



Communicator

News from Utah Association for Adult, Community,
and Continuing Education

May 2001

“The Day on the Hill”

By
Cindy Krueger

In March, Nikki Lovell and I had the opportunity to attend “The Day on the Hill” in Washington D.C. representing UAACCE. In short, it was a Legislative/Policy Workshop where we learned tips and strategies on how to approach our National and State Legislators with concerns and issues. We then had the opportunity to put them into practice. Each state set up appointment meetings with our representatives in Congress and we visited with them about our issues. We then met back together and had debriefing reports on what we had learned. The National Community Education Association (NCEA) and Service Learning sponsored the Legislative/Policy Workshop. This was NCEA’s 8th year of sponsorship and UAACCE’s first time attendance.

Nikki and I were able to visit all five offices of our U.S. Congress. This year we left the message of NCEA’s Legislative Platform on 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) and the importance of after school programming. We provided the following material for them to review: UAACCE’s Resource Directory, the report card on after-school programs state wide, and a fact sheet on numbers being served through Service-Learning. We shared successes and concerns regarding these programs. We offered our association and its members as a vehicle for providing them with Utah specific information on Adult, Community and Continuing Education. We also invited them to visit our programs when they are in Utah.

What a wonderful learning experience. I have a new perspective and respect for the political process and our representatives. If I were to put a theme to my experience, it would be: “Political Novice---Eager to Learn”. I now know I can make a difference. I am excited and motivated knowing I have the opportunity to influence our legislatures and help them become interested in our issues.

Growing up, I had developed an attitude that I could not make a difference in influencing policy makers. I believed you had to have specialized training. I had no stake in the system, and the unknown was fearful to me. I was just meeting the minimum requirements of citizenship—voting. I have learned I can and need to exercise my full political rights—vote, freedom of speech, free press, etc. In the world of politics and funding cycles we often see important programs abolished--never to be heard from again.

The Day on the Hill is our best opportunity to educate Congress about our issues. We need to continue to move UAACCE memberships agenda at the national and state level. Visits on the hill are key to making things happen. When they see a local constituent who is concerned enough to walk in the door to take to them an issue, they know that the issue is of high importance. It gives the elected official an opportunity to get to know you personally, educates him or her about our profession and association and puts a human face on legislation that impacts our members.

13th ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

"Virtual World Of Learning"

UAACCE's 13th Annual Conference will be held this fall at the Marriott Hotel in Park City on October 22-23, 2001. The conference committee headed by President-Elect Susan Anderson promises an exciting conference for all participants. Come and enhance your professional development and prepare for the challenges we face in education.

Our keynote speaker is nationally known Dan Clark, author of 10 highly acclaimed books including Puppies For Sale recently made into a motion picture filmed at Paramount Studios starring Jack Lemmon and Jesse James. This film was the winner of 7 Film Festivals internationally. Dan will educate and inspire us in our endeavors to produce programs that foster a successful learning environment.

The 2001 UAACCE Conference will include presentations and sessions in the following strands:

- Adult Education
- Community Education
- Continuing Education
- Corrections Education
- Literacy
- ESL
- Technology
- Personal Development
- Special Interest

We will also have a special session called Critical Issues Forum with a panel of guests from the political arena to discuss concerns we have with our programs. Come prepared with your questions.

More details of sessions will be in upcoming newsletters.

If you would like to present or know someone who has a quality presentation, fill out our Call For Presenters form and send to Susan Anderson. Any questions regarding the conference, give Susan a call at 576-7981 or 202-8231 pager.

UTAH CORRECTIONS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION BECOMES NEWEST FORUM

The Utah Corrections Education Association (UCEA) petitioned to the UAACCE board for forum status with the organization and was accepted at the last board meeting in April. The Correctional Education Association exists to provide leadership for correctional educators who are employed in an organized academic and vocational education setting for the benefit of incarcerated individuals. Students in correctional institutions form a segment of our society that differs from all other adult populations by nature of their cultural and functional diversity.

Correctional educators believe the key to reducing recidivism is education. Professionals who provide services for adjudicated individuals strive to foster positive attitudes among students and promote in their educational experience lifelong learning with successful life skills to be productive and responsible community members.

Officers of the UCEA include
President - Howard Davis,
President-Elect and Publications Chair - Winston Scoville,
Secretary - Pauleen Stephenson,
Treasurer - Kay Evans,
Membership Chair - Elaine Peterson,
Staff Development Chair - Susan Anderson, Special Education Chair - Jana Young.

Welcome UCEA members to UAACCE!

MPAEA Convention in Albuquerque

Over twenty-five people from Utah attended the annual MPAEA convention which was held in Albuquerque on April 25-28th. The theme of the conference was "The Never Ending Story." We were treated to an immersion in Indian culture with several ceremonies and presentations. One of the keynote speakers was Felipe Ortega who can trace his ancestry on three different lines to before the organization of Mexico as a nation over 400 years ago. He is internationally known for his artistic revival of Jicarilla Apache micaceous clay pottery. He shared some of his life experiences while relating his ideas about inclusion of all races and cultures into the larger culture. The Gathering of Nations was also being held at the same time in Albuquerque.

Presentations were made by UAACCE members, Gerald Giles, Sandra Grant, Kim Doerer, Loma Prince, and Gaylin Rollins. We attended sessions on such topics as: Math Tic Tac Toe, Teaching the Unconventional Student, Writing for Publication, the Acquisition of Public Dollars, Recognizing and Overcoming Biases, Iep for Adults with Disabilities, Connecting English to the Workplace, Ged 2002, Writing Selfishly, Does an Orange Float?, Secrets of Leadership, and All this Technology Is Driving Me Crazy.

Andy Shinkle, UAACCE board member from Utah State University was selected to become an MPAEA board member to serve a three year term. Congratulations to Andy. Sandra Grant, who has been our board member for the past three years, received the Award of Excellence for her dedication and service to MPAEA and to our state. Thanks Sandi for all your efforts.

Next year the MPAEA conference will be held in Phoenix, Arizona. We should plan to have

UAACCE will be sponsoring another grant writing workshop in Cedar City on July 9-10 in conjunction with the Shakespearean Festival. This was very successful last year and we anticipate a great time for those who care to participate. Please go to the website at www.UAACCE.org to get more information.

many more of our members in attendance there.

Light on Literacy Conference Held

The statewide "Light on Literacy" conference was held in Provo on March 29 & 30. This was the second year in which professional and volunteer people involved in literacy from pre-school through adult levels were invited. About 180 participants enjoyed the two-day conference.

Pre-conference sessions on REACH training, grant writing, and student-centered learning were offered. Seven break-out sessions during the conference offered a variety of topics including self-improvement (de-junking, time management, feeling good about yourself) in addition to literacy topics such as phonics, cross-age tutoring, civics curriculum, family literacy, participatory learning, UEN resources, reading strategies, etc. Other topics for program personnel included marketing, celebrating and recognizing volunteers, etc.

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Dian Thomas, who has made over 200 television appearances, was the keynote speaker. Throughout her life, Dian has struggled with reading difficulties and yet has attained great success through her creativity. She admonished all of us who work with struggling readers to try our very best to be encouraging and patient with those individuals and realize how difficult life will be for them if we don't help them to overcome their problems.

The banquet featured wild and wacky entertainment by the "Quick Wits" improv group. Awards were presented to outstanding literacy programs, extraordinary teachers, and students who have excelled. Mary Hausen and Jackie Powell were honored for their many years of service in behalf of literacy. Tiffany Seaman, Miss Utah USA, presented the awards. Tiffany has traveled to every county in Utah talking to school-age children about literacy.

A statewide literacy conference will not be held next year, but literacy personnel are encouraged to attend the International TESOL conference in March of 2002.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION WORKSHOP

by Lynne McKenna

On April 9, 2001, UAACCE's Community Learning Centers Forum presented their second quarterly training, a Legislative Action Workshop, at Salt Lake City's Law and Justice Center. It was exciting to bring together UAACCE members who have a desire to impact the legislative and funding decisions which so strongly affect the scope and effectiveness of programs for children, adults and families.

After a welcome by Russ Collett, Forum Co-Chair, we heard from David Steele, Director of Adult Education Services at the Utah State Office of Education, and Utah State Senator. Dave began by asking: "how many people does it take to initiate a Bill in the legislature? . . . Only ONE!" He went on to describe his political experiences, and challenged the group to become involved at this critical time, when funds for Adult Ed. have already been redirected into Block Grants to School Districts, and the 21st CCLC Grants are similarly threatened. (See related article)

Next, we heard from Cindy Krueger, current UAACCE President, and Nikki Lovell, long-time Board Member, who had just returned from a very educational "Day on the Hill" in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the National Community Education Association, a strong advocate of proactive political activity. Cindy began by describing herself as "a political novice, willing to learn," and went on to describe the excitement of learning how the national legislative system works, and the opportunity every individual has to make a difference in his or her state. She described meeting with members of the Utah Delegation, and then distributed some excellent handouts on how bills become law, who serves on which key committees in the Utah Legislature, when different interim committees meet, etc. Nikki Lovell then described her experiences in Washington, noting that most state associations send the same representatives to visit their Congressional representatives yearly, so continuity can lead to more effective results. She urged the group to get to know their representatives, both State and Federal, if they truly want to make a difference in the way their programs are understood and funded.

After a "Networking Lunch," Christine Huley, Grants Director at Granite School District, and nationally known group facilitator, presented a

framework for how to be productive as a group. We then broke into two groups, one focused on out-of-school-hours programs, and one examining Adult Education issues.

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After identifying the overall purpose for each group, members defined "where we are now, where we need to be, and how we plan to get there." When the groups came back together, it came as no real surprise that the issues facing both are similar: both groups view themselves as currently underfunded, outside mainstream education programs, and in need of support from their elected representatives.

The balance of the workshop was spent brainstorming future actions. We decided that each participant would contact local and/or national representatives, educate them about our programs and needs, and work toward more specific proposals to be presented to appropriate representatives this summer. Anna Wright from the Mount Logan Middle School 21st CCLC will prepare a sample letter addressing the 21stCCLC funding crisis specifically, and everyone will encourage their colleagues to contact representatives regarding specific issues.

By the end of the day, there was a real feeling of accomplishment and optimism among group members. By joining together, people can make a difference! If you would like to become involved in political advocacy through UAACCE, please contact Russ Collett (E-mail: colletru@uvsc.edu) or Ann Sasich (E-mail: annsasich@slc.k12.ut.us)

21st CCLC Crisis Update

As some of you may know, funding for future 21st Century Community Learning Centers is currently under study, and there is a very real possibility that future funds may be awarded in Block Grants to each

state. Because of Utah's relatively small population, fewer programs here will be funded. If you have seen the difference made by the nine programs already in place, and want to impact future funding, please call your Senator or Representative and let them know that you DO NOT support Block Grant funding for 21st CCLC.

Funding for 21stCCLC will be included in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 through Senate Bill 1, Better Education for Students and Teachers (BEST). Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT) has proposed an amendment to the bill to remove 21st CCLC funding from the block grant and continue to award funds to individual programs. For this amendment to have any hope of passage, it is imperative that educators contact their representatives and urge support for the Dodd Amendment.

Finally, President Bush's proposed budget freezes 21stCCLC funding at the 2001 level \$845.6 million rather than increasing funding up to \$1.4 Billion, as had been proposed by the previous administration. Current funding levels support programs for only about one-eighth of the estimated 8 million latch-key children in America.

If you want to do your part, contact your Senator or Representative:

Senator Orrin Hatch	801.524.4380
Senator Robert F. Bennett	801.524.5933
Congressman Chris Cannon	801.379.2500
Congressman Jim Matheson	801.524.4394
Congressman James Hansen	801.451.5822

All members of Congress can be reached in their Washington, D.C. offices through the U.S. Capitol Switchboard: 202.224.3121

Visit the Congressional website, www.congress.org to identify your representatives by entering your ZIP code, and to e-mail members of Congress.

GED 2002 Training

Gaylin Rollins from Alpine School District has been selected by the Utah State Office of Education's Adult Education Division to attend training put on by the national GED Testing Service concerning the new GED 2002 tests. He will be involved throughout the summer in training program directors and teachers in the intricacies of the new test. There will be ten different sessions offered. Those attending will receive relicensing credit as well as a stipend for attending the day-long sessions. Contact Shauna South at USOE or Gaylin Rollins for more information if interested in attending any of these sessions.



Julie Knoche

Local Service Awards

Julie Knoche has been teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) at Alpine Life and Learning Center for the past seven or eight years. She is an excellent teacher as well as a concerned person who delights in seeing her students succeed. Over the past two years, Julie has reorganized our curriculum for ESL students by combining the state objectives with CASAS objectives and dividing each of those into manageable units of instruction in each of the six levels

of instruction that we offer at our center. She has located books, computer programs, handouts, and other materials that teachers could use in teaching the students. Wherever there were holes in what she was able to locate, she created her own worksheets and handouts for student use. She has made our ESL curriculum a working document for all the teachers.

In addition, Julie headed up a joint three district consortium for ESL teachers and made all of the materials she had acquired available to the teachers in the other districts and explained how they could use these materials in their classrooms.

Julie is a special teacher. Her general caring attitude and enthusiasm for life carries over into the classroom as well as in the halls and faculty room. Her students over the years have complimented her on her ability to help them learn the language. She is not just concerned about how students learn, but she is also interested in her students' lives.



Adrien Taylor

For many years, Adrien Taylor has served as Chair of Moab's Higher Education Advisory Council, contributing countless hours finding ways to serve the needs of the Southeast's educational community. She has been a strong advocate for education in Grand County where she and her husband, Sam, own the *Times Independent* newspaper. Adrien has served as Chair of the College of Eastern Utah's Board of

Trustees and on numerous other committees and projects. She has been a driving force in fostering the partnership between higher education, the citizens of Southeast Utah and the local community.



Mari Neumann is a very important individual as our Secretary to the Jordan Adult Education Program at Southpointe High School. She has demonstrated her versatility and responsibility seriously and has made every effort to keep up with the multitask job.

Mari was even willing to accept extra responsibilities. She would come early on GED testing days and would stay late almost every night over the past five years. Mari also would never refuse or say, "I can't or I don't think we can."

She would say, "We can do that," or "I can do that." Mari's relationship with others is congenial, helpful and supportive. Whether she is talking to someone on the phone or in person, Mari is pleasant, enthusiastic, professional, patient, understanding, knowledgeable and positive. She treats each student, teacher and staff with respect and concern for getting requested work completed.

Mari tries new ideas for efficiency, better organizes the office and handles most concerns before reaching the coordinator.

Retirements

It has come to our attention that at least two of our long time UAACCE members are retiring at the end of this school year. LaRue Gurr from Granite District and Gaylin Rollins from Alpine District. We will miss them and we are certain that their programs will miss their expertise and concern. Good luck to both of you.

LAC Must Move!

Can you help?

LAC (Literacy Action Center) is a non-profit community-based organization that teaches adults reading below the third grade level. We work with adults in both Salt Lake and Davis Counties. LAC is currently housed at Horizonte in Salt Lake City. We need to find another home in Salt Lake County by August 2001. We are looking for at least 500 square feet of office space. We will also need space for tutor training, meetings, and a computer lab. We prefer to move to an office or school-related building. We need access to these spaces evenings and weekends. We have a low, tight budget so we are not able to pay much for rent. Can you help us? Do you know where we can go? Contact Eileen Smart, Director, Literacy Action Center, at 801/521-9050 or lac@netutah.net

Upcoming Events

- May 8 Deans and Directors meeting, EDNET
- June 22 Adult Ed Director/Coordinator Meeting
- June 11 Adult Ed Advisory Meeting
- Aug. 6-7 Adult Ed Summer Institute
- Oct. 22-3 UAACCE Convention

UAACCE Board Meeting Schedule

- May 11 Orem
- June 8 Brigham City
- July 13 Provo
- August 10 UEN
- September 14 Park City
- October 21 Park City
- November 9 Jordan
- December 14 Granite



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Address Correction Requested

