Message from the President

Dear colleagues, partners, and friends all over Arizona,

It’s winter time in Arizona! As usual, the changing of the seasons in my hometown of Tucson makes me feel so fortunate to live here. There is so much diversity in our state - natural, cultural, social, political... We live in a place where my maternal grandfather from Minnesota - the son of German immigrants - made a home for his family and became a successful builder who loved art and Mexican culture. I live in a place where I was lucky to spend a lot of my childhood with my paternal grandmother from Italy - who taught me about her culture and traditions while also professing that Tucson reminded her of “the old country” with the mountains and diverse weather patterns. I’m always glad to welcome people to Tucson, to Arizona, to adult education. My grandparents, and my father who got his GED while serving in the Army, are always on my mind when I do so...

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Something else on my mind lately is a Pima Community College slogan: Students First. As things continue to change and evolve in the field of adult education, and the world around us, I constantly try to put students first when making decisions as an educator: when discussing curriculum and instruction with teachers, figuring out how to make our limited funding go further, networking with partners, raising awareness and advocating for adult education. Student achievement is a driving force of everything we do, so I’d like to give a few highlights of how we put students first in Arizona.

- **ADE Institute in September:** Ana Chavarin was invited to be the keynote awards luncheon speaker. If you were there, you witnessed an adult ed graduate keeping a room of hundreds of educators on the edge of their seats with her personal story and advising us on how to help students succeed in overcoming their barriers.

- **Integrated Education & Training (IET) examples of success:** We have been implementing a Microsoft TEALS coding class at Pima with students getting IT internships as a result, and Northern Pioneer College has a renamed Construction IBEST program that has been spotlighted on "TV"! The Fixers - People's Farm, AZ.

- **COABE support of student engagement:** AALL is still a sponsor of COABE's conference strand which is now called “Students as Leaders.” As the strand coordinator, I recently reviewed and approved 13 fantastic proposals for the COABE conference that all had student perspectives, voice, and leadership at the core of their objectives. COABE continues to support national Ambassador training for teams around the country, paying for student travel.

- **Ambassadors training:** Pima will host an Ambassadors Representational Leadership training this month. Students from Pima and Northland Pioneer College along with AALL board members from Rio Salado and Central Arizona College. Ambassadorship is the pinnacle of student engagement with adult learners becoming legislative advocates for adult education while learning skills that will help them be successful in transitioning to higher education and careers.

- **Educate & Elevate campaign:** Over the last year or two COABE has been promoting awareness and advocacy for adult education nationwide with marketing, publicity, advocacy tools, trips to the Capitol, support for national Student Ambassador trainings, and spotlights of student success… Adult Learner Success stories.

- **Arizona Adult Literacy Week (Feb) & National Adult Ed and Family Literacy Week (Sept):** Stay tuned for 2020 (vision!) focus on students during our two times of the year when we get to push publicity about the good work we do and have student stories and voice be at the center.

As you know, an important endeavor that puts students first and relates in a broad sense to all of the above features of student focused practice is advocacy and awareness raising for adult education programs. Right now, certain programs around the state are strategizing and setting plans in motion to increase enrollment in adult education across Arizona, using funding allocated by the governor’s office. I hope these efforts result in some new best practices and some improvement on old best practices.

*In the name of increasing awareness about what adult education does in Arizona, engaging others in efforts to promote our programs, networking to feed our partnerships, sharing successes and best practices, and staying connected ....

PLEASE, spread the word about the value and importance of adult education in our communities. FOLLOW AALL on social media and get your students, colleagues, partners, friends, and family to do so as well! Social media is a powerful tool to stay informed, connected, and have an influence on issues like adult ed programming and funding.
As many of you know, “Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey has allocated an additional $500,000 for adult education, money that will go toward reducing a 3,000-person waitlist for the programs statewide. The Legislature and governors have not increased funding for adult education — which encompasses GED prep programs and classes for adult English Language Learners — in 21 years.” Read the whole AZ Central news article.


This got the attention of some national adult education advocates (NLA) and they asked: How did that happen? As most of us know, it’s not a magic trick and decision makers rarely support programs like adult education without some help to discover what a great pay off there is to investing in our programs.

Here’s some context, implications, and next steps:

• This is “one time” additional funding. It won’t be added to the current state allocation of $4.5M.
• It has to be spent between January and June 2020 to increase enrollment. The goal is to increase Arizona’s Adult Education enrollment by 500 new students… in just 6 months.
• If we are successful, the case for an additional funding in the Arizona budget would be strengthened. The plan is to advocate for $1.2 million to be added to the current $4.5 million allocation for adult education.

How DID this happen? It’s important for adult educators in Arizona to know the big picture and history of how this was possible.

The Az Department of Education is working under a very supportive new Superintendent of Public Instruction - Kathy Hoffman - who is working through her office with the Governor’s office to increase funding for adult education. Because of the work of the State Director and Superintendent, the Governor decided to use some of his WIOA set aside to give a one time allotment. He wouldn’t have known about the need for increased funding without their advocacy.

When adult ed advocates heard a budget increase was on the table last year, we did a few things:

• We worked to raise awareness of the need and the fact that we hadn’t had an increase since 1998 AND that Arizona would be leaving federal money on the table without the match requirement from the state.
• The state association, Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning (AALL), worked with COABE to utilize their Educate and Elevate tool to make over 900 contacts to legislators and the Governor. educateandelevate.org
• We connected with some supportive legislators, local elected officials, and local Workforce Development Boards about the need to raise awareness and advocate for Title 2 Adult Education funding. We also reached out to the team promoting a statewide initiative called Achieve 60 Arizona.

AALL’s Awareness Committee will continue support statewide efforts to raise awareness and promote civic education and engagement.

Stay tuned....
I was excited to participate in the Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE) fall Capitol Hill Day this year. On September 24th, COABE board members and program leaders from across the country made more than 70 face-to-face visits with elected officials and their staff. The focus of the visits was to raise awareness of the value and impact of adult education and to ask for an increase of $30 million in the federal allocation to adult education. Regina Suitt and I visited with Representative Ann Kirkpatrick, Representative Raul Grijalva, and the staff at the offices of Senator Kyrsten Sinema and Representative Tom O’Halleran. We also took time to visit with Erin Berg, Community College Program Specialist at the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE), to discuss how we can expand usage of the Ability to Benefit (ATB) provision of Federal Financial Aid within our college and state. ATB is a valuable resource that can help adult learners access and succeed in career and technical training through career pathways programming. For more about ATB check out the OCTAE webinar on the topic from October 21st (to be posted to LINCS in the near future). The webinar provides a great overview of ATB and how it can be utilized to support learners. It also includes a program highlight from me about the way that we are using ATB at Pima Community College.
Lily Beth Brazones Attends Harvard’s 50th Anniversary of the Institute for Educational Management (IEM)

By Lily Beth Brazones

Harvard’s Graduate School of Education celebrated the 50th anniversary of its Institute of Educational Management. Leaders in higher education from all over the country and parts of the world were invited to attend. It was a great chance to reflect, explore, and look ahead to the future of higher education leadership. I was very happy to be offered the opportunity to attend the celebration which included a symposium on the latest trends in higher education. It was great to hear university and college leaders from all over the country discussing how community colleges are better able to meet education challenges because of their flexibility and adaptability. It was a fun opportunity to hear all the latest trends from universities and colleges and to hear about their plans moving forward. Another highlight of the event was an open forum with a representative from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation who discussed funding opportunities for educational institutions. One of the highlights of the event was networking with a Harvard Math faculty member who is in the process of developing Math open resources. He offered to work with our instructors via Skype to offer strategies on teaching Math effectively. It was also a great experience meeting leaders from universities and colleges across the world. We all have the same goals of helping our students succeed.
I am very happy to report on the National College Transition Network (NCTN) Conference in Cambridge, MA!

This conference advocates and promotes college and career readiness where adult educators come together and learn from each other. The conference firms a shared commitment to education and economic opportunities for adult learners with its focus on the theme, “Preparing Adult Learners for the Digital World.”

I had the opportunity to present on this topic during my workshop session titled, "Classroom Rotation in Action!" The participants had the opportunity to further define what the blended learning model is by actually participating in the rotation itself! The participants at each station used the materials that were previously used by my own students.

Everyone had the chance to collaborate with each other in completing the tasks at each station. Afterwards, the participants reflected on their experiences and how they can further adapt this into their classrooms.

Throughout the conference, the common themes were on digital literacy/competencies and how to overcome inevitable challenges. What I got out of my time at NCTN is that learning persistence comes with one-on-one support and human interaction. As lifelong learners and as students, we need a cheerleader and support each other whenever we're stuck. There needs to be people to steer learners from one learning stage to another. Technology doesn't mean learning alone.

Vi Hawes, ELAA Instructor and Ed Tech Coach for Pima Community College
ADE Annual Adult Education Institute

By the Arizona Department of Education

This last September, the Arizona Department of Education – Adult Education Services (ADE - AES) held their annual Adult Education Institute in Tucson at the beautiful El Conquistador Resort. There were over 300 participants and over 90 sessions offered on a variety of topics, including: English Language Arts, Mathematics, English language acquisition, Integrated Education and Training (IET), an Instructional Leaders Academy, technology, curriculum, and much more.

ADE – AES invited keynote speakers that covered a variety of topics. On opening day, Deputy Associate Superintendent, Sheryl Hart, gave her State of the State address, and we welcomed a panel of speakers to discuss the workforce system and how to make it work with our programs. At lunch, Jeff Goumas spoke about technology and its impact on education today. On the second day, we had a student keynote speaker, Anna Chavarin, who captivated the audience as she spoke about her experiences as an adult education student and her life now. Anna is a graduate of the Pima College Adult Education system and now works with adult education. On our final day, Jayme Adelson Goldstein discussed language acquisition in her
We held an amazing night event, Boots-n-Bling, at the Last Territory on the El Conquistador property. It was a night full of fun, dinner, and dancing. Educators from around Arizona were able to network and have some fun together while taking in the Southwestern atmosphere. The band, Instant Classics, did not disappoint and had many people up dancing and singing along to live band karaoke. ADE - AES looks forward to making this an annual event and can’t wait for next year.

Thanks to the generous donations from vendors (AZTEC, GED Testing Services, AALL, BurlingtonEnglish, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), New Readers Press, Odysseyware, and COABE), the work of the ADE -AES team, and the educators from the programs across the state, this was one of the most successful conferences yet. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!
The Arizona Department of Education named Rio Salado College as the Adult Education Program of the Year and ABE/ASE Excelling Program award-winner for 2017-18.

This is the second year in a row Rio Salado received the Program of the Year award.

“We are honored by this recognition and take great pride in serving as Arizona’s largest provider of adult education,” said Rio Salado Interim President Kate Smith. The Program of the Year Award criteria is based on student education and employment outcomes, student retention, cost per participant, compliance with grant requirements and timely reporting. Rio Salado serves nearly 4,000 Maricopa County residents annually through its adult education programs, which are available at locations across the Valley. Students can learn the English language, prepare for GED® tests, engage with workforce preparation and employment skills training, take industry-specific workforce training classes-- and get help transitioning to college. Students pay a registration fee in the range of $25-70 every 16 weeks, based on a sliding scale, which is determined by household income and family size. “Through our adult education program, we are helping students improve their chances of finding gainful employment and increasing their earning potential-- while offering a seamless pathway to higher education,” said Smith.
Don’t forget about the upcoming 2020 AALL Spring Conference!

MPAEA • NMAEA • 2020 Conference
A Dusting of Diamonds: Foundations + Innovations in Adult Education
February 25 & 26 • Preconference Feb. 24

Registration Now Open!
www.mpaea.org

Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort & Spa
Santa Ana Pueblo - just outside Albuquerque
Room Rate $150/night - Resort Fee waived
Conference room rate available 3 days pre- and post-conference
A 2019 ‘Best of the West’ Winner by Meetings Today

Or the MPAEA NMAEA 2020 Conference
What does AALL membership mean for you?

With your AALL membership, you can take advantage of these special opportunities!

**Member Professional Development Scholarships** — AALL sponsors conference scholarships for members who wish to attend a local or out-of-state professional learning opportunity. Scholarships of up to $500 may be granted to AALL members who apply based on fund availability. Scholarship recipients are asked to submit an article to the AALL Newsletter about their professional learning experience for the benefit of others in the profession.

**Nomination for AALL Awards** — For many years, AALL Awards have provided an opportunity for members in the adult education profession to recognize their peers for innovation, tenure and exemplary leadership. Visit the AALL website to nominate one of your colleagues for an award this year.

**Learning Exchange Program** — AALL sponsors a Learning Exchange Program for adult educators and program administrators who will benefit from funds to visit another program site. Members may visit a program that has piloted an innovative idea for student instruction, or to share best practices around Standards integration. These are just a few suggestions to support professional collaboration as promoted by the Arizona Department of Education.

**Request Awareness Fund** — AALL sponsors small awards to support awareness activities hosted by our member’s program such as open houses, student leadership activities, visits with elected officials, leadership training, outreach and more.

**MPAEA and COABE Membership** — As a member of AALL, you also receive membership to MPAEA and COABE through our organizational membership. AALL members are eligible to use member rates for conference registration each year. Take advantage of this dual membership opportunity!

**Board Membership Eligibility** — As an AALL member you can grow professional by serving in a leadership position for your state association. The Board nomination period runs from February to May each year.

**Student Scholarships** — AALL sponsors student scholarships for adult learners who wish to attend conferences. Visit our website for more information.

Your annual membership dues support state advocacy efforts, student leadership initiatives, and the AALL member scholarship program.

https://aafll.wildapricot.org
AALL membership is open to all persons and organizations engaged in the advancement of adult literacy and lifelong learning in Arizona; those who wish to support progress in the profession.

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<td>The right to vote in Association elections and attend AALL meetings</td>
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<td>The right to hold elected or appointed offices and to serve on AALL planning committees</td>
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<td>Eligible professional development scholarships and small event grants</td>
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Website, Board, and More

Website Info

https://aall.wildapricot.org

Check out our website! And, don’t forget about all the benefits of AALL membership:
- Scholarships
- Teacher Learning
- Exchange funding
- Awards
- Member discounts
plus automatic COABE and MPAEA membership!

https://www.coabe.org
https://mpaea.wildapricot.org

COABE Virtual Conference

AALL members (all of you!) will be able to attend COABE’s Virtual Conference this fall! Stay tuned for more details...

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