



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ADULTS WITH SPECIAL LEARNING NEEDS

NAASLN Membership News & Views Issue Twenty-Eight – Spring 2010

To view entire issue go to <http://www.naasln.org/newsletterspring2010.htm>

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.

Stay tuned in and connected by renewing your membership.
Go to www.naasln.org/membership

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To view entire issue go to <http://www.naasln.org/newsletterspring2010.htm>

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**President’s Message—
Carrying the Message Forward by Remembering**

Joan Hudson-Miller, NAASLN Co-President

The NAASLN Board of Directors announces the establishment of the Anne-Louise D. Cooper Professional Development Webinar Fund in memory of Dr. Richard Cooper’s wife. The fund would provide a means to pay stipends to webinar presenters.

Rich Cooper and his wife were both key participants in the founding of NAASLN. Anne-Louise was very involved in the early years. Those who know Rich are aware that his professional and personal life have always been integrally intertwined in the field of overcoming learning differences. The webinar series is a NAASLN initiative that has been very important to him. Providing stipends for speakers is an idea that he has endorsed.

As a result of the economic downturn, NAASLN is not conducting national or regional conferences. The webinar series has become our primary method of providing ongoing and inexpensive professional development opportunities to our members and all professionals serving adults with special learning needs.

To achieve the same quality of presentations that NAASLN has been known for, we need to attract top-notch presenters. Up to now, the presenters have been donating their time. Now the Anne-Louise D. Cooper Professional Development Webinar Fund will give our association an opportunity to compensate these highly qualified professionals and act as an incentive to attract a broader pool of presenters and topics.

If you would like to support NAASLN’s mission to provide on-going and quality professional development webinars on topics important to you and your fellow professionals, you can make a donation to this fund.

Contributions may be made to The Anne-Louise D. Cooper Professional Development Webinar Fund.

Mail to:
NAASLN
c/o KOC Member Services
1143 Tidewater Court
Westerville, OH 43082

Our website will soon be updated to allow online contributions.

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**Membership Update—
Calling for State Representatives**

Fran Holthaus, Vice President and Membership Services & Recruitment Chair

We invite you think globally and act locally by representing NAASLN in your own state.

NAASLN has members throughout the country, so I would like to invite you to represent NAASLN in your state. This would usually take about 15 minutes a month.

We would ask the representative to make us aware of any conferences or meetings in your state and to share with us any news or special events that are occurring that would be pertinent to our members.

Because NAASLN is always encouraging members to network and dialogue with colleagues in other locations, we will ask the state representatives to help us by being a referral resource as well. You do not need to be the resource person, but a person who could direct us to the right person/persons in your state.

Occasionally, we may request your help in distributing recruitment or promotional materials at adult education and other related meetings in your state to encourage colleagues to join, look at our website, consider our webinars, and read our newsletters.

If you are interested in accepting this invitation, or know someone who would be, please contact me at:

Fran Holthaus 937-638-7459
Holthaus Specialty Services 937-492-8493 or
f111able@yahoo.com

I hope to hear from you soon.

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What's happening Around the Country

News from Arkansas State Rep...

Arkansas Assists Students in Accessing GED Accommodations

Janice Hanlon, GED Administrator and NAASLN State Rep

A training was held at the Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center to train individuals to administer the Woodcock Johnson Achievement Test, which is one of the assessments approved by the national GED Testing Service in order to apply for accommodations on the GED tests. Ten individuals were trained and will be available to give the Woodcock Johnson to those requesting GED accommodations.

Since the beginning of this year, 49 persons have applied for accommodations on the GED tests, most of them because of a learning disability.

Gates Pledges \$110 Million to Remedial Programs at Community

Colleges

Speaking at the annual American Association of Community Colleges convention in Seattle, Melinda Gates announced a pledge of up to \$110 million to improve remedial programs on community college campuses and urged community college presidents to come up with new technologies and fresh ideas to replace weak remedial programs.

The foundation has already given about half its commitment to colleges and programs to improve developmental education since 2008. Another \$57 million will be given as grants over the next two years.

While she praised community colleges for leading the way on access, she called on them to now be leaders on college completion.

About 60 percent of students enrolling in community college must take at least one remedial course to catch up, according to the Community College Research Center. Only 25 percent of students who take these courses earn a degree within eight years of enrolling.

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NAASLN Webinar Series

These internet-based seminars offer high impact, low-cost, professional training in the comfort of your office or the privacy of your home. You receive one hour of audio and visual professional development in real time, with opportunities for questions and answers. Recorded archives are also available. A certificate of attendance is available for all paid participants. All you need is a computer with a headset or telephone.

May's Webinar:

Along With Academics, What are the Soft Skills Adult Learners Need For Success

May 24

4:00 – 5:00 ET

Adult learners entering your programs not only have just academic deficits but often have soft skills deficits as well. These are necessary for success in all areas of their lives, and may include with difficulties in learning vicariously (through experience), interpreting body language, expressing their thoughts, time management, and problem solving. Discover ways that you can recognize the soft skill breakdowns and learn strategies for assisting the adult in developing more effective ways for communicating and for dealing with these other issues. Handouts will be available prior to the webinar.

Presenter: Robyn A. Rennick, Program Director for Dyslexia Research Institute in Tallahassee, Florida

If you were not able to attend the live session of this webinar, you can still view at any future time by purchasing the archived video, which will be available in June on the NAASLN web site: www.naasln.org/webinars/webinar_archives.htm.

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Other webinars available as archived videos

To purchase an archived webinar, go to www.naasln.org/webinars/webinar_archives.htm. Members \$20; Non-members, \$40

Newly archived webinars:

Tried and True Teaching Strategies for Students with (or without) Disabilities-
Presenter: Sarah Goldammer

The Color Connection – Light Sensitivity & Visual Processing May Be Keeping Your
Adult Students from Succeeding- Presenter: Helen Irlen

GED Testing Accommodations and Adaptations-How do we level the playing field for
adults with special learning needs? Presenter: Connie Leading

Still available –

Dr. Richard Cooper's 4-part Webinar Series: Teaching Math to Adults Who have
Learning Differences.

Math I - Learning Differences, Difficulties and Disabilities that Limit Math Skills
Math II: Developing Number Sense and Quantitative Concepts with Adults Who Learn
Differently
Math III: Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division
Math IV: Teaching Fractions to Adults with Learning Differences

The complete set of the 4 sessions is still available at a special price. Each individual session can also be purchase at \$40.00 for nonmembers and \$20.00 for members.

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Spotlight Topic of the Month

Legislative & Advocacy Update

Anne Murr, Legislative & Advocacy Committee Chair

President's Proposed Adult Literacy & Education Budget, May 11, 2010

Here's a quick run-down of the president's proposed budget as it relates to adult literacy and education:

- \$612.3 million for Adult Basic Literacy Education State Grants, \$30 million more

than the 2009 appropriation, but a \$15.9 million decrease from last year. That's because last year, the program received a one-time increase of \$45.9 million to correct for a past accounting error that left some states underfunded for several years.

- \$75 million for the English Literacy/Civics Education set-aside, the same as last year's appropriation.
- A \$30 million increase for National Leadership Activities. Along with an identical amount from Vocational Rehabilitation, the money supports a new Workforce Innovation Fund that is to be part of a Department of Labor and Department of Education Partnership for Workforce Innovation. According to the administration, the partnership "will coordinate to award competitive grants that would encourage innovation and identify and validate effective strategies for improving the delivery of services and outcomes for beneficiaries under programs authorized by the Workforce Investment Act."

President's Proposed Budget Includes Increase in State Grants to Local Programs

The world's largest organization of adult literacy and basic education programs today praised President Obama's proposed FY2011 budget as "a down payment on improving our ability to serve the lowest-level learner."

David C. Harvey, president and CEO of ProLiteracy, applauded a number of items in the Administration's proposed spending plan, including a significant increase in the state grants to local adult literacy and basic education programs; its support of a reform of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), the largest source of federal funding for adult literacy; and creation of an innovation fund to support promising approaches to job training.

"This spending plan and the administration's commitment to reforming the Workforce Investment Act are great news for the millions of adults in this country who struggle with the most basic daily reading, writing, and math tasks, and for the local literacy programs that serve them," Harvey said. "It means that more people can be served and more of them will get the job skills training they need to get back to work."

To read the article in its entirety, go to
www.proliteracy.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=785

Reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

With health care reform settled, the adult literacy field had hoped that Congress would take up reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), which hasn't been reauthorized since it was enacted in 1998. (WIA Title II is the largest source of federal funding for adult literacy and education programs.) **But as of this writing, there's no**

clear timetable for action on WIA. The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee held a hearing on WIA on February 24, but it related primarily to Title I. Reauthorization was mentioned briefly by U.S. Under Secretary of Education Martha Kanter during the March 25 hearing held by the Labor/HHS Appropriations Committee; she made more prominent mention of reauthorization as a priority in her written testimony.

Should WIA not be reauthorized this year, we hope that the progress made thus far will give us a strong start for the 112th Congress.

NAASLN members need to continue contacts with legislators so we are ready to respond to action alerts this summer as Congress works on appropriations.

American Graduation Initiative (AGI)

This initiative, which would have invested roughly \$12 billion in community colleges over 10 years, **appears to be a dead issue for now.** A provision to fund the initiative, announced by President Obama last summer, was included in the version of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA) that the House passed this past fall, but the budget reconciliation bill that was signed into law at the end of March dropped the provision.

New Approaches to Job Training

A recent edition of *Inside Higher Education* (December 18, 2009) featured an article on the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act. "New Approaches to Job Training" reported on a Capitol Hill meeting at which career and technical educators called the reauthorization of the WIA "unnecessarily complex and discouraging of innovative job training programs in its current form."

Read the entire article at www.insidehighered.com/news/2009/12/18/wia.

Talking Points for Advocacy for Adults with SLN

Studies Look at Special Learning Needs of Individuals in ABE, Literacy, At-Risk Youth Programs, and One-Stop Centers

Here are some talking points you can make when advocating for adults with special learning needs and funding for adult education.

In studies conducted by Dr. Laura Weisel of the TLP Group, using Power Path screening (www.powerpath.com), it was found that adult students in ABE programs

often struggle with learning because of underlying issues that are not recognized or addressed. These issues were found to affect the entire range of students in ABE programs, not just struggling readers.

In one study, 4,567 adult learners in 13 states were screened and found to have special learning needs in the following areas:

- Attention difficulties
- Visual stress syndrome
- Learning difficulties (Woodcock Johnson Full Scale score)
- Visual motor integration
- Auditory comprehension
- Rapid word/number naming

These special learning challenges not only underlie reading difficulties, but also keep many adult learners from maximizing their potential and from expediting their learning.

Students whose learning needs are addressed persist and succeed in their education. In a study of 600 ABE students at Santa Fe Community College, 104 adults were randomly screened for special learning needs using Power Path screening tools. Learning needs were then addressed in classrooms. The study compared outcomes for adults whose learning needs were addressed with adults in classes where instructors did not use techniques that took into consideration the learning differences. Data indicate huge gains in persistence (204 percent) and in post-testing (67 percent).

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Website of the Month - www.c-pal.net/business/index.html

Working Together: A Guide to Business and Adult Education Partnerships has been launched on the Community Partnerships for Adult Learning (C-PAL) website. The guide was developed with funding from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education.

Working Together is designed for businesses interested in improving the literacy skills of their current and future employees and strengthening adult education services in their communities. It includes information and materials that adult educators can share with businesses, such as descriptions of why businesses should invest in adult education from the perspectives of expanding their employee pipeline and corporate philanthropy. It also features partnership models ranging from pre-employment and incumbent worker training to volunteerism and corporate giving.

Profiles of business and adult education partnerships are also highlighted, along with resources for businesses and adult education programs that want to build or strengthen their partnerships.

Learn more at www.c-pal.net/business/index.html.

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Calling All Success Stories!

Are you a success story? An adult who overcame a special learning need? If so, **NAASLN Membership News and Views** is looking for you? **Send us your stories.** A look back in your life can be an inspiration for others to look ahead.

NAASLN is committed to ensuring and expanding opportunities for adults with special learning needs so that they can become successful and productive lifelong learners. Join in NAASLN's commitment by sharing your own story or one about someone else. Send your stories to newsletter@naasln.org or info@naasln.org.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Upcoming Events

CAEPA Rendezvous 2010: The Power of Adult Learning

October 22-23
Denver Marriott Tech Center
www.caepa.org.

AAACE Leading and Learning: Meeting Today's Challenges

October 26-29
Clearwater Beach, FL
www.aaace.org

NAASLN Road Trip Tracks

Watch the NAASLN Website Calendar for more information on events where NAASLN will be presenting special tracks, pre-conferences, or sessions. As they are confirmed, they will be posted on our website: www.naasln.org/calendar.htm.

If your state organization wants to feature a NAASLN-on-the-Road track, please contact Laura P. Weisel at powerpath@aol.com. It's a great way to add a national angle to your local professional development conferences.

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Did you enjoy this issue? Continue to be a part of NAASLN's dynamic e-community. If you have not yet done so, please by send in your \$35 annual membership fee today.

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.

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, 3849 Albright Avenue, 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 info@naasln.org for membership information or visit our web site: www.naasln.org/membership.htm.

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