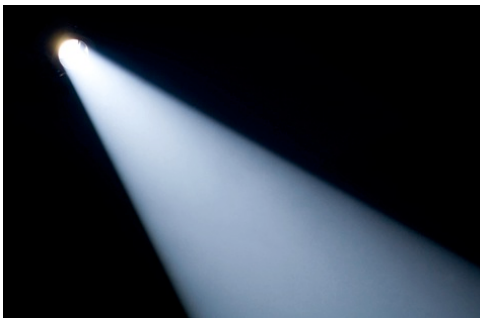




Newsletter Issue #7, Sept. 24, 2015

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THROWING DOWN THE GAUNTLET FOR PD

A new Blog posting about Adult Education Professional Development was published today by OCTAE of the U.S. Department of Education. The blog discussion, titled [***Throwing Down the Gauntlet for Professional Development***](#), is co-authored by Johan Uvin, Acting Assistant Secretary of Education (OCTAE), and Gail Spangenberg, President of the National Council for Adult Learning. Its release is timed to coincide with Adult Education and Family Literacy Week. It builds on NCAL's August 25th blog, [***Moving PD Closer to the Top***](#), which features essays by Mary Ann Corley, John Fleischman, Daphne Greenberg, David Rosen, Cristine Smith, Jackie Taylor, and Randy Whitfield, as well as the authors of the OCTAE blog.

Throwing Down the Gauntlet discusses adult education workforce demographics and the need for better data to make judgments about adult education teacher performance and adult education investments. It speaks about retention and compensation issues, and about the current reliance on part-time staff. It calls for closer attention to models across the country that draw heavily on full-time paid personnel...explicit attention to Adult Education professional development in state and federal legislation, economic development plans, and the like...and improved data collection systems that include professional development variables. It also calls for more concentrated attention to the challenge of funding Professional Development and the Adult Education enterprise generally, including the heavier use of nontraditional funding sources. It concludes with this message:

The problems of recruitment, preparation, support, and development of adult learning professionals are evident and it is time to solve them....Our learners deserve a stable and effective teacher and leader workforce. Responsible teachers and learners deserve greater respect, visibility, opportunity, and compensation. We need to make this happen.



OTHER NEWS



XPRIZE ADULT LITERACY UPDATE

In the XPrize Adult Literacy Award program, selections are currently being made for an ethics review board, a judging panel, and an advisory board, and team applications are being solicited. Board and panel make-up and competitors/applicants are expected to be publicly announced in January. In the meantime, NCAL readers and other interested groups are encouraged to consider registering as a team for the competition. For further details about joining as a team--you may do so until the end of December--go to <http://adulthoodliteracy.xprize.org/teams>. For a revised XPrize program overview and full Competition Guidelines, go to http://adulthoodliteracy.xprize.org/sites/default/files/alxp_guidelines_v20_2015-

[09-01.pdf](#). Note also that the XPrize Foundation recently archived an hour-long Q&A webinar video on [YouTube](#).



WIOA IMPLEMENTATION COMMENTS INVITED

With postings in The Federal Register, the U.S. Departments of Labor (Employment and Training Administration) and Education (OCTAE) recently invited the public – including leaders in Adult Education and Workforce Skills development – to comment on various aspect of WIOA implementation

- In July, the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) and OCTAE called for comments on the collection of data for the WIOA Performance Management, Information, and Reporting System (access at www.regulations.gov, search for OMB Control No. 1205-0NEW). The deadline for submissions was September 21. Some two dozen comments are posted at the site.
- On August 6, the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) called for comments in a posting called Required Elements for Submission of the Unified or Combined State Plan and Plan Modifications under WIOA (access at www.regulations.gov, search for Docket No. ETA-2015-0006). Comments are due by October 5. For detailed comments already submitted by the National Skills Coalition, [CLICK HERE](#).
- On September 1, ETA called for comments in a posting titled "Comment Request for Information Collection for the Workforce Performance Accountability, Information, and Reporting System" (access at www.regulations.gov, OMB Control No. 1205-3NEW). Comments are due by November 2.



LINCS LEARNER CENTER LAUNCHED BY OCTAE

In addition to posting its Professional Development blog, another OCTAE initiative has been launched in celebration of National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week. Its [LINCS Learner Center](#), activated online on September 22, is a superb, forward-thinking new database of resources available to adult learners everywhere who have online access. Adults who can read at basic to upper proficiency levels will be able to navigate the site either via computer, tablet, or mobile device. The new site provides easy-to-difficult instructions, materials, and courses in seven broad areas: *Learn to Read, Learn Math, Learn Science, Learn English, Get Job Skills, Become a U.S. Citizen,*

and *Find a Program*. The launch of this site is part of OCTAE's [Making Skills Everyone's Business](#) and aims to make on-demand learning available for both students and teachers. It is a gateway to top resources from federal agencies, national advocacy organizations, courseware designers, instructional programs and courses in reading, writing, math, and ESL including the Educational Development Corporation's TV 411 developed by Alexander Quinn and his colleagues. Learners can engage with the Center at no cost – in the class, on the move, at home, wherever and whenever the need arises. One section of the website functions as a comprehensive national directory of local ABE, ESL, and workforce skills services, with the material organized in a way that will be convenient for learners wherever they may live. The LINCS Learner Center is currently in beta form and is likely to undergo some refinement in the coming months.



NEW PIAAC ACTIVITIES & RESOURCES

The PIAAC website (www.piaacgateway.com) is rich with information and materials on recent and upcoming activities. For example, a variety of new analyses and reports are available from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). In its News & Highlights section, NCES presents [a table and two charts](#) that show the percentage distribution of yearly earnings among U.S. employed adults by literacy proficiency level. A [PIAAC Outreach Toolkit](#) is now available for adult educators and other groups. It contains videos that can be used to introduce PIAAC in local settings, as well as powerpoint slide modules, and audience handouts. In addition, PIAAC's website lists various strands and workshops it will offer in several conference venues over the next couple of months. Among those venues are:

- Proliteracy's annual conference on Oct. 14
- PIAAC Workshop Week at the Leibnitz Institute of Social Sciences in Germany, Oct. 26–30 (to teach junior researchers how to analyze and use PIAAC data)
- The Health Literacy Annual Research Conference (Nov. 2–3)
- The National College Transition Network (Nov. 9–11)
- The Council for Adult & Experiential Learning International Conference (Nov. 18).



SECOND CHANCE MS

When highly successful trial attorney Richard "Dickie" Scruggs served time in prison, he decided to tutor his fellow inmates in history and math for the GED. He was so taken by the experience that upon release he founded [Second Chance MS](#), an initiative to help high school dropouts in Mississippi study for the GED and engage in ABE and job-

related skills upgrading. Mississippi has one of the lowest high school graduation rates in the U.S, with over 22% of its adult population lacking a diploma and additional dropouts expanding the pool every year. One-third of Mississippi's workers lack the skills for available jobs. *Second Chance MS* is dedicated to building awareness and raising funds to lift the education levels of high school dropouts in the state. It works in partnership with 14 community colleges across the state--which provide GEDs, certifications, and adult basic education services--making student referrals to them from its website and in other ways. The new program's advisory board is made up of officials of Hinds Community College and the University of Mississippi School of Law, State Senator Sally Doty, President Tom Gresham of Double Quick, actor Morgan Freeman, former football player Archie Manning, the Rev. Chris Diggs of the Burns United Methodist Church, and two prominent lawyers. Those interested in supporting this venture can make donations at the Second Chance MS website.

PLEASE ALSO CONSIDER A DONATION TO NCAL
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