



Deadline for Registration is Friday, September 17th.

All sessions have a maximum of 50 seats unless otherwise specified (*30 maximum).

****A* Sessions will be held on Wednesday, September 22nd***

****B* Sessions will be held on Thursday, September 23rd***

Wednesday, September 22nd and Thursday 23rd, 2010

This year's meeting brings us an opportunity to continue our dialogue about how the adult basic education (ABE) system can best support adult learners in their next steps. With limited resources, we know that the ABE system cannot do this alone. We must continue to develop, participate in and sustain collaborations with state and local stakeholders. Our strength will lie in our ability to forge meaningful partnerships that leverage a wide range of human, financial and organizational resources that will fully support the work necessary to ensure that adult learners are able to achieve their goals. To this end, the 2010 ABE Directors' Meeting will highlight the many ways that ABE programs are successfully collaborating with others to ensure that adult learners receive the services they need and deserve.

As we face the challenge of preparing adult learners to be college and career ready, the adult basic education system must adapt its policies and practices. On Day 2 of the meeting, participants will be asked to consider some proposed changes in policy. The areas that will be discussed include ensuring:

- effective classroom instruction
- access to intensive instructional services in each region
- access to college preparation services in each region

Before the meeting, please review *Facing the Future: Massachusetts Strategic Framework for Adult Basic Education*, which can be found at: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/acls/sp/FacingTheFuture.doc>. Also, prior to the Directors' Meeting, ACLS will send issue papers related to the Input Session for your review.

We look forward to seeing you in Falmouth!

Keynote Address – Wednesday, September 22nd - Nauset III, IV, V – 10:00 – 10:45

David Gadaire is Executive Director of CareerPoint Holyoke, one of 37 statewide One-Stop Career Centers serving the economic and workforce development needs of the greater Holyoke community. David's keynote address focuses on the importance of collaboration to the work that we do--what it is, why we do it, how we can do it well, and what obstacles to look out for along the way. David will also present some practical strategies program directors can use to connect with the workforce system in support of students needing access to next steps.

Presenter: David Gadaire, Executive Director, CareerPoint, Holyoke, MA

Plenary Session – Wednesday, September 22nd - Nauset III, IV, V – 11:00 - 12:00

Anne Serino, State Director of Adult Basic Education in Massachusetts, will address attendees about the "next steps" for ABE as framed in the ABE Strategic Framework. In addition, Anne will comment on the issues that will be highlighted at this year's conference and provide an update on trends in policy being discussed at the state and federal level.

Presenter: Anne Serino, State Director of Adult Basic Education, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Pre-Meetings for New Directors' Orientation and Current STAR Administrators Only – Tuesday, September 21, 2010

New Directors' Orientation – Pre-meeting on Tuesday, September 21st from 10-3 in Bayside

This part 1 of 3 - session workshop will provide an overview of the ACLS expectations for ABE Program Directors* of ESE funded programs. The first session will provide a brief history of ABE in MA, including an orientation to the ACLS Guidelines. Directors are encouraged to bring ideas, ask questions, and network with colleague Directors!

**This is a required training for all directors employed within the last year.*

Session for Current STAR Administrators – Pre-meeting on Tuesday, September 21st from 1-4:30 in Racepoint

Program Administrators who took part in the STAR Project in FY10 will be meeting with ACLS staff to discuss the tasks for the year ahead in implementing STAR. The group will discuss how program initial placement tools aligned with the DAR/STAR student groupings, Action Plans, and how the other three STAR meetings this year can be helpful, among other topics. Program Administrators will receive a copy of the ABE Program Handbook for STAR Implementation, FY2011.

** This is a required pre-session for the Program Administrators of the FY10 STAR Adult Basic Education funded programs.*

**A* Sessions will be held on Wednesday, September 22nd*

**B* Sessions will be held on Thursday, September 23rd*

ABE/IA Session – B7 8:30 – 10:15 Thursday, September 23rd in Chatham*

The directors and staff of the Adult Basic Education for Incarcerated Adults (ABE/IA) programs will be starting this the year off by addressing topics of interest that have been previously identified, new topics of interest and areas of importance in our work toward strengthening the ABE/IA programs, state-wide. These areas will be further addressed throughout the year in the monthly roundtable meetings.

Presenter: Beverly Rosario, ACLS Program Specialist, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

ABE Technology Action Plan Focus Group – A9 3:15-4:45 Wednesday, September 22nd in Nauset III

This session will provide an opportunity for directors to learn about and respond to a technology asset and need chart based on the recent technology survey. Liz O'Connor from Strategy Matters will seek feedback on selected themes to inform a five year statewide technology action plan. All levels of proficiency with technology welcome!

Presenter: Liz O'Connor, Owner, Principal, Strategy Matters, LLC

Bridging the Gap: Connecting to Postsecondary Opportunities – A10 3:15-4:45 Wednesday, September 22nd in Nauset II

From curricula to counseling to coordination, participants will learn approaches for bridging the gap between adult education and postsecondary education. Staff from College Transitions and ABE programs will share strategies for successfully transitioning ABE students to postsecondary opportunities.

Presenters: Linda Aspinwall, Transitions Coordinator, Massasoit Community College
Diane Desmarais, Transitions Coordinator, Bristol Community College
Lisa Jochim, Coordinator, UMASS Dartmouth
Betty McKiernan, Coordinator, Middlesex Community College
Babo Kamel, Transitions Coordinator, North Shore Community College
Sonya Snow Parrish, Coordinator, North Shore Community College
Deb Bibeau, Transitions Coordinator, Mount Wachusett Community College
Lynn Ricketts, Transitions Coordinator, Northern Essex Community College

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Building Partnerships that Strengthen Community Planning – A1 1:30-3:00 Wednesday, September 22nd - Nauset III

A statewide community planning evaluation completed in June 2009 recommended that ACLS provide examples of successful partnerships that include these characteristics: strong leadership, ties to the political context of the community, an active approach to continually scanning the community for changes/shifts in demographics or other community data, and a focus on community learning. Three community planners will share their strategies to strengthen and keep their partnerships strong.

Presenters: **Leslie Baker**, *Learner Support Specialist/Community Planner, Webster Adult Basic Education*
Claudine Chavanne, *Community Planner, Pittsfield Adult Learning Center*
Felisa White, *Director, Mujeres Unidas en Accion & Dorchester Adult Literacy Coalition Treasurer & Steering Committee Member*

Career Pathways – ABE Programs Chart New Directions – A11 3:15 – 4:45 Wednesday, September 22nd - Nauset IV

Through ACLS-funded Capacity Building grants, 14 programs developed projects to inform students about career pathways. Three grantees will share their work. Amy Eiferman of Jewish Vocational Service-Boston will address the culture change initiative at JVS to emphasize post-secondary education and training. Vincent Szymanski of Pittsfield Public Schools will address their use of My Skills Tutor and collaboration with the Educational Opportunity Center. Mina Reddy of the Cambridge Community Learning Center will discuss their Job Readiness and Next Steps curricula for GED and ESOL students, and their collaboration with Career Source and the Cambridge Employment Program.

Presenters: **Amy Eiferman**, *Director, Education and Training, Jewish Vocational Services*
Mina Reddy, *Director, Cambridge Community Learning Center*
Vincent Szymanski, *Director, Pittsfield Adult Learning Center*

Career Centers as Partners – A2 1:30-3:00 Wednesday, September 22nd - Nauset IV

A Career Center Director, a Workforce Board Director, and an ABE Program Director present on building partnerships between One-Stop Career Centers and ABE programs. David Gadaire, our keynote speaker, will share more detail about his work in Holyoke. Tom Perreira will discuss the Bristol County experience to help ABE providers serve students through Individual Training Accounts and an intensive GED program at the One-Stop in Fall River (through BCC and ACLS funding). Larry Bay will discuss working with the Hampden County Regional Employment Board, the One-Stop Career Centers, and the Chamber of Commerce.

Presenters: **Larry Bay**, *Director, Holyoke Chamber of Commerce*
David Gadaire, *Executive Director, CareerPoint, Holyoke*
Tom Perreira, *Executive Director, Bristol County WIB*

Collaborate and Build Community Using Cool Social Networking Tools! – A3 1:30-3:00 Wednesday, September 22nd – Chatham*

Discover useful computer-based tools for teachers and tutors from regular and distance programs alike. Tools such as Skype, Wiggio, DimDim and others can help students, tutors, teachers, and staff collaborate in groups, communicate via voice notes, conduct interviews, provide individualized support, run a book club, and much more!

Presenters: **Kathleen Ives**, *Associate Executive Director, The Sloan Consortium*
Diana Satin, *Educational Consultant*
Eunice Snay, *SABES Regional Technologist*

Contextualized Curriculum to Support Adult Learners in their Role as Parents – A4 1:30-3:00 Wednesday, September 22nd – Highland*

Participants will hear from a panel of program directors how they developed contextualized curriculum that integrates the needs and interests of adult learners who are parents. The session will feature a look back at what has been accomplished as well as a look forward towards planned activities, events, and enhanced collaborations. Key resources including copies of curricula/products developed by ABE Capacity Building for Family Literacy grantees will be provided.

Presenters: **Kermit Dunkelberg**, *Coordinator, Holyoke Community College/Ludlow Adult Learning Center*
John McGovern, *Project Director, Worcester Adult Learning Center*

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“My students have their GED, now what?” – A12 3:15-4:45 Wednesday, September 22nd – Chatham*

According to a recent Boston Globe article, "Leading Massachusetts industries will need nearly 400,000 workers over the next six years to fill new and existing jobs for workers with mid-level skills, from technicians to licensed practical nurses to manufacturing operators, requiring the state to place greater emphasis on vocational training and education after high school." This session will provide directors with information to share with teachers and counselors. Participants will learn methods to help students think like consumers when making decisions about their educational futures - the second most expensive investment they will ever make and an investment that may impact their families for generations.

Presenter: Mary Jayne Fay, Coordinator of ABE Teacher Licensure and Proprietary Schools, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Navigating the ESE Fiscal System for ABE Program Directors – A13 3:15-4:45 Wednesday, September 22nd – Highland*

This session will provide an opportunity to learn how to manage ESE/ABE awards and financial activities properly. The presenter will guide participants through standard procedures the ESE has developed to help grant recipients comply with administrative procedures and requirements for the use of public funds and accepted accounting practices. These includes the difference between direct, indirect, and administrative costs, budget applications and amendments, the process for requesting funds, final financial reports, audits, and other fiscal related topics. There will be ample opportunity for participants to ask questions.

Presenter: Dave LeBlanc, Director of Audits and Compliance, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Policy Input Session – B1,2,3,4,5,6 8:30-10:00 Thursday, September 23rd - Nauset II, II, IV, V, Bayside, Race Point

ACLS is considering some new policy directions to advance the goals of the Strategic Framework. In these breakout sessions, participants will have an opportunity to discuss implications of policies under consideration in three areas: Improving the Effectiveness of Classroom Instruction, Increasing Access to Intensive Instruction, and Increasing Access to College Preparation.

Presenters: ACLS Staff

Reading with the STARs – A5 1:30-3:00 Wednesday, September 22nd - Race Point

Information about the STAR program will be presented, highlighting the importance of diagnostic assessments and Evidence-Based Reading Instruction in 200-level classes (GLE 4-8.9). This session will review the rationale behind Evidence-Based Reading Instruction and include a presentation by a panel of current STAR practitioners to provide insight into the implementation of STAR theory and the educational leadership required in a STAR program to help implement evidence-based practice in the ABE classroom.

Presenters: Bernice Jensen, Coordinator, New Bedford Public Schools
Judith Kocik, Coordinator, Valley Opportunity Council
Joan Schottenfeld, Coordinator, Boston Community Centers/Blackstone

Report Out on Policy Input Sessions –10:45-12:00 Thursday, September 23rd - Nauset III, IV, V

Representatives from each breakout session will provide a brief report out. A general discussion, facilitated by the ABE State Director, will follow.

Presenter: Anne Serino, State Director of Adult Basic Education, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Retooling the Math Classroom for College Success – A14 3:15-4:45 Wednesday, September 22nd - Nauset V

ABE students seeking postsecondary study tend to take the GED and then the ACCUPLACER to enter community college. Because of poor ACCUPLACER math scores, 90% of GED graduates enter college developmental courses from which they never emerge. This session focuses on differences between ACCUPLACER and GED math questions and discusses resources to prepare students better for college math. Resources include the MAPT Math Score Reports that help practitioners identify areas where students need more instruction or teachers need more professional development; emerging professional standards in math; and professional development training. Participants will share ideas for pragmatic use of these resources.

Presenters: Sharon Artis-Jackson, ACLS ABE Professional Development Specialist, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Tom Mechem, GED Chief Examiner, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Jane Schwerdtfeger, ACLS Curriculum and Assessment Specialist, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Strengthening Your Data Analysis Skills – A6 1:30-3:00 Wednesday, September 22nd - Nauset V

This session will provide participants an opportunity to view both the new Cognos Manual and some of the newest reports that will assist directors in using data for instructional leadership. The session will focus on reviewing class level reports, viewing some “Favorite” reports developed by the SABES regional field technologists in response to user requests, and new dashboard reports at the “Site” and “State” levels. Participants will learn about joining a “Data Use Learning Community,” a new opportunity for programs to share strategies around promoting data use, fostering communication around performance data, and sustaining a culture of data use at the local level.

Presenter: Donna Cornellier, SMARTT ABE Project Manager, Executive Office of Education

The GED® – Shaping the Path Forward – A15 3:15-4:45 Wednesday, September 22nd - Race Point

Prompted by a new national conversation on educational attainment, the GED Testing Service has launched plans for the GED 21st Century Initiative. This calls for a different type of GED assessment that reflects and, when possible, aligns with the Common Core State Standards. This presentation will update you on what to expect on the tests, in the delivery of the tests, and the expectation of college and employment readiness for the GED examinee in the 21st century.

Presenter: Ruth Derfler, Director of GED Testing & Adult Diploma Programs, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

What Lies Ahead for Adult Basic Education? – A7 & A16 1:30-3:00 & 3:15-4:45 Wednesday, September 22nd - Bayside

Let’s continue the conversation started in *Facing the Future: Massachusetts Strategic Framework for Adult Basic Education* and prepare for the next chapter of the ABE system in our state.

Presenters: Bob Bickerton, Associate Commissioner Center for Technology, Assessment and Lifelong Learning
Anne Serino, State Director of Adult Basic Education, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

What’s New With the Massachusetts Adult Proficiency Tests? A Lot! – A8 1:30-3:00 Wednesday, September 22nd - Nauset II

The MAPT is now in its fourth year and is one of only seven tests approved by the U.S. DOE for use as part of the National Reporting System. In this session, participants will learn how the MAPT has been improved to align with the new Massachusetts ABE Reading Standards and how the forthcoming MAPT for Reading score reports will be developed. They will also hear an analysis of how well students performed on the MAPT in FY2010 and analyses of students who score significantly lower on their posttests as compared to their pretest. There will be time for questions.

Presenters: Stephen G. Sireci, Professor of Education and Director, Center for Educational Assessment at the University of Massachusetts Amherst
Dr. April Zenisky-Laguilles, Senior Research Fellow, Center for Educational Assessment at the University of Massachusetts Amherst

THE FOLLOWING IS NOT A SESSION

Next Steps for Program Design Showcase - Wednesday, 9-5, Thursday, 9-12:00 - Nauset I

The Showcase will feature table-top displays of curriculum and materials that programs have found to help students transition to their next steps. Plan to visit the Showcase area between 4:45 pm and 6 pm on Wednesday, September 22nd to talk with program directors about their exhibit and how their program is incorporating the next steps theme into the ABE and ESOL curriculum. The exhibitors will also be available on Thursday, September 23rd between 10:00 am and 10:45 am to share their experiences. The showcase area is open for general viewing throughout the conference.