Greetings from AAACE 2013 President

Linda Morris, AAACE President 2013

Dear AAACE Colleagues,

For more than 60 years AAACE has provided leadership and development opportunities for those of us in the field of adult education and the adult learners we serve. In today’s increasing complex, diverse and connected world our services and contributions can really help make a difference in the lives of people. I appreciate the opportunity to be AAACE President during these challenging times, working with you and others to expand opportunities for adult learners, support the development and sharing of research, theory, and practice, and advocate for needed changes.

One of the many critical areas to address is workforce development. For example, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics on December 7, the number of people unemployed in the United States was 12 million, with 4.4 million unemployed for more than 6 months. On the same day, the latest data available showed that there were 3.6 million unfilled jobs. Many of us are already engaged in changing this situation, providing vital education services to prepare people for available jobs. What other actions might be taken? How could AAACE serve as a resource to members working in this area?

Another focus is continuing to develop and strengthen partnerships between AAACE and other national and international organizations in ways that are mutually beneficial and that will leverage our efforts. We partnered with the Adult Higher Education Alliance (AHEA) at the 2011 and 2012 Annual Conferences. In 2012 we also joined forces with the International Society for Comparative Education (ISCAE) and Nevada Adult Educators (NAE). In 2013 we will continue to partner with AHEA and will share some joint programming with the American Council of Adult Higher Education (ACHE). Other opportunities are available through our membership in several adult education networks including the U.S. Conference on Adult Literacy (USCAL), of which AAACE is a founding member, the Council of Lifelong Learning Organizations (COLLO) and the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE).

In 2013 other priorities include:

- Complete development of and publish an electronic journal of international adult education - Commission of International Adult Education (CIAE)
- Develop processes, practices and guidelines to support Special Interest Groups
- Increase membership, participation, and service for graduate students

AAACE enters 2013 as a strong and healthy organization of over 1,100 members with a sound financial base and a commitment to serve you, the members, in new and better ways. Please think about how we can help you AND you can help others and the association. We look forward to learning from you with the membership survey. Please contact me with questions or suggestions, via president@aaace.org.

Best wishes to you and your families for safe and happy holidays!

Linda

Reflections on AAACE FY 2012

Henry Merrill, AAACE Past President

Reflecting on the past 12 months as President of AAACE, several things stand out. First, since the President’s term is only for one year, it is very important for those moving through the three-year succession process to work together with the support of an actively engaged Executive Committee, Board of Directors and our Association Manager. Second, the set of Strategic Objectives and Initiatives developed during a planning process in 2010 has been a very useful guide for the Board during 2011-2012. This work also serves as a foundation for next cycle of strategic objectives and initiative being developed for 2013-2014.

Third, the 2012 Annual Report documents a number of accomplishments by the Board of Directors as we served the Association. I’ll list some of these here – you can read more about the year in the 2012 Annual Report:

- AAACE Membership 2012 survey gathered useful feedback from members via the first survey completed in many years
- Adult Learning now published and distributed by Sage Publishing
• Increased collaboration with other national and international adult education associations

Successful conferences in Indianapolis in 2011 and Las Vegas in 2012

• Active use of social networking platforms to connect with members and promote awareness of AAACE

• Continued membership growth – 1148 members by December 2012!

• Financial stability with a reserve fund of over $150,000

• Planning and contracting in process for conference sites in 2014 and 2015 to keep costs as low as possible

The Annual Report can be found on AAACE website, www.aaace.org under the “About Us” tab. In this same location you will also find the AAACE Mission, Vision, and Values Statement, FY 2011-2012 Strategic Objectives and Initiatives, AAACE By-Laws, AAACE Advocacy Statement, and the current Board of Directors.

Transitions

Gary A. Eyre, Co-Director of the Commission for Adult Education and Literacy (CABEL), resigned from the AAACE Board of Directors in November. Gary has been a member of AAACE (NAPCAE/AEAUSA) for 48 years, served as AAACE’s first Executive Director (1982-1985) and for two terms on the Board of Directors. He was recently inducted into the Adult Education International Hall of Fame for his contributions to the field. Thank you Gary! We will miss your enthusiasm, generosity and depth of knowledge.

At the 2012 Annual Conference the Board recognized and thanked Past Presidents Henry Merrill (2011-2012) and Clare Klunk (2010-2011) for their many contributions. Clare will leave the Board and Henry will serve for another year. Steve Schmidt assumed the position of President-elect and Jonathan Taylor that of Secretary. Libby Tisdell joined the Board as the new Director of the Commission of Professors of Adult Education.

AAACE 2012 Conference Summary

Linda Morris, AAACE 2012 Conference Chair and President 2013, and Michelle Glowacki-Dudka, Director At Large

More than 470 people attended the 2012 AAACE Conference, the Adult Higher Education (AHEA) Conference and the International Society for Comparative Adult Education (ISCAE) Conference held in conjunction with the Commission on International Adult Education’s (CIAE) Pre-Conference. For a comprehensive view of the program and events see the 2012 Program Guide and Exhibitor Directory.

Much happened during the week of the Conference between the convening of the ISCAE Conference on Saturday November 3 and the CIAE Pre-conference on Sunday evening and the last wrap-up session of the CPAE Co-conference late Friday afternoon. Michelle captured some of the highlights to share during the business meeting on Friday November 9, 2012.

AAACE Presidents came out en masse to attend the ISCAE Conference and CIAE Pre-Conference in Las Vegas. Pictured here (from left to right) are AAACE Past Presidents John Henschke, Wayne James, Henry Merrill, Marjean Buckner, Alan Knox, Clare Klunk and Amy Rose and President Linda Morris. Alan Knox made the opening address that linked the ISCAE and CIAE sessions and John Henschke and Wayne James presented papers with students. John and Marjean are both past chairs of CIAE.

Much has been shared in the past few days of the AAACE annual conference. Echoing and building on ideas related to our conference theme “Developing and Sustaining Adult Learners in the 21st Century.” This theme has translated into ideas of boundary spanning and making meanings together.

In the joint session of the International Society of Comparative Adult Education (ISCAE) and the Commission for International Adult
Dr. Robert Templin, President NOVA

As we dance through our work as adult educators, Dr. Bob Templin, President of Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) reminded us to look at the larger purposes undergirding our work. We need to ask more than just what our own organization can do alone to better the lives of all our learners. He posed four key questions:

1. What is the problem / we are trying to solve?
2. What strategies will work best to achieve those ends?
3. Where do we find resources and partners to solve these problems?
4. How do we know when the work is complete?

He also reminded us, “If we are on a dead horse, we should dismount.” Then we can move forward to actually achieving our outcomes rather than over-examining, reminiscing about, or trying to bring life back to the horse. By building a new way of perceiving our work, we can scale and sustain our practice through Crossing Boundaries and partnering with others who want to achieve similar goals.

Dr. Thomas Boydell, Managing Director of Inter-Logics, continued this thinking about boundary crossing as he reminded us that meaning is what we make it, through the blank page and shared poem exercises. He claimed, “Our role is to learn to do better things with people different from us.”

The session on wisdom taught us about paradoxes, that we could embrace the light in the shadows, move through the pain with joy, and acknowledge wisdom in indigenous knowledge.

The final performance by Dr. Elaine Richardson, Professor of Literacy Studies at The Ohio State University, (“Dr. E”) was an extremely powerful commentary about how the lives of our learners are complex and should not be taken for granted. Dr. E began her presentation with the idea of memories that rain down piece by piece spurred on by smells, light, or sounds. As adult educators we should remember that all learners have their own valuable experiences that shape their perceptions of the world. We can support, mentor, and build on those experiences through our work to make the world a better place.

To create the conference with its welcoming learning environment numerous people from AAACE and its commissions, ISCAE, AHEA and NAE worked together. There were more than 30 people on the Conference Planning Committee, 50 + reviewers and more than 80 volunteered to help on site. Thanks go to everyone for an amazing conference. We look forward to seeing you in Lexington, Kentucky next November 3-8, 2013, where we continue with the theme “Building Sustainable Futures through Learning and Partnerships.”

Thanks to our 2012 Annual Conference Sponsors and Exhibitors!

We wish to say, “Thank You” to our 2012 Annual Conference Sponsors and Exhibitors for their support and hard work to make it such a success.

**Sponsors**
- American Military University, Sponsorship of a Full Break
- Thomas Edison State College, Sponsorship of a Full Break

**Exhibitors**
- Alert Publishing, Inc.
- American Council on Grant Writing
- Auburn University MBA Program
- Boston Reed
- Columbia Southern University
- Comex Systems, Inc.
- Damand Promotions.
- Devry University.
- Keex
- Labyrinth Learning
- McGraw-Hill Education
- Platform Higher Education
- The Center for Legal Studies
- Thomas Edison State College

**Save the Date!**

2013 AAACE Annual Conference, November 5 – 8, 2013,
Lexington Kentucky
(Pre-conferences November 3– 5)

Steve Schmidt, 2013 Conference Chair and AAACE President-elect 2014

AAACE’s 62nd Annual Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency and the Lexington Convention Center in Lexington, Kentucky, November 5-8, 2013 with Pre-Conferences starting on November 3. The 2013 AAACE Conference will include concurrent, roundtable, and poster sessions, as well as workshops and symposia in such areas as: Workforce Development, Community College, Non-Formal, Career, Continuing Professional, Health, Religious, Military and International Adult Education, as well as Distance and Adult Learning, Adult Numeracy and Literacy, Human Resource Development, Program Management, and other related areas. This wide array of sharing and
learning makes the conference unique!

The 2013 AAACE Conference theme is "Building Sustainable Futures Through Learning and Partnerships." This theme is particularly relevant this year, as AAACE is partnering with both the Adult Higher Education Alliance (AHEA) and the Association for Continuing Higher Education (ACHE) on the 2013 conference. As in past years, AHEA will run a co-conference, with an AHEA session the day before the AAACE conference begins, followed by integrated programming throughout the conference. ACHE will start its annual conference in the days before AAACE's conference, but AAACE and ACHE will share some programming, as well, allowing attendees from both organizations to interact and network.

Watch for further information on the 2013 conference on our AAACE website and in future issues of this newsletter. In the meantime, save the dates and start considering presentation ideas! If you want to be part of the Conference planning team, please contact me (schmidtst@ecu.edu).

For more information on these conference partners see the following websites:

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**Indigenous Learning**

Share your research about adult education and indigenous learning at the:

**2013 Australasian Conference**

"Hapori Tu Rangatira" - Connected Communities

Adult Learning Australia (ALA) and Adult Community Education (ACE) Aotearoa in New Zealand will hold a joint conference in Wellington, NZ, 18th - 20th June 2013 featuring a panel session on new research in Adult and Community Education. They are calling for papers from new and experienced researchers and practitioners to be presented as part of this panel. All papers will be peer reviewed and published in time for the conference. You will have the opportunity to speak to your paper to the full conference.

**Proposals are due by the 22nd February 2013** and selection decisions will be made by March 15th. If accepted your full paper (2500 to 3000 words) will be due by May 17th. Selected presenters will be expected to register and participate in the conference. A discounted presenter registration will be available. For more information and to submit a proposal online go to:

http://tinyurl.com/bo6b6u5

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**Research Funds Available**

Looking for research money? The Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) at Syracuse University Library invites applicants for its Alexander N. Charters Adult Education Research Grants-in-Aid Program, now in its sixth year. Up to $4,000 of grants-in-aid will be awarded in 2013 to researchers and practitioners wishing to do research in the extensive adult education holdings of SCRC's Charters Library (more information on the collections is available at http://library.syr.edu/find/scrc/collections/subjects/adult-and-continuing-ed.php). For more information, including deadlines and how to apply, please see the full press release at http://libnews.syr.edu/su-librarys-special-collections-research-center-invites-applications-for-adult-education-research-grants/.