



Newsletter Issue #21, Mar. 20, 2017

In This Issue

- **SPEAKING OUT FOR AMERICA**
- **READER STANDING TALL: Tribute to Archie**
- **BLOG ALERT: Assault on America**
- **NEWS IN BRIEF**
- **EVENTS & OTHER RESOURCES**

The work of the National Council for Adult Learning aims to benefit all adults and families needing to improve their basic literacy, ESL, and workforce skills --without regard to race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual or political preference, immigrant status, country of origin, or religion.



SPEAKING OUT FOR AMERICA

The last issue of the NCAL News (go [HERE](#)) featured compelling quotes from a variety of national organizations about the importance in our current political environment of speaking up for America's founding principles, cultural values, and future health and well-being. Thousands of statements have been publicly given, and they continue to roll out, including the three shown below, which focus on inclusion and opportunity in America -- a joint statement by nearly 200 foundations.

comments from the artistic director of a small national arts organization, and a statement by a leading adult education organization:

- *The United States stands at a historic crossroads. Founded as a refuge from religious persecution and built by generations of immigrants, our country has been the standard bearer internationally for the assertion and protection of inalienable rights and freedoms, a beacon of hope for refugees facing oppression and persecution, and a land of opportunity for immigrants seeking a better life for themselves and their families. As philanthropic institutions, we have built our missions on this proud and rich tradition. We have invested in creating healthy communities, promoting diversity and inclusion, building a vibrant democracy, and advancing equity and equality for all people, regardless of gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender expression, immigration status, and national origin.*

The recently issued immigration executive orders compromise our nation's founding principles and the Constitution, our standing in the world, and our core values of liberty, justice, and due process. They weaken our moral leadership, fuel the efforts of those who wish us ill, harm our global competitiveness, and fray our social fabric.

Our foundations support diverse issues, strategies, and communities across the country, but we are united in the belief that immigrants and refugees are integral to every aspect of our society. Newcomers enrich our culture and tradition as artists, playwrights, and dancers. Naturalized citizens strengthen our civic life as voters, jurors, school-board members, and elected officials. Immigrant entrepreneurs and refugee-owned businesses revitalize neighborhoods, towns, and cities across America. Foreign-born scientists and engineers fuel innovations and help our country prosper. Farmworkers put food on our tables, and caregivers nurture our children, care for our elders, and nurse our ill. Young newcomers—including DACA beneficiaries—demonstrate their patriotism and enthusiasm for American ideals in schools, communities, workplaces, and the armed forces. Without the contributions of immigrants and refugees now and throughout our history, our collective well-being and economic vitality would be greatly diminished.

We, the undersigned philanthropies, join public officials, the faith community, business leaders, and the American public in supporting policies that protect our national security, strengthen our economy, and

policies that protect our national security, strengthen our economy, and uphold core American values. We stand with our grantees -- advocates, organizers, researchers, and service providers -- in calling for policies that reflect our nation's founding principles, promote cohesion and inclusion, instill hope, and show compassion. Policies that recognize our global interdependence, that honor our tradition of welcoming those seeking refuge and a better life, and that keep families together will make our communities stronger, safer, and more prosperous.

We expect additional challenges in the weeks and months ahead on the immigration front, including expanded detention and deportations, and on policies affecting the rights of women, African Americans, the LGBTQ community, and other vulnerable groups. The issues, communities, and core values that our foundations have sought to advance are under serious and imminent danger. With history and morality as our guide, we reject discriminatory policies that target individuals based on gender, race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender expression, and other grounds. We stand committed to the inherent value and dignity of every person at home and abroad. We stand together for the American Dream. **[For a list of signatories, see www.gcir.org/joint-foundation-statement-immigration]**

-
- *E.B. White is widely known for many things including Elements of Style, Charlotte's Web, and Stuart Little. Nearly three quarters of a century ago, in 1942, he offered this bit of nonpartisan and prophetic wisdom which I think is still relevant in today's troubled times:*

"The United States, almost alone today, offers the liberties and the privileges and the tools of freedom. In this land the citizens are still invited to write their plays and books, to paint their pictures, to meet for discussion, to dissent as well as to agree, to mount soap boxes in the public square, to enjoy education in all subjects without censorship, to hold court and judge one another, to compose music, to talk politics with their neighbors without wondering whether the secret police are listening, to exchange ideas as well as goods, to kid the government when it needs kidding, and to read real news of real events instead of phony news manufactured by a paid agent of the state. This is a fact and should give every person pause."

I invoke E.B. White tonight because it seems a good way to make a point about the importance of the arts in our country. Dance has often been

given short shrift in the overall funding picture. But we couldn't live without the federal and state funding support we do get. Yet, as I speak, the National Endowment for the Arts and for the Humanities are in jeopardy of reduced funding if not elimination. It's my hope that you'll show your support for the arts in the coming months by speaking out in any way you can to support strong public funding for every art. [New York Theatre Ballet, [video and text](#), March 5]*

-
- *This is a nation of immigrants. Immigration defines the past, present, and future of the United States. Immigrants' contributions to U.S. society and their integration underlie the nation's progress to date and its ability to thrive in the future. Immigrants and their children will account for 85% of the net growth in the U.S. workforce over the next 20 years....Since 1951 we have worked with vulnerable populations, including hundreds of thousands of refugees and immigrants....The executive order undermines U.S. foreign policy by diminishing the United States' role in the world....World Education is resolutely opposed to discrimination of any kind and reaffirms its deep commitment to inclusiveness....We encourage our partners to welcome, speak out, and show their support for immigrants and refugees. [World Education, May 13, go [HERE](#) for the full statement]*

In addition to public statements, important and widely circulated articles are being published almost daily to raise understanding and counter hate-mongering, racism, political extremism, and trashing of the arts and sciences. Two of them are [The Year in Hate and Extremism](#) (Intelligence Report, Spring 2017 issue, Southern Poverty Law Center) and [Standing Strong for Science and Democracy](#) (Catalyst, Union of Concerned Scientists, Winter 2017 issue). Political Research Associates has published [a rich archive of resources on the anti-immigrant movement](#). Moreover, a recording will soon be available from a March 9th panel presentation in New York City, titled ***Trump, the Free Press & Preserving Our Democracy***. The event was held at the New York Ethical Culture Society and co-sponsored by NOW-NYC. NCAL will advise in a future newsletter issue where to obtain the recording.

* **Note:** The President's "skinny" 2018 budget, issued on March 16, calls for eliminating the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, NPR, the National

Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Appalachian Commission, the Institute for Museums & Library Sciences, Meals on Wheels, and a wide range of other organizations that improve and protect the quality of life and learning in America.



READER STANDING TALL: Tribute to Archie

Last Reader Standing was written by the late Archie Willard with Colleen Wiemerslage. The book, copyrighted in 2013, is an easy-to-read story about Archie's journey from being a non-reader in his youth to becoming a new reader in middle age and then a lifelong literacy advocate.

Former First Lady Barbara Bush, who is referenced in the early part of the book, met Archie in 1994 when they found themselves speaking at the same meeting. At that time she said: "Archie, your speech was wonderful! It's difficult for me to believe you've only recently learned to read. You need to continue spreading the word." As people throughout the field know, Archie did exactly that, well into his 80s. He became an internationally known and widely respected advocate in both adult education and health literacy. One of his many accomplishments was founding VALUE USA, which by coincidence was [featured in NCAL's last newsletter](#).

Last Reader Standing is deeply humbling and generous. It is written with remarkable simplicity and clarity. It gives a compelling personal account that should be inspiring and helpful to readers at all ages in all kinds of settings.

The book is available on loan from most local libraries. It can also be

purchased from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). It may not be in stock in some bookstores, but NCAL obtained it from the Print-on-Demand service of [THIS](#) local Barnes and Noble store in NYC. The family will receive royalties from all sales. Readers who wish to further honor Archie's legacy may want to consider a donation to [VALUE](#).



ASSAULT ON AMERICA

Assault on America: Trump's FY18 Budget Proposals is a new NCAL blog by Gail Spangenberg and James Parker. To access the piece, go [HERE](#). It discusses the dire impact on adult education and other domestic programs that the federal budget cuts currently proposed by the Trump Administration would cause.



NEWS IN BRIEF



The New York Public Library recently received a \$20 million donation from Meryll Tisch and James Tisch, former chancellor of the New York State Board of Regents and president and CEO of Loews Corporation, respectively. The main purpose of this funding is to expand and strengthen the Library's education programming, ranging from early literacy classes to technology training. The donors also hope to support programs that will "expose students to the rich holdings of the system's

four research centers." Ms. Tisch expressed the hope that the initiative will become "a blueprint for what urban libraries across the country should be turning themselves into." To read the full article, go to [*As a Girl She Spent Time in the Library. Now She's Giving It \\$20 Million*](#), New York Times, March 11.



A new survey report by the Rennie Center ([**Condition of Education in the Commonwealth: Putting Students at the Center of Reform**](#)) speaks about policy and practice changes needed to put America's children on a path to success in college and careers. Although the paper focuses on the K-12 age group in New England -- early education indicators and K-12 indicators needed for success in college are treated in depth -- findings relevant to adult and higher education planners are given. For example, data show that "nearly a third of the Commonwealth's public high school graduates require remedial coursework once they enroll in public higher education...." But, according to the report, nearly half of New Englanders believe that graduates of public high schools in that region are prepared for college and a career and they think remedial education is not necessary. The report contains fact sheets for the states of RI, CT, MA, NH, VT, and ME. Those polled by the Center's survey consider wider and wiser use of student-centered learning an essential ingredient for success.



The **Civil Rights Project at the University of California-Los Angeles** has issued [*The Hidden Cost of California's Harsh School Discipline*](#), a new report by Russell Rumberger and Daniel Losen. These researchers tracked a cohort of high school students over three years and then factored their findings into established economic models. They found that suspended students had a 60 percent graduation rate, well below that of 83 percent for non-suspended students. Suspension by itself resulted in a 6.5 percent drop in the graduation rate. The analysis shows that the economic consequences of high school dropping out due to suspension will cost California \$2.7 billion during the lifetimes of the cohort studied. It also shows that cutting suspension rates for the 10th grade cohort would result in huge economic savings to the state and increased lifetime earnings for the students. The report has important implications for school districts throughout California and nationally.

For more information, go [HERE](#).



Two of the country's leading adult education and workforce development organizations have just released their analyses of the Trump Administration's FY2018 budget proposals. The analysis of the **National Skills Coalition**, titled *Trump Fiscal Year 2018 budget blueprint calls for steep cuts in training, education*, is available [HERE](#). The analysis of the **Center for Law & Social Policy** (CLASP), *President Trump's budget poses grave danger to well-being of hard-working poor and low-income people--and the nation's economy*, is available [HERE](#).



The online journal of the **Migration Policy Institute** recently published its annual compilation of *"most frequently sought-after current and historical" immigration data* for the U.S., drawing on multiple sources including the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Departments of Homeland Security and State. Among the findings are that immigrants to the U.S. accounted for almost 17% of the total civilian workforce in 2015. Moreover, between 2000 and 2015 the largest percentage of immigration growth occurred in five states, ND, TN, SD, SC, and WY. In addition, education attainment levels of recent arrivals are apparently higher now than they were only a few years ago (although the overall number of immigrants to America has decreased substantially since 2000). For example, 48% of entrants between 2011–2015 who were 25 years of age and older have some college education and 29% hold a bachelor's degree or higher. For the full article, go [HERE](#).



According to **projections by the Pew Research Center**, without future immigrants the U.S. working-age population (25–64) would decrease substantially by 2035. That population group has doubled since 1965 but as of 2015 will go up or down depending on immigration policy. However, with a slower growth projected for the workforce generally, due to retirements in the baby boom generation, immigrants will play the primary role in the future growth of the workforce. For more information go [HERE](#).



✓ The **National Adult Learner Coalition** (NALC) is a new collaborative formed by Leaders in Professional, Continuing and Online Education (UPCEA), the Council for Advanced and Experiential Learning (CAEL), the Online Learning Consortium (OLC), and the Presidents' Forum. Collectively, the group of four founders represents more than 1,000 U.S. higher education institutions that have longstanding commitments to adult learners. The new Coalition received start-up funding from the Lumina Foundation. It intends to *improve alignment between the arenas of postsecondary education and workforce development*. According to [UPCEA](#), it aims specifically to (1) modernize federal education and workforce policy to reflect the adult learner as the new normal, (2) educate stakeholders on the value and needs of adult learners and innovative ways to serve them, and (3) mobilize colleges and universities, employers, government, and other key constituencies to advance the adult learner. Already, NALC has issued [Strengthening America's Economy By Expanding Educational Opportunities for Working Adults](#), February 2017. For more information, go [HERE](#).

✓ The **Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities** (APLU) and the **Institute for Higher Education Policy** (IHEP) have developed case studies to show how *14 different postsecondary institutions are "driving progress on campus through the effective use of student-level data."* The case studies describe each institution's approach to using student demographic and other data to improve student learning and graduation rates. Links are given to each of the detailed case studies. According to an official of APLU, the case studies reveal how the absence of a comprehensive federal student-level data system limits campus decision-making, and they show what would be possible if such data were available. For more information and links to the individual case studies, go [HERE](#).

✓ The **National Conference of State Legislatures** (NCSL) has created a *searchable database of WIOA-related legislation* enacted in state legislatures during the 2015 session. NCSL's intent is to strengthen implementation of WIOA by providing resources and state-level legislative information on such topics as sector strategies, career pathways, adult education, career/job training, and state planning and

pathways, adult education, career/job training, and state planning and governance issues. Data can be tracked by state, topic, primary sponsor, bill number, or keyword. For more information, go [HERE](#).



The four-year **GradNation Community Summit** program of **America's Promise Alliance** ended on March 17th with its 100th summit meeting in Worcester, MA. This initiative was carried out with funding from AT&T. Its purpose was to encourage cities across the country develop appropriate local solutions to help young people succeed in high school and successfully go on to college. A recent GradNation infographic reports that more than 24,500 people attended the summits (including 4,000 youth) in 38 states. Moreover, 62 of the summits had youth presenters, and the planning committees for 39 summits included young people. For the infographic and other information, go [HERE](#).



Patricia Tyler has been named the **new Executive Director of NAEPDC**, the National Adult Education Professional Development Consortium. [NAEPDC now includes the former National Commission of State Directors of Adult Education, NCSDAE.] Ms. Tyler was the former Maryland state ABE director. She spoke to NCAL about her new role: "I truly enjoyed my time as State Director in Maryland and am looking forward to working with my colleagues across the nation as we delve into implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Integrated programming and strong partnerships are highlighted throughout the Act and are key to a service delivery system that meets the needs of our students. Adult Education providers are seeking innovative strategies to put these concepts into action. NAEPDC is having many conversations around helping our providers discover best practices for Integrated Education and Training and Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education. Additionally, I understand that our field senses a need to promote awareness of our services and the successes of the participants. I look forward to hearing from colleagues how we can help them meet these and other challenges." Ms. Tyler can be reached at ptyler@naepdc.org. With this appointment, NAEPDC's former director Lennox McLendon has returned to consulting and can be reached at llmcl422gmail.com.

2017 Is A Year of Special Challenges in Adult Education

PLEASE [CLICK HERE](#) TO DONATE TO NCAL

(if by check see address below)

2000 donors giving only \$25 would generate \$50,000



EVENTS & OTHER RESOURCES



Webinars, Conferences, Other Events

- * **World Education** – March 29–May 17, an online professional development course titled *College Readiness for Adults: Beyond Academic Preparation*. Designed for educators, counselors and administrators, and facilitated by Jody Maloney. For information and to register, go [HERE](#).

- * **Goodling Institute for Research in Family Literacy, Penn State University** – April 2–5, Orlando, Florida, a full-day pre-conference at the COABE Conference in Orlando Florida, plus five special sessions including *Developing Basic Skills Curriculum for IET* and *Tackling Employability Outcomes in Family Literacy Programming: A Case Study Project*. To register, go [HERE](#).

- * **American Youth Policy Forum** – April 26, the *Samuel Halperin Lecture and Youth Public Service Award* will be presented at a special event hosted by AYPF and the Institute for Educational Leadership. For more information and to register, go [HERE](#).

- * **16th Annual Health Literacy Conference** – May 3–5, this conference will focus on *Buildina Brides: Promotina Health Eautv and Health*

Literacy. The event, to be held in Irvine, CA, includes sponsored luncheon roundtables on the International Health Literacy Association, Health Literacy Credentialing, and the IHA Center for Health Literacy Solutions. For more and to register, go [HERE](#).

* **Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems** – The CASAS National Summer Institute, June 13–15, Orange County, CA. *Professional development* in competency-based and online testing with CASAS e-tests, transitioning learners to postsecondary education and the workplace, using data for program improvement, and other topics. Keynote speaker: Lindsey Woolsey, President of the Woolsey Group. Go [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

* **University Professional & Continuing Education Association** – June 14–16, UPCEA's *2017 Summit for Online Leadership* will be held in San Diego. Although designed primarily for postsecondary education leaders, adult educators may find parts of this conference interesting (although the high fees may be prohibitive for some). For more information, go [HERE](#).

* **National Center for Families Learning** – October 9–11, NCFL's *Families Learning Conference 2017* will be held in Tucson, AZ. NCFL has asked for proposals for its concurrent session presenters and student speakers that reflect "the best thinking and practices in family literacy and learning, two-generation education solutions, and parent and family engagement." April 7 is the deadline for proposals. For more information, to submit proposals, and/or to register, go [HERE](#).

* * * * *



From the American Youth Policy Forum – For a recording of AYPF's March 1st webinar on the *Role of Data to Support College and Career Readiness and Success for Students in Foster Care*, go [HERE](#).



From CLASP (Center for Law and Social Policy) – (1) [President Trump Wants to Help Working Families But Which Families?](#) is a blog posting by Hannah Matthews and Liz Ben-Ishai March 2, 2017. It

blog posting by Hannah Matthews and Liz Ben-Israel, March 2, 2017. It has been cross-posted by [Moms Rising](#). (2) [Give Priority to Federal Investment in Low-Income People](#), testimony given on March 7th by CLASP Executive Director Olivia Golden to the House Committee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies. (3) [The Evidence Builds: Access to Medicaid Helps People Work](#), a brief by Jessica Gehr and Suzanne Wike.



From Education DIVE – [Credentialing remains a slow-growing process for higher ed](#), Jarrett Carter, March 15.



From Education Week – [If Immigration Agents Come Knocking, Schools Must Follow These Steps](#), by Corey Mitchell, March 13.



From MDRC – (1) [Evidence First: Sector-Focused Training That Meets the Needs of Job Seekers and Employers](#), a podcast geared to job training that can help low-income adults develop skills for high-demand jobs with potential for career growth. The podcast is based on MDRC's evaluation of the WorkAdvance program. (2) [Putting Evidence at the Heart of Making Policy](#).



From the Migration Policy Institute – [The Revised Trump Travel Ban: Who Might be Affected from the Six Targeted Countries?](#), by policy analyst Sarah Pierce. The document discusses "vetting procedures" for people from the six countries (Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen) and potential outcomes of the ban as court challenges continue on.



From NPR – [English Language Learners: How Your State is Doing](#), by Claudio Sanchez, February 2017. This nprED state-by-state looks at the 5 million or so public school students in the U.S. today who are learning to speak English. It reports on who the ELL students are, where they are located, and how they're being taught. NPR considers this "one of the biggest challenges in U.S. public education today." CA (29%),

TX (18%), FL (5%), and NY (4%) have the largest concentration of ELL students.

 Forward to a Friend

Join Our Mailing List!

This newsletter is a publication of the
National Council for Adult Learning
440 East 23rd Street – 11th Floor (#C), New York, NY 10010
info@ncalamerica.org www.ncalamerica.org

Donate Now
Secure donations through
Network for Good

To donate by check or money order, mail to the above address.

**The Council is a 501c(3) tax exempt public charity.
Your donation is fully tax deductible.**