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Where student success is everyone's business.



~Winter Sunrise~

State Director's Corner Valerie Fischer

Mother Nature has given us a slight reprieve in the midst of a typical bitter cold January. I actually walked through slush, didn't wear mittens and didn't mind the daily walk to the 'west 40' as we call it during legislative session – the parking lot far, far away! Each legislative session brings its own challenges. When there is ample money, everyone is at the trough wanting their drink and rightly so; when there is no money to fight over, the session is relatively mild. Infra-structure needs, flood control, taxes, health care, education, energy – it's overwhelming at the responsibilities that must be addressed to keep ND operating smoothly and poised as a national leader in economic development.

Adult Education has been talked about more this legislative session than I remember from past sessions. People are making the connection between education and job creation and the role of the adult learner. What was once viewed as a 'small potato' program is now worth its weight in gold and nudging its way to a place at the big table. During the Senate appropriation hearing for Adult Education, I shared the following statistics:

- Our success rate for a very voluntary audience has been exemplary – 72% received their GED; 70% enrolled in post secondary programs; 65% secured employment; 72% retained /improved their employment; and 85% increased skill levels (duplicated counts).

- By fund 12-18 satellite centers, we have the capability to serve an estimated 900 students currently living in rural areas.

- North Dakota's adult New American population and the number accessing the adult education system have doubled since 2007; 661 adults over the age of 18 relocated to North Dakota.

- This year, North Dakota will spend \$9817 on each school age student – a raise from \$8937 last year; but only \$1029 on each individual without a high school diploma.

- Of the students served last year, 76.1% were under the age of 24; 60% were under the age of 21.

- ND has just over 70,000 residents who do not have a GED or high school diploma (approximately 900 drop out of school annually). During 2009, we served just fewer than 3%.

- If the 65% of students who were unemployed secured even minimum wage employment, this group contributed over \$50 million in taxable revenue – all for only \$1 million a year in state funding.

Wow, these statistics speak volumes! You do amazing work – be proud! There have been no decisions made at this time about our appropriations – stay tuned, stay warm. Now, if only the Ground Hog doesn't see his shadow ...

FY 2011 Budget Request from OVAE

Tom Sticht

Here are some Questions and Answers About the FY 2011 Budget Request from OVAE:

What does the FY 2011 Budget Request contain for adult education?

The President's Fiscal Year 2011 budget request for Adult Basic and Literacy Education State Grants contains \$612.3 million to help adults in the United States become literate and obtain the knowledge and skills they need for postsecondary education, employment, and self-sufficiency. States will use these funds to support local programs.

How does this level compare to last year's appropriation?

The request is \$15.9 million below the 2010 level, but reflects a net increase of \$30 million in adult education program support over 2009. This is because the 2010 level included a one-time increase of \$45.9 million to compensate certain States for errors in calculating formula grant awards between fiscal years 2003 and 2008.

Does this request include funds reserved for English literacy/civics education?

The request for State Grants incorporates \$75.0 million for the English literacy/civics education set-aside, equal to the 2010 level, that will help States and communities provide adult English language learners with expanded access to high-quality English literacy programs linked to civics education.

How much funding is proposed for OVAE's National Leadership Activities?

The budget request for National Leadership Activities of \$41.3 million includes a \$30 million increase to support a Workforce Innovation Fund. Other National Activities funds would continue support for activities to increase the literacy and workforce skills of America's native-born adults and meet the growing need to address gaps in English language acquisition, literacy, and workforce skills experienced by our immigrant population. The Department also would

use National Activities funds to support priorities previously carried out by the National Institute for Literacy, which was eliminated in the 2010 appropriation.

What is the Workforce Innovation Fund?

This fund, along with an identical amount in vocational rehabilitation, would be part of a Partnership for Workforce Innovation, which encompasses \$321 million of innovation funding in the Departments of Education and Labor. The departments will coordinate to award competitive grants to encourage innovation and identify and validate effective strategies that improve service delivery and outcomes for beneficiaries of programs authorized by the Workforce Investment Act. This investment would create strong incentives for change that, if scaled up, could improve the effectiveness of the workforce system.

The link below will provide you with extensive information about all members of the new US House and Senate. Click onto the links for the House and Senate members from your state.

Thanks to Lynn Selmser of the National Council of State Directors of Adult Education for locating this important source of information for our work.

Art Ellison, Policy Committee Chair, National Council of State Directors of Adult Education

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/112th_United_States_Congress

Building Bridges: A Refugee Experience

March 28-29th at the Holiday Inn, Fargo

The Building Bridges Conference is held annually to provide information and technical support to communities to aid in the delivery of services to refugees and other immigrants. Presented by New American Services, a program

of Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota, this conference will provide answers to many questions - how does someone become a refugee; what is life like in a refugee camp; who is allowed to come to the United States and why; what happens once they come to our communities?

Keynote Speaker: Roxana Saberi

Registration *Conference registration deadline is March 21, 2011*

Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota
attn: Darci Asche
1325 11th Street South
Fargo, ND 58103

For more information see the pdf link at:
<http://www.lssnd.org/newamericans/BuildingBridgesRegistration.pdf>

The Impact of a Reading Intervention for Low-Literate Adult ESL Learners

This report was released by the National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance at the Institute of Education Sciences.

<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/pubs/20114003/>

Dyslexia

Did you know that Anderson Cooper, Tim Conway, John Chambers, CEO of Cisco Systems, Debbie Macomber, Patrick Dempsey, of Grey's Anatomy are some of the many famous people who have dyslexia? For more information

<http://www.dys-add.com/symptoms.html#spaceorg>

<http://www.dyslexia.yale.edu/cosgrove.html>

Idioms and Slang

While in the grocery store the other day someone said, "We can just toss it around". A visitor from Brazil asked what "toss it around" meant. All of us had a different explanation for him!

Here is a good website to find lots of idioms and slang:

<http://www.vocabulary.co.il/idioms/>

If you are going to try to learn these – Break a leg!!

~A Winter Sunset~



The NDALL Membership and Public Relations Committee would like all the NDALL Members to be aware of the committee's purpose and role. If you would like to be a part of this committee or if you have ideas, please contact Nola Storm at: stormn@fargo.k12.nd.us

Membership & Public Relations Committee

Purpose and Role:

- Recruit individual and organizations into membership of NDALL
- Advance the ND Adult Education program through organized presentations, media stories, material dissemination or other means to both members and non-members
- Determine member needs and identify goals and objectives to meet such needs in coordination with the State Office, NDALL board and PD Advisory Committee
- Follow nominating process for NDALL Board members and prepare for annual election

Committee Membership:

Nola Storm
 Latisha Sims
 Nancy Halilovic

Calendar / Timetable:

- January – March:
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- April – June:
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- July – September:
 - Advertise and recruit members
 - Contact all new staff and encourage membership
 - Fill positions on the NDALL Board
 - Advertise upcoming conference
- October – December:
 - Compile membership list and post on the NDALL website
 - Update listserve
 - Send updated list to all members via email

Reporting process:

- Chair submits reports for each NDALL Board meeting
- As necessary, committee prepares informational bulletins for newsletter

- Submit annual report to membership at annual conference
- Conducts membership survey every two years to assess needs and goals

Annual Outcomes:

- Membership count is sustained or increased
- Survey reveals satisfaction among membership
- Evidence of media releases, events or products to emphasis PR and NDALL activity
- Survey membership of professional development needs, professional development offerings and evaluations
- Slate of qualified candidates for annual fall NDALL meeting
- Announce results in newsletter and on web page
- Vacant positions are filled within 30 days