

Workforce Development Update October, 2009

HOT NEWS!

New Appointment at Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) is Good News for ABE! Senate Confirms Brenda Dann-Messier as the Department's Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education.

The U.S. Senate has confirmed [Brenda Dann-Messier](#) as the Department's new assistant secretary for vocational and adult education, and she plans to be in her OVAE office as early as Oct. 13. Dann-Messier has served as president of the Providence, R. I. program [Dorcas Place](#) for the past 10 years. She also served on the R. I. Board of Governors for Higher Education and the board of the R. I. Higher Education Assistance Authority. Dann-Messier was the secretary of education's New England regional representative during the Clinton administration. She holds a doctorate in educational leadership from Johnson & Wales University, Providence campus, and a master's degree in instructional technology from Rhode Island College.

Dorcas Place Adult and Family Learning Center, which she led, is in its 28th year of providing comprehensive adult education programs to low-income Rhode Islanders. The center assists low-income adults in realizing their full potential through literacy training, employment, advocacy and community involvement. Nearly 1,000 students each year are enrolled in day and evening adult basic education, English language learning and GED classes; college transition programs at two campuses of the Community College of Rhode Island; family literacy and after-school programs to enhance the learning gains of children in local elementary schools; and workforce literacy training. The National Coalition for Literacy (NCL) presented a NCL Literacy Leadership Award to Dorcas Place in September 2009 for its contributions to improving literacy and raising literacy awareness. Under Dann-Messier's leadership, Dorcas Place was recognized for promising practices by the New England Literacy Resource Center, the National College Transition Network, the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, the Commission on Adult Basic Education and ProLiteracy America, and *U.S. News and World Report*. The R. I. Department of Education in February 2009 rated the center as one of the highest performing adult education programs in the state.

ABE/ESOL Subcommittee of the MA Workforce Investment Board: The next meeting is scheduled for September 14th from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Commonwealth Corporation. The discussion will focus on the concept paper for the implementation of the Dedicated Fund for Workplace Education that was developed by staff from ACLS and Comm Corp.

MA Workforce Board Association News - www.massworkforce.com

At the last quarterly meeting of the MA Workforce Board Association on October 5, 2009 Congressman John Tierney addressed the topic of WIA reauthorization. Hosted by new chairman of the MA Workforce Board Association, Bill Tinti, Chair of the North Shore Workforce Board, the meeting also featured remarks by Governor Deval Patrick and State Senator Tom McGee. Go to www.massworkforce.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **NETWORK 2009** – Sponsored by MCAE, SABES, and ACLS - October 21st and 22nd at The Best Western Inn and Conference Center in Marlboro, MA. For more information, go to www.mcae.net.
- **Commonwealth Workforce Coalition (CWC):**
CORI Information Day, October 28th, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
JFK Federal Building, Government Center, 16th floor, Boston, MA. Register at rmendes@jvs-boston.org
CWC's Annual Conference *Sharing Skills, Building Connections* will be held on March 10, 2010. Go to <http://cwc.cedac.org> for more CWC information.
- **Conference on Keys to Ending Homelessness – Social Security Disability Insurance**, October 30, 2009; University of MA Lowell Inn & Conference Center, 50 Warren Center, Lowell, MA 01852; Register through Middlesex Community College at 800-818-3434 for Course # **BIN 90694**. Keynote Speaker: Jim O'Connell, Boston Healthcare for the Homeless.
- **National Network of Sector Partnerships** 2009 conference, *Rooted in Success, Reaching for Change*, will take place from Nov. 10 to 13 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington DC. U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis and Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training Administration Jane Oates will be keynote speakers. Go to www.nssp.org for more information.
- **The National College Transition Network** holds its annual conference on November 16th and 17th at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Providence, RI. Go to www.collegetransition.org for more information.

Local WIB News

Boston - The **Boston Workforce Advisory Group** meets on Tuesday, October 13 at the Boston PIC offices.

Hampden County – On Sunday, October 4, 2009 at 2:00p.m., national media personality Chris Matthews convene a community town hall style event, "United in Hope: at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in collaboration with WWLP-22 News. Bill Ward, Director of the Hampden County Regional Employment Board reported that over 400 people attended this Sunday event and learned more about literacy efforts in the county.

Greater Lowell - The GLWIB held its Quarterly WIB meeting in September at the Holiday Inn Tewksbury. John Regan, Executive Vice President, Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM), was the guest speaker.

Foundation News/Research Updates

Lumina Foundation – the Lumina Foundation has announced its GOAL 2025: to increase the proportion of Americans with high-quality degrees and credentials to 60% by the year 2025. Go to www.luminafoundation.org/goal_2025 for more information. Also find reports on the achievement gap, community college access, financial aid and other important topics at the Lumina Foundation web site.

Public Private Ventures – www.ppv.org – Download the latest report “Job Training that Works: Findings from the Sectoral Employment Impact Study”.

The Aspen Institute – Sign up for the Aspen/EOP e-news at www.aspeneop@aspennst.org.

E-news is disseminated quarterly to provide news and information about the projects that make up the Fund for Innovation, Effectiveness, Learning, and Dissemination, the Workforce Strategies Initiative (WSI), and the Access to Capital and Credit project.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT **SABES**

Updated Career Awareness Curriculum Guide

The newly revised Guide on Integrating Career Awareness into the ABE & ESOL Classroom, developed by Martha Oesch and Carol Bower, is now available on the SABES website. The National Center on College Transitions funded the revision of the guide to include more information on the topic of transition to college. Available for download and on CD! www.sabes.org.

Northeast SABES hosts a session for ABE providers on **Green Jobs** featuring Alex Risley Schroeder on Oct. 27, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. Contact ppell3453@aol.com for more information.

Contact your **SABES Workforce Coordinator** for information on SABES WFD activities. Laurie Sheridan is the statewide SABES Workforce Coordinator; Contact her at 617-482-9485 or lsheridan@worlded.org. Go to www.sabes.org and scan the calendar for workforce related sessions. SABES Workforce Development Specialists include Dori McCormack at SABES West; Cathy Gannon at Central SABES, Kathleen Howell at SABES SE, Patricia Pelletier at SABES NE, and John Zhang at the ALRI.

For more information on the ACLS Workforce Development Specialty, contact Andrea Perrault, ACLS Workforce Development Specialist at 781-338-3852 or e-mail at aperrault@doe.mass.edu.