has spent many long hours making sure her students understand what it takes to be successful. She has had numerous challenges along the way because of different issues with the students. Even though it's a tiring process, Terina still maintains the course.

Terina has been a member of KAEA since 2007. She has presented at our annual conferences every year for the last three years. She has also been dually enrolled in MVAEA since 2007 and enjoys being a part of this group—serving as an alternate representative for Kansas.

Terina is committed to a job well done, and she has a passion for education that is very evident. She laughs with her students and she cries with them, as well. She truly understands what it means for the students to be successful, and she shares in their struggles.

Terina was instrumental in creating a curriculum specific to serving a particular group

on individuals in the prison system as well as the probation system. Her visionary skills helped her identify their needs and ensure the program's success. Terina focuses on classroom counseling her students and making sure they understand the process of completing high school.

Terina takes what she learns from MVAEA and KAEA, and she applies it to everyday life at the Osawatomie Community Learning Center. She makes the lessons learned valuable to staff and students alike, and she is always there. She is living proof that hard work and determination really can make a difference.

Minnesota: Ruth Stevens

In every organization there is a person who labors long hours over a long period of time without public recognition. Ruth Stevens is such a person. Her dedication to adult education started with her matriculation at Northeastern Illinois University where she majored in adult education. She is probably (the only adult educator in Minnesota who chose this as her major field of study—her career—as a course of undergraduate study. Ruth received an M.A. in adult education from the University of Minnesota in 1994. Her major advisor was Dr. Harlan Copeland, one of MVAEA's staunchest advocates. While studying for her degree, Ruth worked as support staff for the first Minnesota ABE "Impact Report" published in 1995. She was a co-author. (Ruth's first experience in adult education in Minnesota was as a volunteer tutor in 1987. She later taught ABE, GED, ESL, and ECFE classes. She managed the UAW/Ford project in the Saint Paul Schools ABE Program and STEP (Support for Training and Education Program), a combined effort of Saint (Paul Public Schools and Public Housing of Saint Paul.



She has been a mainstay at the Hubbs Center for Lifelong Learning and has taught ESL, GED, Workforce Center, and outreach classes. Prior to this, Ruth taught elders of both genders at the Vietnamese Minnesota Association; she also taught citizenship classes at the International Institute of Minnesota.

From 1994 until the present, Ruth has been a member of MACAE and has served as its treasurer. She has taught the organization how to operate profitable conferences, how to invest its money, and how to keep good fiscal records. Ruth has also worked with the Membership Committee, maintained the membership database for over 10 years, and been a valuable member of the Publications Committee.

Iowa: Deb Goodall

Martin Reimer nominated Deb Goodall, Eastern Iowa Community College District, to be the MVAEA Distinguished Service Award recipient from Iowa. Martin wrote, “Deb has been the real linchpin for IALL in the three or four years I have been a part of the organization. She has not only served in the presidential roles, but did a lot of the behind-the-scenes work that wasn’t necessarily her job. She just stepped in and did work that she saw needed to be done.”

Nancy Kothenbeutel has worked with Deb for a number of years, and both have been longtime IALL members. “Deb is far and away the most organized person I have ever met,” Nancy shared. “She has an amazing ability to bring order from chaos. In addition, she is able to focus on a project and develop a step-by-step approach to reach the goal. She then creates a process that is easy for others to understand and implement. I find this a very unique skill among continuing education professionals. She is always willing to take on a project or to help colleagues Deb’s skills have enabled our division

to move forward on innumerable initiatives which include (but are not limited to) Datatel,



communications management, online registration, and AQIP initiatives. I can’t think of a more deserving person to receive this award.”

Deb’s low-key, gracious leadership style inspires confidence to those who work with her. Her organizational skills are so well thought-out that potential problems rarely arise. If they do, she is quick with alternatives.

Deb served as the IALL president-elect the same year Steve Allison served as the MVAEA president-elect and they co-chaired the 2008 combined conference in Council Bluffs. As Steve wrote, “That conference was very successful for both IALL and MVAEA, and it was due much in part by Deb’s organizational and technical skills. Deb’s focus on the details kept the conference on track, which lead to a smooth conference. Deb has served in many roles in IALL and has been a long time member of MVAEA. She is very deserving of this award.”

Missouri: Michelle Hanson

Michelle has been involved in Career and Technical Education for the last 20 years. She took over the Saline County Career Education Adult/Community Program in Marshall, Mo., in 1995. In that time, she has built the site into the success it is today.

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THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING MVAEA!**2010 CONFERENCE****MVAEA honors award recipients***continued from page 3*

Michelle has been involved with her state organization, MAACCE, for an equal number of years. She has served as MAACCE secretary for two years and as MVAEA representative for three terms. Behind the scenes, she has worked in promotion of MAACCE and MVAEA—including conference planning and the Hovland Development Fund. She has also shared many MVAEA conference presentations.

In 2008-09 Michelle was MVAEA president-elect, and she was president in 2010.

Michelle is a true advocate for her state organization and MVAEA. She has made a tremendous contribution to MVAEA and a great difference to career and technical education.

North Dakota: Patricia Berggren

Patricia Berggren contributes significantly to the field of education by giving incarcerated youth hope for the future and pride in their accomplishments. This NDALL member has made a difference in so many lives. As an instructor at the local law enforcement center, she has many challenges as she strives to facilitate her students' needs. Her students are all young federal inmates residing in North Dakota—although all of their family and friends live in other states. Others were tried for crimes on reservations and they may also be several states away from their loved ones. Being young, incarcerated, and separated from peers makes life stressful for these students. Add to that loneliness, educational challenges, and lack of privacy, and education is frequently a low priority for them.

These situations do not deter this instructor from totally committing herself to their academic improvement. She is determined to see each student make as much progress as possible. She searches until she finds a text, program, or

method that will provide the motivation each student needs. She is more than willing to instruct, re-instruct, and even re-re-instruct a concept until her students internalize the information. She focuses on the positive traits of students rather than weaknesses. Regardless of ability or attitude, she finds a way to encourage, motivate, and reward each one. With her own love of learning as a model, she brings out the best in these young men and women and often helps them achieve their first academic success.

She models professionalism in the classroom and in the community. She speaks highly of her students and constantly advocates for the best possible learning and testing environments. She knows how to work as a team member and how to both give and take directives. She consistently brings out the best in others—which is the primary trait of a quality educator.

She also enjoys taking additional educational classes. She seeks out classes that will motivate her students or provide strategies for learning and encourages others to be active members of the educational community. These traits reflect her total commitment, love of a challenge, and her faith in these young students. These qualities earned Patricia the title of North Dakota's "Adult Educator of the Year" and her recommendation for the MVAEA Distinguished Service Award from North Dakota.

**Did you know
we're on
the Web?
www.mvaea.org**

From the Past President

The future of MVAEA is in good hands



by Michelle Hanson (Missouri), MVAEA past president

Dear MVAEA friends,

It has been an honor to serve as president of MVAEA for the last year. I know the organization is in capable hands as our new president, Joe Thornton, takes over.

The last few years have been challenging and difficult times for our state organizations. It seems like every state in our region is seeing a decrease in membership and finding it more difficult to find

members who are willing to serve in leadership roles.

MVAEA is fortunate to have such amazing and supportive board members who are so willing to serve. With their leadership and dedication, MVAEA will continue to stay strong during these difficult times.

I have enjoyed the time I have served on the MVAEA board over the last several years, and I value the friendships I have made along the way. These next few years will be a time for reflection and vision as we consider where we want to see MVAEA in the future. I encourage everyone to support MVAEA and be a part of this bright future.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your president last year. I look forward to seeing you at the MVAEA Leadership Conference on April 28-29, 2011, in South Sioux City, Neb.

Silent Auction nets \$513

by Tom Haskell,
MVAEA treasurer

The silent auction at the 2010 MVAEA/ KAEA conference netted a total of \$513!

The main purpose of silent auction funds is to replenish the Development Fund, which awards grants to MVAEA members for projects that impact adult and continuing education, professional development, and more.

As should be expected, Kansas earned top sales with a total of \$249. Iowa came in second with total sales of \$119, while Missouri took third with \$67, and Minnesota earned fourth with a \$50 total. North Dakota rounded things out with a total of \$28. Half of each state's proceeds are returned to the state; the other half goes to MVAEA.

A note from Chip Lutz, conference speaker

It was an absolute pleasure to speak to your group at the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association and KAEA conference that was held in Wichita. I appreciate the warm welcome I received, [and I enjoyed] meeting so many people who obviously care—both about what they do and who they serve. I am including a couple of Youtube clips I put together from our time together. I hope you enjoy them.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bf5cpK0LG0o>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_nhvkx68MVQ

For more information, please visit my website at www.covenantleadership.com.

Best regards,

Charles "Chip" Lutz, President
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2010 CONFERENCE

Sights & sounds of the MVAEA/KAEA conference



The Delano Dollies (pictured above with a number of MVAEA conference attendees) relied on audience participation to provide conference entertainment following the MVAEA awards ceremonies on June 16.
photo by Tom Haskell

Dedor shares insightful concurrent session

*text and photos
by Tom Haskell*



In his conference session, Richard Dedor made a point about removing stress and “Taking the Time to Live.” He encouraged listeners to balance their lives and focus on the things that are really important. For example, part of Richard’s plan was learning to say “no” to things that do not matter as much as our real priorities. Iowans may recall Richard’s run for mayor in Mason City when he was 18 years old. Truly, he believes anything is possible with the proper focus and motivation.

Richard’s website (www.richarddedor.com) shares several of the same principles discussed in his workshop. His introduction was not too different than his introduction on the web.

Richard Dedor makes his home in Kansas City, where he operates his own speaking and training company. Richard believes that each of us has the ability to overcome any obstacle in addition to having a positive impact on those around us. He has spent the last 10 years volunteering for community groups—working in politics and the non-profit sector.

When he was 18, Richard ran for mayor of Mason City, Iowa, a town of 30,000. This campaign propelled him into the national spotlight. He finished third, but proclaimed on election night that it had been a victory. He holds a degree in public relations and recently finished his first book,—*Anything is Possible*.

Richard recommended establishing a “to do” list of all the things you want to do in your lifetime. He encourages us to be systematic about achieving the items. Perhaps his greatest point was to live life to fullest and not to find yourself filled with regret.

MVAEA Development Fund supports Iowans Supporting Adult Literacy Today (I-SALT)

by Rhonda Jones (Missouri), Development Fund chairperson

In the concurrent session covering his Development Fund-driven project, Jim Schneider talked about the difference between advocacy for adult literacy and lobbying for adult literacy. He wanted to be sure the learners expressed their gains in their own words. The 2009 recipient of MVAEA's Development Fund grant, Jim was inspired in part by the work of Art Ellison—who was very successful promoting adult literacy in New Hampshire through publicly promoting life changes that had occurred with increased skills.

In fact, Art Ellison presented at a conference sponsored by the Iowa Association for Lifelong Learning (IALL). As reported in *Quarterly Exchange*, IALL's newsletter, "Art's knowledge, passion, and specific tools gave attendees concrete ideas to promote adult education within their states and throughout our country. His extensive handouts and examples provided reinforcement to make the process real as educators return home." One of those inspired was Jim Schneider who actually received an MVAEA Development Fund grant to encourage advocacy for adult learners. This was a concrete expression of "putting into action" an inspiring idea from a previous conference.

Jim's experience could be shared by more people if they would just "put into action" those ideas that are disseminated and made available when adult educators come together.



Above, Rhonda Jones and Jim Schneider
photo by Tom Haskell



Kansas Delegation in the MVAEA board meeting at this year's conference. L to R: Sue Choens (Kansas Rep), Terry Platt (Kansas Alternate), Karen Ulanski (MVAEA Secretary), and Joseph Thornton (MVAEA President).
photo by Tom Haskell



STATE NEWS

NORTH DAKOTA

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

submitted by Rose Kreitinger

We continue to work at reorganizing our association. NDALL's fall conference will be held Sept. 23-34 in Bismarck.

Val Fischer attended the GEDTS annual conference, where the big topics were:

1. alignment of the GED exam to the national common core standards, and 2. the computer-based testing process. Val also attended a meeting with NRS and OVAE regarding probable changes to the data collection process for reporting performance indicators that takes effect on July 1, 2011.

GED testing programs are piloting the GED Wizard. This resource provides test management and scoring electronically. Results include faster scoring of answer sheets, convenience for GED examiners and candidates, and greater accuracy in terms of GED candidate data.

Western North Dakota is seeing a major influx of those looking for work. Many job seekers need better academic skills to be hired. This will put additional strain on adult education centers, as well as on community resources. Many leaders are also commenting that this is only the beginning.

IOWA

www.iowall.org

submitted by Dale Amunson

This summer, IALL shared its annual conference with the Adult Literacy Institute at a joint

conference in Des Moines that used "Leading the Change in 2010: The Transformation of Lifelong Learning" as its theme. The summer conference was held July 15-16.

IALL went to a combined conference because of the need to more readily leverage resources for the benefit of both groups. It is apparent that with the many changes in how education is offered, and with quickly declining funding for education at all levels, both groups chose to partner for mutual benefits. The conference was successful—due in large part to the efforts of our Conference Planning Committee led by Peggy Thie of Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa. The success of this joint effort also set the stage for a combined conference for 2011.

The 2010 conference included three primary speakers and the 22 breakout sessions that were offered in the one and one-half day conference. The wide variety of presentations offered something for each of the 112 attendees and provided variety that resulted in educational opportunities for all. Speakers included attendees as well as outside contributors. The conference also included a tour of Iowa Public Television, which was just a short distance from the conference center.

The 2011 conference will be held in Marshalltown on July 13-15, 2011. Co-chairs will be Julie Thomas from Iowa Valley Community College District and Janet Leifeld from Northwest Iowa Community College. Our 2010 and 2011 conferences also realize support from the Iowa Department of Education in Des Moines.

The transition to joint conferences began in Council Bluffs at the joint MVAEA, IALL and ABE Institute several years ago. Because of the lessons learned from the previous two joint efforts, plans are underway to further e

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NEBRASKA

submitted by Anne

Ausdemore

Even though

www.acean.org

is no longer a

valid website,

you may contact

Anne (or other

MVAEA members

from Nebraska

through Anne) at

anne@northeast.edu.

edu.

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enrich the upcoming conference and add even more topics that will enhance offerings for future attendees. For example, one aspect that has been offered and has proven to be very successful are short personal enrichment activities at the end of the day. These provide learning as well as relaxation, along with an opportunity to socialize with other educators from other institutions.

KANSAS

www.thekaea.org

submitted by Sue Choens

Adult Education Family Literacy Act

Twenty-four adult education programs were awarded AEFLA grant funds to support their programs. Six of the previous 30 programs formed collaborations, which reduced the programs receiving funding. Since these programs still exist, adult education services have not decreased. Most programs did not receive the full amount of funding requested through the competitive bid process. A few received more than requested, however, due to the quality of their written proposal.

Directors pursue concentrated study

As the Leadership Academy has ended, directors will now begin a year of concentrated study of the NRS data system. With the completion of three years of Leadership Academy, a few directors have earned master's or doctoral degrees; more are still working on advanced degrees. Adult Education directors are now participating in a yearlong, online training through the NRS website to learn about how quality data can be used to improve programs. At a recent state meeting, our directors learned it is highly unlikely that Kansas will meet its negotiated outcomes with the federal government. This will be only the second time in the history of negotiations between states and federal government.

HOW MANY MEMBERS?

Arizona	6
California	1
Colorado	1
Florida	1
Iowa	13
Illinois	1
Kansas	22
Minnesota	12
Missouri	164
No Dakota	15
Nebraska	13
Ohio	1
Pennsylvania	1
So Dakota	12
Tennessee	1

264 total members*

***prior to the 2010 MVAEA/KAEA Conference hosted by Kansas**

Technology instruction goes online

A licensure with Teknimedia and a partnership with the KAN ED website will allow students to access a technology curriculum, study online from any location, and earn certificates based on the skills they have mastered.

Group has Title I & Title II partnerships

Partnerships continue to develop between Adult Education and the local area Workforce Alliances. The partnerships are extremely varied from one workforce area to another. Some areas are extremely supportive of adult education (to the point of providing funding through writing MOU's), while others have limited connections.

MVAEA/KAEA host joint conference

A total of 136 people attended the MVAEA/KAEA Leadership Academy and 142 attended the combined conference, which was held in Wichita on June 15-17. All attendees seemed to enjoy themselves. While Kansas made a decent showing (particularly considering the time of year and extreme budget cuts), only a handful of out-of-state attendees supported the conference. KAEA is exploring ways to offer professional development opportunities in the future without the expense of a large conference.

MISSOURI

www.maacce.org/

submitted by Rhonda Jones

The 2010 MAACCE conference was held June 23-25 at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach, Mo. Over 250 participants joined in the theme of *Mystery MAACCE: Looking for Clues and Seeking Answers in Difficult Times*. MAACCE President Jimmy Reed and President-Elect Jamy Preul welcomed participants to the conference and then invited them to explore the wonderful worlds of adult education, community education, continuing education, and after-
continued on next page



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school programs. Participants also shared the “mystery” of the largest conference in the state for adult education practitioners. The conference was organized to provide stimulating ideas, invaluable information, and concrete tools to enrich and expand the educational experiences of our remarkable students and staff. The “mystery” began as participants selected from over 40 sessions held during the seven conference sessions. Attendees enjoyed their time by taking advantage of the sessions, awards ceremony, vendors, networking opportunities, and meals. They left with new friendships, a heightened sense of professionalism, and a renewed dedication to adult education. Who new that Mrs. Peacock, Agatha Rose, and Sherlock Brown could be so much fun!

Missouri Adult Education & Literacy

The Missouri Adult Education Professional Development Center offered a variety of summer workshops across the state on topics such as lesson planning, goal setting, and managed enrollment. In September, directors will attend workshops covering the many changes in adult education and literacy in Missouri. The fall director’s conference will be held Sept. 22-24 in Columbia, Mo.

WHAT’S NEW WITH YOU?

Let us know! We’d like to include your news in the next issue of this newsletter.

Submit articles or photos to the *Happenings in the Valley* editor using information on page 10.

Thank you!

MINNESOTA

www.mnmacae.org

submitted by Nancy Herther

Soul-searching evaluation

This spring, the Minnesota Association for Continuing Adult Education (MACAE) has been having a soul-searching, email-based Delphi discussion about the goals, needs, role, and value of MACAE to our members, our communities, and to our profession. This process will continue over the coming months, beginning with a face-to-face session with interested members held on May 8. A summary of the Delphi results and comments will appear in MACAE’s open access journal, *Praxis*, which will be ready to share more broadly by MVAEA conference time.

Demographic trends

On April 15, MACAE cosponsored a program on “Census 2010: What’s In It For Minnesota?” with MetroNet, a regional library collaborative. Speakers included Tom Gillaspy, Minnesota’s state demographer, who spoke about trends and implications for Minnesota’s population; and Louis Mendoza, University of Minnesota professor, who completed a 9,000 mile bike trip along the perimeter of the U.S. to assess the “Latinoization” of America and what it means for our country and our future. The session included enthusiastic audience interaction.

Quoted...

“Every social action group should at the same time be an adult education group, and I go even as far as to believe that all successful adult education groups sooner or later become social action groups.”

Eduard Lindeman, *The Sociology of Adult Education* (1945)

“[I deeply believe] that all human beings can be aided to become increasingly self-reliant and autonomous, that the most important single principle is that the learner be fully engaged, and that the main goal of adult-learning is to

develop men and women who are, at the same time, compassionately sensitive and tough-minded.”

Roby Kidd, *How Adults Learn* (1959)

“[People] can find [their] vocation and happiness only by constantly expanding the boundaries of what [they have] already achieved. New horizons of cognition and new spheres of activity are made the source as well as the consequences of lifelong education.”

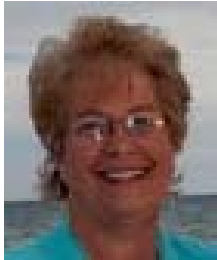
Bogdan Suchodolski, *Philosophical Aspects* (1976)

shared by Jim Lightbody, former “Happenings in the Valley” editor

CONSULTANT'S

Meet the new membership services consultant for MVAEA

**R
N
E
R**



by Deb Sisco, membership services consultant

Iwould like to introduce myself as MVAEA's new Membership Services Consultant. My home is in Minot, N.D., and I have taught in adult education since 1976. I feel very strongly about adult education. I have seen so many lives changed for the better because of the opportunity to pursue further education, whether students receive

their GED or prepare for higher education.

When we look at what MVAEA really is, we must first look at what we want it to be. Membership means to be a member of something or an organization. Since MVAEA is the oldest existing adult education organization, it was created—and continues to exist—on the basis that the membership stays strong. Membership to this organization is very simple, and so many join by just attending the annual conference. If you don't attend the conferences annually, you need to make an effort to join. This can be done easily by going to the MVAEA web page and clicking on the "membership" link.

I want to encourage everyone to continue membership in MVAEA. The strength of our organization is in our membership. With budget cuts hitting all of us, it is important to continue associating with others in the same field. These relationships can be very beneficial.

A couple of years ago, MVAEA decided to go green and stop printing the newsletter. As a part of your membership, you will receive an email when the newsletter is available online. It is very important that we keep a current email address for you. Please contact me if you change your email address, leave your position, or have a change in Internet servers. You can reach me by simply going to the MVAEA web site and clicking on the "membership" link.

I look forward to working with you in this new role.

Coming Up

Deadlines for "Happenings in the Valley"

October 25, 2010

December 6, 2010

February 15, 2010

Email articles or photos to the editor:

kiplecomm@

cablene.net

April 28-29, 2011

MVAEA Leadership

Academy in

South Sioux City,

Nebraska

Watch for details

coming soon!

Missouri Valley Adult Education Association – Membership Application

Membership Category (please check one)

Individual (\$35)

Life (\$300)

Student (\$15)

Retiree (\$15)

New

Renewal

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 this form and dues (payable to MVAEA) to Deb Sisco (see page 4 for address info).