



January 2010  
Volume 8: Number 1

## North Dakota Lifelong Learning Resource Center



### WIA Community Conversations

<http://www.nifl.gov/lincs/discussions/10WIA>

#### Description:

What are the real issues impacting adult learners, practitioners, and programs in adult education today? Brenda Dann-Messier, the Assistant Secretary of the Office of Vocational and Adult Education, invites you to participate in a conversation January 11-15, 2010 about reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). The Obama Administration is preparing for WIA reauthorization and has asked the National Institute for Literacy's Discussion Lists to engage in a candid and constructive discourse about what the field's successes and needs are in providing adult education programs and services. The Administration is particularly interested in hearing feedback from discussants around 2-3 questions specific to each discussion list topic.

#### Questions for Discussion

The WIA Community Conversations will occur simultaneously across all of the Institute's lists during the week of January 11th within the specific topic and purpose of each list.

To participate (free), [subscribe](#) to a discussion list of your choice. After subscribing, you will receive a confirmation email containing a link to validate your subscription.

#### How will this work?

Each discussion list moderator will compile a list of key themes and the full discussion transcripts. Moderators will then present these to the Assistant Secretary for consideration as the Administration finalizes its position on WIA reauthorization. As in all of the [WIA Community Conversations](#) being held

across the United States, the Assistant Secretary is not responding to participants' comments but rather listening and collecting feedback to assist in formulating and refining the Department of Education's policy positions. [Please join in the conversations](#) January 11-15, 2009.

#### Preparation:

Imagine you are in a room with colleagues, preparing to give spoken testimony in response to [specific questions](#). Your response is grounded in your experience participating in or providing adult education services. The Assistant Secretary is ready to hear from you and consider your comments thoughtfully. But since our conversations will occur in a "virtual" setting rather than face to face, prepare your testimony in writing. Keep it brief, one page or less. When the discussions begin January 11, post your testimony to the discussion list of your choice. Reflect upon and respond to others' testimonies for the purpose of exploring successes and challenges in adult education.

If your testimony crosses topics (for example, reading and assessment), you might choose to divide your testimony so that the key reading aspects are posted to the Reading and Writing List and the key assessment aspects are posted to the Assessment List. Please do not cross post one testimony to multiple lists. All testimonies will be added to the final transcription.

#### Resources

If you are not able to participate in one of the conversations, please feel free to submit your thoughts to the Assistant Secretary at [WIACONVERSATIONS@ed.gov](mailto:WIACONVERSATIONS@ed.gov) until January 23, 2010.

[Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization, Department of Education WIA Community Conversations Blog](#)

—The above article provides background on the WIA Community Conversations, and links to transcripts from sessions held-to-date.

## Professional Development Opportunities:

### Certificate in Family Literacy Courses

Still time to register!

Registration is still open for Penn State's online Certificate in Family Literacy courses. Two popular courses from the Certificate in Family Literacy will be available: ADTED 456: Introduction to Family Literacy and ADTED 459: Interactive Literacy: Parents and Children. Both of these three-credit courses are available for graduate or undergraduate credit and there are not prerequisites. Classes run January 13 – April 14, 2010.

Take professional development that counts toward a degree, and has immediate impact on improving practice! These courses allow you to focus on your own area of interest within parent involvement and family literacy and have a practical focus that allows you to personalize assignments for meaningful immediate application within your workplace.

For more information visit  
<http://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/FamilyLiteracyCertificate.shtml>  
 or contact Dr. Sheila Sherow at [sms20@psu.edu](mailto:sms20@psu.edu).  
 Register today at  
[http://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/StudentServices\\_GettingStarted.shtml](http://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/StudentServices_GettingStarted.shtml)

Mailing Address:  
 National Center for Family Literacy  
 325 West Main Street  
 Suite 300  
 Louisville, KY 40202-4237

Contact Name: Ann Reynolds  
 Telephone Number: (502) 584-1133

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### SAVE THE DATE A Webcast

#### *Achieving Student Success: Transitions to Post-secondary Education*

**January 20, 2010 @ 1:00 pm EST**

Transitioning students through their educational experience and on to post-secondary education can be a challenging process.

Participate to learn what local programs, in partnership with colleges, are doing to ensure that students are ready to move from adult literacy classes to post-secondary education and beyond. In this Webcast, designed for program administrators, experts will explore successful student transitions as well as discuss current research, state office technical assistance, and adult education program perspectives.

#### Presenters:

**Daniel J. Miller**, Acting Director, National Institute for Literacy (Moderator); **Jeff Fantine**, State Director of Adult Education, Maine; **Ellen Hewett**, Director, National College Transitions Network at World Education; and **Julie Scoskie**, Director, Jefferson County Public Schools Adult and Continuing Education, Louisville, Kentucky.

**Contact:** Kaye Beall, [kaye\\_beall@worlded.org](mailto:kaye_beall@worlded.org), or Tim Ponder, [tponder@literacy.kent.edu](mailto:tponder@literacy.kent.edu), for more information.

Registration information will be available soon. Visit [www.nifl.gov](http://www.nifl.gov)

<http://www.nifl.gov/webcasts/10Transitions>

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### Professional Development Opportunity:

#### Teaching Adults Numeracy

Register now for **Foundations of Teaching Adult Numeracy**, a new, online, professional development course from ProfessionalStudiesAE.org. The course dates are **January 18-February 26, 2010**. The instructor is Barbara Goodridge, Lowell Adult Education Center, Lowell, MA.

#### Course Description:

What is numeracy? Is numeracy just another word for math? How should you approach numeracy with adult students? In this foundational course you'll learn how to keep students at the center of numeracy instruction. You'll explore the context, content, and cognitive and affective components of numeracy, how to address the needs of students with learning gaps, how students' styles of learning math and levels of math knowledge affect their math skills, and ways to build student's success in learning math. You'll plan classroom activities, test them with your students, and share your experiences with fellow teachers.

**Course Preview:** Watch the slide show at [http://professionalstudiesae.worlded.org/numeracy\\_oct19/numeracy\\_oct19.htm](http://professionalstudiesae.worlded.org/numeracy_oct19/numeracy_oct19.htm).

Estimated Completion Time: approx. 2-3 hours per week;  
12 hours total

Cost: \$179.00

#### Course Topics

- Components of Numeracy
- Reasons for Students' Learning Gaps
- Math Anxiety
- Learning Disabilities and Language Issues
- Cultural and Language Barriers
- Mathematical Problems in Context
- Math Learning Styles
- Constructivism
- Levels of Knowing Math
- Open and Closed Problems
- Analyzing and Assessing Students' Mathematical Thinking
- Using Facilitation Questions in the Classroom

This course is the first in a six-part series of online courses focused on effective adult numeracy instruction.

For more information and to register:

<http://www.newreaderspress.com/Items.aspx?hierId=6528>

Questions? Please call 888.528.2224 ext. 283 or e-mail [prodev@prolteracy.org](mailto:prodev@prolteracy.org).

### Running BEST Plus on Windows 7 and Vista

With the introduction of new Windows operating systems, Windows 7 and Vista, CAL recognizes the need for some users to have additional information on how to use BEST Plus in these operating environments.

For your convenience, we have outlined the few additional actions needed to use BEST Plus with either Windows 7 or Vista. Visit the BEST Plus Web site ([www.best-plus.net](http://www.best-plus.net)) to review the step-by-step instructions. Of course, if you need assistance, contact user support toll-free at 1-866-245-BEST (2378), 10 am until 6 pm Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

## Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills

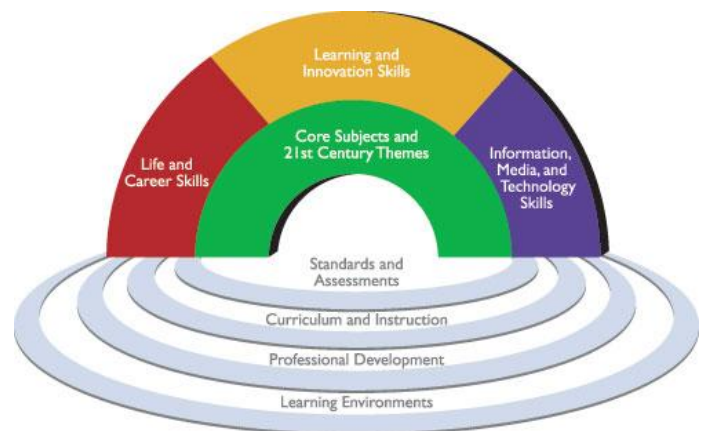
<http://21stcenturyskills.org/>

### Who We Are:

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills is a national organization that advocates for the integration of skills such as critical thinking, problem solving and communication into the teaching of core academic subjects such as mathematics, reading, science and history. The Partnership brings together education leaders, the business community and policy-makers to ensure every child graduates prepared for life and work.

To view or download the Framework go to:

[http://21stcenturyskills.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=254&Itemid=119](http://21stcenturyskills.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=254&Itemid=119)



### Ergonomic Pens

There are several ergonomic pens which have been developed to help people with conditions such as carpal tunnel, arthritis, tendonitis, hand cramps, and more.

A former newsletter introduced the **Pen Again:**



In this newsletter the **UGLee** pen will be introduced!

### UGLee Pens



Here is another idea for an ergonomic pen. If you suffer pain, hand cramps, or discomfort when writing of any kind, you need to try this pen!

More information can be found at:

<http://www.thewritingpenstore.com/UGLeeErgonomicPen.aspx>

## Technology in the Classroom

### Pulse Smart Pen Never Miss a Word

At NDALL Fall Conference the Pulse Pen was introduced to the participants taking the conference for graduate credit.

A new 4 gig pulse pen is now available from Amazon, Best Buy, Staples, and Target.

**Applications are new and now available. Here is some information from the company:**

Introducing Apps for your Pulse™ smartpen

It's finally here! With the beta release of our App Store, smartpen users can now download and install free and paid apps\* to make your Pulse smartpen even smarter. Choose from categories like Education, Games, Reference, Entertainment, Utilities and Travel, and be the first to give your Pulse smartpen an app or two.

<http://www.livescribe.com/store/store.html?vid=20070723002&cid=101&pcid=101>

More information from the Pulse Smart Pen:

Accelerated Learning: How the Pulse Smart Pen supports 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Instruction:  
[http://www.livescribe.com/media/pdf/education/Livescribe\\_K-12\\_21st\\_Century\\_Skills.pdf](http://www.livescribe.com/media/pdf/education/Livescribe_K-12_21st_Century_Skills.pdf)

How are you using the Pulse Smart Pen in your classroom? Please send your ideas to be shared with others through the ND Lifelong Learning Resource Center to:  
[ndall2007@gmail.com](mailto:ndall2007@gmail.com)

### Flip Camera



The Flip makes it very easy to record and share video with other users. The Flip has its own jumpdrive so the user is able to move the videos from the Flip to the computer. The Flip is as simple as click, record, upload, and view.

*The Flip as Instructional Technology:*

Educational uses for the Flip are wide open!!  
Google Flip Camera in Education!

This site explains the Flip with a video and it also has pdf's for classroom ideas for students to use for math and English.

<http://sites.google.com/site/mrsnicholsonteched/flip-camera-resources>

Ideas for instructors:

[http://www.pre-kpages.com/flip\\_video.html](http://www.pre-kpages.com/flip_video.html)

<http://marynabadenhorst.globalteacher.org.au/flips/>

## Science Experiment

### Bean Power

Robert Krampf's Science Education

<http://thehappyscientist.com>



This week's experiment comes from tonight's supper. I have been craving a big pot of Great Northern Beans; so last night I put some into a pot of water to soak overnight. The results reminded me of a fun science experiment. To try it, you will need:

- a package of dry beans (any kind will do)
- a drinking glass
- water
- a metal cookie sheet or cake pan

Fill the glass full of dry beans. Add enough water to fill it to the top, and place the glass in the center of the metal pan. Put it somewhere nearby, where it won't be in the way, and then go about your daily routine. After a few hours, you will hear a clink as one of the beans falls out of the glass onto the pan. Then you will hear another. Over the next few hours, you will continue to hear the sounds of the beans falling, so unless you are a heavy sleeper, don't try this at night. (And of course you would never hide your experiment in your sister's closet before bedtime!) You will find that the beans expand to more than twice their original size.

Why does that happen? The dry beans absorb the water to start the process of sprouting. The water softens the cells, and is absorbed into them by the process of osmosis. This causes the cells to expand, making the beans larger.

When your experiment is finished, put the beans into some water with some spices of your choice. Then bake some corn bread, and you are ready for a tasty treat.



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

*A Health Information and Education Center  
Assisting families of children with special health  
care needs and the providers who care for them.*

**Did you know that one in every five ND households has a child with special health care needs?**

**Family Voices may be very helpful to someone in our schools.**

**Information on Family Voices and what they do:**

### **What We Do**

Welcome Parents, Family members, Advocates, and Professionals to the Family Voices of North Dakota Health Information and Education Center for families who have children with special health care needs: disability, chronic illness, physical or mental health conditions. We're here to help you locate resources, assist in navigating complex systems, promote linkages and discussions....What can we assist you with today??

### **Family Voices of North Dakota Mission:**

Family Voices, a national grassroots network of families and friends, advocates for health care services that are family-centered, community-based, comprehensive, coordinated and culturally competent for all children and youth with special health care needs; promotes the inclusion of all families as decision makers at all levels of health care; and supports essential partnerships between families and professionals

Family Voices of North Dakota was started in 1996 and became a State Chapter formally sanctioned by the national organization in the first quarter of 2001



### **All Aspects of Life**

Success in the classroom, within the community, and on the job requires that young people with special health care needs stay healthy. To stay healthy, young people need an understanding of their health and to participate in their health care decisions.

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

### **Parent-Teen Driving Agreement**



In light of new research released today, AAA has issued a challenge to parents to “keep the keys” from their teen driver until a Parent-Teen Agreement is signed.

[http://www.aaa.com/aaa/sem/sem.htm?redirectto=http://www.aaa.com/?area=JoinSEM&skin=JoinSEM&gid=S15141x073&keyword=exact\\_triple%20aaa](http://www.aaa.com/aaa/sem/sem.htm?redirectto=http://www.aaa.com/?area=JoinSEM&skin=JoinSEM&gid=S15141x073&keyword=exact_triple%20aaa)

Triple A has a parent-teen driving agreement in pdf format for parents to download and sign with their teen driver.

[http://www.aaapublicaffairs.com/Assets/Files/2007214956500.Parent\\_teencontract.pdf](http://www.aaapublicaffairs.com/Assets/Files/2007214956500.Parent_teencontract.pdf)

### **21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills**

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

### **A Case for Bridge in School!**

In 2001, Carlinville, IL teacher Bobbie Klaus decided to introduce some short bridge lessons as part of her 5th grade math instruction. There was no intent of doing a research study, however, standardized testing combined with the reporting requirements of NCLB, created a plethora of data and a "researcher's serendipity". What the researcher found was amazing!

The lessons found on this website and included in our “Bridge in a Box” curriculum are correlated to academic curriculum standards for all states and provinces. For the

most part, the lessons address standards in Math, Language arts and Social Studies.

<http://www.schoolbridgeleague.org/case-for-bridge-in-school.aspx>

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**The Fall From the Margins of Education:  
A Decade of Decline of the Adult Education  
and Literacy System (AELS) in the United States**

Tom Sticht, December 30, 2009  
International Consultant in Adult Education

At the turn of the new century, in February 2000, I wrote a report in which I expressed my optimistic thoughts that the Adult Education and Literacy System (AELS) was positioned to become a “high growth” educational system for the 21st century with the power to reach not only adults, but, through the intergenerational transfer of attitudes and knowledge, to reach children, too. I noted that many adults look for the non-formal, “functional” education that helps them achieve short-term goals of a specific nature. I argued that the extraordinary diversity of the adult population requires education that is much different from that of the K-12 or higher education systems.

Later, in September of 2000, the National Institute for Literacy (NIFL) published and distributed a report entitled From the Margins to the Mainstream: An Action Agenda for Literacy. The report called for a system of **QUALITY** services for adult students, ease of **ACCESS** to these services, and sufficient **RESOURCES** to support this quality and access. The report called for action to get the federal budget for the AELS up to \$1 billion by 2010.

**What Happened During the Decade?**

Regarding **QUALITY**: Presumably, the more full-time professional personnel in an educational system, the better the quality of the system. Using this indicator of quality, in program year 2001-02 there were a total of 153,390 personnel in the AELS, and 21 percent were full-time. The number of students per full-time personnel was 87 to 1. By program year 2004-05, there were 144,169 personnel, but only 15 percent were full-time, and the student to full-time personnel ratio was 116 to 1.

The National Reporting System reported that an average of some 60 to 65 percent do not complete an arbitrarily defined learning level in either ABE/ASE or ESL in a given year. What this means about quality is not clear since the various states use different methods (various standardized tests, portfolio assessments) to determine learning outcomes for a given year.

During the decade the only federally funded national research center aimed at improving the quality of adult literacy education was discontinued.

Regarding **ACCESS**: Unfortunately, access to the AELS plunged in the first decade following the National Literacy Summit report. A large drop occurred in enrollments in the AELS from some 4 million in 1999 to fewer than 2.5 million at the end of the decade.

Regarding **RESOURCES**: At the end of the decade, in 2009, the funding for state grants for the AELS from the federal government was still over \$400 million below the \$1 billion target called for in the Action Agenda of 2000. The web page for ProLiteracy Worldwide advertises that \$800 dollars educates an adult for one year.

An additional blow to resources came when funds for the federal Even Start family program was cut drastically from some \$250 million in fiscal year 2002 to just over \$66 million in 2008. Fortunately, the AELS field was able to ward off a move to totally drop funding for the AELS at the federal level.

**The Fall From the Margins of Education**

At the end of the first decade of the 21st century my optimism in 2000 has been replaced by pessimism. Instead of the unique education system that I envisioned in 2000, which would not be like the K-12 system, the field has moved more toward the provision of a “mini-K-12-college prep” education system for adults.

Perversely, as the ProLiteracy Worldwide web page indicates, federal and state funds combined provide on average only some \$800 per enrollee, about one tenth of average expenditures for a K-12 child in a year, while the AELS is expected to educate adults from as low as the 2nd grade reading level up to where they can meet college entrance standards!

Ironically, at the end of the decade, it was announced that the National Institute for Literacy (NIFL), which published the Action Agenda in 2000, was to be disestablished in 2010.

Overall, it appears that instead of moving from the margins to the mainstream of education in the first decade of the 21st century, the AELS is no longer even on the margins of education. Perhaps the decade from 2010 to 2019 will be better. But who knows. Clearly, we don’t always get the change we hope for!

Tom Sticht  
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