



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ADULTS WITH SPECIAL LEARNING NEEDS

**NAASLN Membership News & Views
Issue Thirteen – November 2006**

NAASLN Membership News & Views is an outgrowth of the NAASLN Vision to offer our members a centralized hub of information, professional development, technical assistance, communication on issues and trends, and advocacy initiatives on behalf of adults with special learning needs.

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The New NAASLN Website Reflects our Vision and Principles –

Check it out!

A year in the making and well worth the effort, our redesigned www.naasln.org truly represents the vision and principles of our association and is a major step in better serving our membership.

As an association committed to ensuring and expanding opportunities for adults with special learning needs, our new website has been developed and will be maintained by the students attending the Project New Hope's Learning Center for Computer Training, a program of the Los Angeles Unified School District's Program for Adults with Disabilities. *(See the article below to learn more about this wonderful program with a link to its own website.)*

On behalf of the NAASLN Board, I want to thank Kevin Termunde, the Computer Program instructor, for transforming our ideas, visions and principles into our new and fully accessible website. Kevin spent many, many hours of his own time working on the format, design, and responding to our every editorial whim. Thanks also to the two NAASLN Board members, Terry Wetzel and Julie Desiderio, who oversee this Los Angeles USD program and made this all possible. Finally thanks to the help of my fellow NAASLN Communication Committee members (Pat Walsh, Terry Wetzel, Julie Desiderio and Peg Kennedy) for their content development, perspective, and editing.

On a personal note, the newly designed website, along with this E-Newsletter, was a goal of my just completed presidency. The obstacles we overcame pale in comparison to my excitement and sense of bringing a virtual forum to the membership. It promises to be just the beginning of a greater exchange of ideas. We will be adding more content, but we need your feedback. Please read all about it in this issue and be sure to check it out.

And don't miss any of the articles in this issue of our Membership News and Views including: Surveying the Membership; Information on an Assistive Technology Grant; Part 2 of Meeting the Needs of Students with LD in Higher Education; A calendar of Upcoming Events; The Qualities of Passionate Persons Who Promote Systems Change, and, of course, the Los Angeles USD's Program for Adults with Disabilities and the NAASLN Website.

Joan Hudson-Miller
Past President
Chair, Communications Committee & Newsletter Co-Editor

Website Redesigned by Adults with Special Learning Needs

By Julie DeSiderio, Teacher Advisor, Programs for Adults with Disabilities, Los Angeles Unified School District

When NAASLN board member Terry Wetzel heard discussions about updating the current NAASLN website, he began thinking of a creative, multi-leveled solution. Why not have students with disabilities help with the redesign and implementation? Terry approached Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Adaptive Computer Technology teacher, Kevin Termunde, with his idea. Kevin

took it on with enthusiasm, keeping his adult students with disabilities involved with the redesign from the beginning.

Kevin's class is a unique blend of funding from the non-profit organization, Project New Hope, the California State Department of Rehabilitation, and LAUSD. Twenty-four windows-based computer stations are housed in the mid-town location developed by Project New Hope to assist their clients with re-entry into the workforce after diagnoses ranging from HIV to AIDS. The class allows them modifications based on medical needs, as well as adaptations for any physical disabilities they may have. Kevin has been with the LAUSD Division of Adult and Career Education since 1985, and has been at the Project New Hope site for the past seven years. He has had great success with his students as they train for new careers ranging from data entry to web-page design.

The idea of redesigning the NAASLN website was a hit from the beginning. Five students took on the challenge and worked with Kevin on all aspects of the website. They assisted with the new design of the template, input all of the data and content, edited photos, structured the files, and experimented with different formats and fonts, all leading to the new design. While the entire project took longer than the expected six months, the extra time seemed worthwhile. The most exciting part of the project for the students is that they will continue to be the webmasters for the NAASLN website, making changes as necessary.

For Kevin and Terry it has been a project worth the time and effort. NAASLN Communications Committee Chair, Joan Hudson-Miller, has also been an instrumental partner in this process, meeting monthly with the students to be sure that all changes are implemented as requested. They are all pleased with the outcome and are looking forward to more input from our associates in the field. Thank you, Kevin and students, for all your hard work and dedication!

Website of the Month:

Check us out! Spend some time at www.naasln.org. Don't miss the Conference Page Photo Albums; back issues of NAASLN newsletters; articles of interest to educators who work with students with special learning needs; and of course, the membership page to renew your membership or join the only national association for those who serve adults with special learning needs.

And while you're at it, visit www.lausd-pnhlc.net to meet the wonderful people behind our new webpage.

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Spotlight Topic of the Month: Part 2 Meeting the Needs of Students with LD in Higher Education, A Mentoring/Coaching Program (The second in a series) *Dr. Melissa Arnott, LPC CAC, Director, Academic Success Center Rowan University*

The mentoring/coaching program at Rowan University encourages students to become more self-reliant, self-motivated, autonomous, and well-adjusted in the transition from high school to college. As a result of academic and social success, the program increases self-esteem, reduces anxiety as a result of an increased GPA, and improves college retention. The students who participated in the program earned a mean GPA of 3.22; the students who did not participate earned a mean GPA of 2.45. ([Click here to read the whole story.](#))

To learn more about the Four-Stage Model for College Success, visit www.drarnott.com/Four-Stage%20Model.html

Next Month...Learn how Olney Central College in Illinois provides transition and registration information to students, parents, and high school staff.

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Grant Opportunity -

Premier Assistive Technology Breaks Down Barriers with Grant

Submitted by Fran Holthaus, MS English Education, ABLE Director, Upper Valley JVS, Piqua, OH, NAASLN Board Member

Premier Assistive established this grant program in 2002 to bridge the gap between education budgets and the need for educational organizations to serve the needs and requirements of special education programs as well as broader based literacy initiatives. This program grants access to Premier Assistive Technology's full suite of software products. There are no current or future obligations for an organization. ([Click here to read the whole story.](#))

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NAASLN Road Trip Tracks

NAASLN conferences often are described as national in scope, but local in intimacy. Until we finalize the next national conference, check out these regional appearances:

March 7-9, 2007

IACEA "Putting All the Pieces Together" featuring a NAASLN strand with sessions presented by Laura Weisel, PhD, and Richard Cooper, PhD. The 28th Annual IACEA Conference will be held, at the Hilton in Springfield, Illinois. For more information contact Laura Bercovitz at libercovitz@thecenterweb.org

March 25 - March 28, 2007

Commission on Adult Basic Education (COABE) presents "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Learning" in Philadelphia. NAASLN is proud to continue a 6-year track record of presenting pre-conference and strand sessions targeting educators

who work with students with special learning needs. For more information go to www.coabe2007.org!

July 2007

NAASLN will present a pre-conference at the Correctional Education Assn. (CEA) national conference in Atlanta. For more information go to www.ceanational.org.

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NAASLN MEMBERSHIP NEWS & VIEWS

1. Qualities of Passionate Persons Who Promote Systems Change -- How NAASLN members define ourselves

These are responses to Dale Brown's keynote address at the Denver Conference, compiled by Anne Murr, NAASLN Secretary and ABE Director, Drake University Adult Literacy Center Des Moines, IA.

One—Innovators

- Recognize opportunities when they arise and act on them
- Creative problem solvers
- Look outside the box; don't get stuck in a new box
- Positive attitude
- Courage
- Willing to stand against the tide-have a thick skin
- Network
- Actively seek change

Two—Leaders

- Have a vision/plan
- Take ownership
- Build a core team with a mission
- Charismatic
- Tenacious
- Committed
- Never take no
- Follow through
- Willing to accept change

Three—Evaluators and Facilitators

- Open minded
- Well-informed; search for more information
- Adaptable
- Continually re-evaluate
- Seek knowledge and understanding
- Questioners/listeners

Four— Diplomats

- Pick your battles
- Desire to make a difference
- People skills
- Persuasive
- Persistent

Five—Advocates

- Fearless
- Optimistic
- Energetic/have drive
- Charismatic

We are the little engine that could.
Not only
“I think I can, I think I can.”
but
“I KNOW I CAN, I KNOW I CAN!”

2. Surveying the Membership Landscape

Pat Walsh, Co-Chair, Membership Committee

Just as land surveyors map the contours, gradients and slopes of a landscape, NAASLN’s Membership Committee has embarked on study to measure the populations, needs, and wants of our colleagues who works with adults with special learning needs. So if you are called, please find a few minutes to share your experiences with us. We promise not to take more than 10 minutes of your time.

In the meantime, as the result of member inquiries, we have refined the terms of Organizational Membership. For an annual fee of \$250, an organization may enjoy benefits such as designating 10 representatives to be eligible for full access to the *Member’s Only* section of the web-site, receive NAASLN’s emails, and register for NAASLN’s national conferences at member fees. Organizations also may have a link on the NAASLN web-site and a quarter-page ad in NAASLN’s national conference program. For more information, visit www.naasln.org/membership or contact us at 1-888-5NAASLN (888-562-2756).

Footnote: To our membership and all those who care about adults with special learning needs

Welcome to the ONLY national association exclusively dedicated to improving the educational experience for Adults with Special Learning Needs. Whether you are a renewing member, a new member, or an introductory member, a teacher, learner, or policymaker, you have joined a like-minded group of professionally and personally committed individuals whose camaraderie is based on lifelong learning for diverse populations with specific needs – the disabled, working poor, ESOL learners, high school dropouts, postsecondary students, incarcerated youth, etc.

As a NAASLN member, you have full access to this unique arena, including resources (people and products), our newsletter, membership roster, international networking, advance notice of professional development programs, FYI bulletins on national issues and trends in adult education, discounted rates to our conferences, and opportunities for leadership.

To join or renew for the New Year, go to www.naasln.org for membership forms and information.

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Ordering Conference Session Audio Tapes and CDs: For sale on the NAASLN website.

Maybe you attended NAASLN 2005, but couldn't make it to every session. Or maybe you couldn't join us at all. Here's your chance to experience what you missed. Go to the NAASLN web site for the full list of over 60 sessions available on audio tape and CD. A downloadable order form is also available.

Tapes related to this issue's focus topic include:

- **Utilizing a Mentoring/Coaching program to Work Effectively with Students with Learning Disabilities in College with Melissa Arnott-Cox (1 tape/1 CD)**
- **Using Technology with LD Adults: A Practical Guide with Mary Kelly & Jaman Welch (2 tapes/2 CDs)**

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

NAASLN is devoted to enhancing the opportunities for life-long learning for adults with special learning needs by improving the efforts of adult educators working with these individuals in the full range of life-long learning programs, i.e., ABE, ESL, GED, volunteer-based and community-based literacy programs.

Future Newsletter Submissions

Help us meet your needs. Recommend or submit an article, event announcements, book reviews, and web sites links. Either E-mail newsletter@naasln.org or send to:

Joan Hudson-Miller, 14214 S. Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90066 or Fax to 310-354-2601.

All submissions will be reviewed for appropriateness for our readership and will be selected at the discretion of the newsletter editors.

Sharing information

Do you have ideas on how you would like to better network with other members? Are there other features you would like to see in this Newsletter and on our website? E-mail newsletter@naasln.org or leave a message on at 888-5NAASLN (888-562-2756)

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Help Spread the Word

Please forward this newsletter to other educators and interested parties. If this newsletter was forwarded to you and you would like to become a member of NAASLN and a regular subscriber, send an email to naasln@aol.com for membership information or visit our web site: www.naasln.org .

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