



2023



# ANNUAL REPORT

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# MISSION

The mission of the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education (AAACE) is to provide leadership for the field of adult and continuing education by expanding opportunities for adult growth and development; unifying adult educators; fostering the development and dissemination of theory, research, information, and best practices; promoting identity and standards for the profession; and advocating relevant public policy and social change initiatives.

# VISION

The American Association for Adult and Continuing Education (AAACE) is dedicated to the belief that lifelong learning contributes to human fulfillment and positive social change. We envision a more humane world made possible by the diverse practice of our members in helping adults acquire the knowledge, skills and values needed to lead productive and satisfying lives.

# A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE HISTORY OF AAACE

The American Association for Adult and Continuing Education (AAACE) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to providing leadership for the field of adult and continuing education by expanding opportunities for adult growth and development; unifying adult educators; fostering the development and dissemination of theory, research, information, and best practices; promoting identity and standards for the profession; and advocating relevant public policy and social change initiatives. AAACE was founded as the result of a merger between the National Association for Public and Continuing Adult Education (NAPCAE) and the Adult Education Association (AEA) in 1982.

The organization is governed by a volunteer board of directors, consisting of a five-member executive committee, and seven commission directors. The main office is in Atlanta, Georgia.

AAACE publishes the [leading adult education journals](#): *Adult Education Quarterly* (AEQ), *Adult Learning* (AL), and the *Journal of Transformative Education* (JTED). In addition, the organization publishes *the Handbook of Adult and Continuing Education* every 10 years.

The annual conference is held in different regions of the country on a rotating basis, often in partnership with state, regional, or other national and international associations. Pre-conferences hosted by the Commission on International Adult Education and the Commission for Distance Learning and Technology, as well as a co-conference of the Commission of Professors of Adult Education, are held in conjunction with the AAACE conference.

Members receive online access to the journal(s) of their choice, special conference rates, access to webinars, and other benefits. (“Who We Are - American Association For Adult and Continuing Education”) The AAACE membership body includes faculty, researchers, practitioners, and graduate students.

# ADVOCACY STATEMENT

The American Association for Adult and Continuing Education (AAACE) is a not-for-profit, non-partisan organization as described in Section 501 (c)(3). AAACE is an association of academics and professionals in the field of lifelong learning. As stated in our mission, the association is dedicated to the belief that our field should enhance human fulfillment and positive social change.

We therefore strongly advocate relevant public policy, legislation, and social change initiatives which expand the depth and breadth of opportunities for the education of adults. We also support the ongoing growth and We therefore strongly advocate relevant public policy, legislation, and social change initiatives which expand the depth and breadth of opportunities for the education of adults. We also support the ongoing growth and expansion of leadership roles in the field. In addition to this general support, we may advocate for specific policies, programs, legislation, and initiatives which we believe are of critical importance to lifelong learning

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (OFFICERS)



PAULETTE ISAAC-SAVAGE  
*President*



STEVE FRYE  
*President-Elect*



VANESSA SHEARED  
*Past-President*



MICHELLE GLOWACKI-DUDKA  
*Secretary*



LILIAN HILL  
*Treasurer*

# COMMISSION DIRECTORS



SAM MAY-VARAS  
*Commission for Adult  
Basic Education and  
Literacy (CABEL)*



DORIS A. FLOWERS  
*Commission for Community,  
Minority, and Non-Formal  
Education (CCMNFE)*



TRICIA BERRY  
*Commission for  
Distance Learning and  
Technology (CDLT)*



YVONNE HUNTER-JOHNSON  
*Commission for Workforce  
and Professional  
Development (CWPD)*



WENDY GRISWOLD  
*Commission for  
International Adult  
Education (CIAE)*



DAVIN CARR-CHELLMAN  
*Commission for  
Professors of Adult  
Education (CPAE)*



MAJA STOJANOVIĆ  
*Commissions for  
Graduate Students  
(CGS)*

# AAACE MANAGEMENT



LAURA DANZE  
*Managing Director*



MICHELE DOYLE  
*Association Coordinator*



ALIA SIMS  
*Association Assistant*

# MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

It has been an honor to serve on the AAACE Board of Directors for the past 5 years. I encourage anyone interested in learning about the intricacies of AAACE to consider one of our many board positions. During my inaugural presidential speech, I mentioned four goals.

## Goals

1. Increase our membership,
2. Enhance the membership experience,
3. Make our website more user friendly while providing useful and relevant information,
4. Enhance our visibility, and
5. Become the umbrella organization for adult education throughout the US.

I indicated that many of these would be accomplished through the implementation of our strategic plan.

## Accomplishments

1. Through our Jack Payne Crabtree Memorial Fund, two grants were awarded to AAACE members. The purpose of the fund is to “grant awards for leadership in adult public affairs and literacy/adult basic education. The funds are being used to create a series of programs and activities in support of developing and advancing the skills and knowledge of current and future practitioners who will take on leadership roles in adult public affairs or literacy/basic education programs.” The goal is for AAACE to continue to award annual grants.
2. The board approved a new commission, the Commission for Labor, Unions, and Workers (CLUW). CLUW seeks “to elevate the knowledge, identity, and visibility of workers across multiple sectors of employment (blue collar, white collar, new collar, and pink collar).”
3. We hosted a virtual conference, in addition to our in-person conference, to meet the needs of members who were unable to travel.
4. We implemented the Each One, Reach One Campaign. Members were encouraged to invite one person to become a member of AAACE. I personally sent emails to individuals whose membership either expired or was about to expire. This resulted in more members renewing their membership.



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E. PAULETTE  
ISAAC-SAVAGE  
*2022-2023 President*

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5. After several meetings and countless hours, the Commission for Professors of Adult Education approved the addition of the Adult Education Research Conference (AERC) as a subcommittee of the Commission.
6. We hired an Educational Program Designer and Operations Consultant and six additional consultants to assist us with implementing our strategic plan initiatives, particularly the Professional Development Institute and accreditation. She is also working with our
7. Strategic Plan
  - a. The Marketing, Recruitment, Retention and Growth Taskforce worked with our managing company and approved a new logo and new colors. I encourage you to visit the website to see the changes.
  - b. The Innovation, Partnership, and Collaboration Taskforce created an elevator pitch and a script to use for recruiting new partners and affiliates to AAACE. The script was successfully used at the 2023 annual conference.
  - c. The Commission Directors instituted a Bridge Series whereby they collectively offered webinars.
8. We exceeded our conference sponsorship goal by over \$6,000.
9. To further enhance our visibility, for the second year in a row, I served as a judge for the Future Finder Challenge. The Challenge is a program of the U.S. Department of Education and is administered by Luminary Labs. In April 2023, I gave a presentation on AAACE during a virtual FEMA Community Call session.

There is still work to be done to increase our various membership levels, but we have put some systems in place to aid us with our goal. As we continue implementing our strategic plan, it will enable us in becoming the umbrella organization for adult education throughout the US.

As you will see from other updates in this report, we had an extremely busy and productive year. Thank you for making AAACE a great organization. I am excited about what the future holds for AAACE. We stand on the shoulders of many adult education giants who are counting on us to do our part to *transform lives and communities!*



# COMMITTEES REPORTS

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Over 300 adult educators attended the 72<sup>st</sup> annual AAACE conference, which was held in-person at the Hilton Lexington Downtown from October 3<sup>rd</sup> through October 6<sup>th</sup> in Lexington, Kentucky. This year also featured AAACE's first ever virtual day on September 19<sup>th</sup>. The theme, "Informing, Reforming, and Transforming: The Vital Role of Adult Education in Challenging Times" served as a strong foundation to an engaging keynote panel, our AAACE Policy Forum, CPAE Workshop, and CIAE and CDLT pre-conferences.

Following is a brief and limited summary of the planning and execution of the 2023 AAACE conference.

### CALL FOR PROPOSALS

- Total number of proposals submitted: 402; 192 scheduled

### CONFERENCE EVENTS

Conference events included:

- Ambassador Meet-Up
- Grand Opening Welcome Reception
- Commission for International Adult Education (CIAE) 2023 International Pre-Conference

- Commission for Distance Learning and Technology (CDLT) Pre-Conference
- Commission for Professors of Adult Education (CPAE) Workshop
- Keynote Address featuring:
  - Diana Doggett, Co-founder, Kentucky Job Club
  - Marisa Aull, Director for the University of Kentucky Extension Nutrition Education Program
  - Kayla Watts, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension County Agent, Eastern Kentucky Floor Support
  - Jeff Young, Director, Urban Extension and Extension Disaster Preparedness & Recovery
- Poster Presentations with Sponsors Reception
- Commission Meetings
- Dine-Arounds (Networking Dinners)
- Lexington Brewing & Distilling Co. Tour
- Commission for Graduate Students (CGS) Networking Event: Introduction to Publishing Session featuring:
  - Dr. Edith Gnanadass
  - Dr. Mitsunori Misawa
- Commission for Graduate Students (CGS) Luncheon & Workshop: Career Pathways in Adult Education featuring:
  - Dr. Kalpana Gupta
  - Dr. Tricia Berry
  - Dr. Allie Cox
  - Dr. Jill Zarestky
  - Dr. Paul Putman
- Annual AAACE Awards Luncheon
- AAACE Annual Business Meeting
- Closing Session Panel featuring:
  - Séamus Ó Tuama, PhD
  - Steven B. Frye, PhD
  - Michael McGlenen, B.Sc., B.Ed., MS

## GENERAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

There were 321 registrations for the general conference. 48 people purchase a one or two day ticket for the AAACE virtual conference day.

## PRE-CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP

The Commission for International Adult Education (CIAE) hosted a pre-conference with met on October 1-3. There were 50 registered participants.

The Commission for Distance Learning and Technology (CDLT) hosted a pre-conference which met on October 3. 20 There were 26 registered participants.

The Commission for Professors of Adult Education (CPAE) held a workshop during the conference on October 5. There were 51 registered participants.

## SUCSESSES: AAACE 2023 CONFERENCE

Building on the solid, foundational work of previous conference chairs and currently collaborating with the vice chair and board members, the following innovations were effective:

- Successfully hosted a virtual day on September, 19
- High engagement with 87% attendees having downloaded the app, almost 3,500 messages sent, and 168 attendees participated in a “meet-up”
- 93% of attendees set up their personal agendas
- 92.2% of attendees were able to meet someone new that you would like to connect with after the conference
- Addition of family resting room
- Successful usage and positive feedback on the Whova conference app
- Conference dine-arounds were well attended

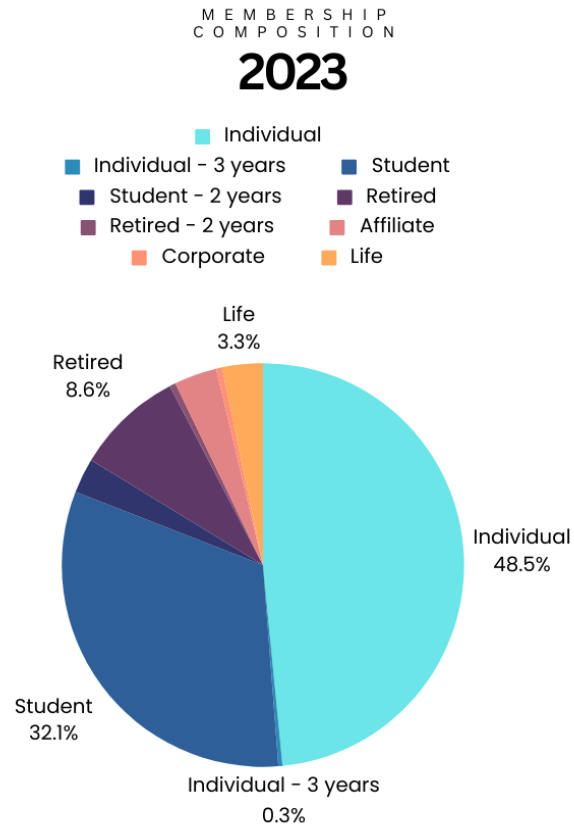
## AAACE 2023 CONFERENCE PLANNING TEAM

Every year, a group of dedicated AAACE members volunteer their time and energy to organizing the annual conference. This team was led by Michelle Johnson, 2023 AAACE Conference Chair. The 2023 Conference Planning Committee included: Michelle Johnson, Shelly Walters, Sharon Gardiner-Taylor, and Lisa Browne-Banic. Conference Proceedings for 2023 are managed by Lisa Brown.

# MEMBERSHIP

AAACE concluded the year with 613 memberships. The breakdown of those memberships is as follows:

- Individual: 297
- Individual – 2 years: 0
- Individual – 3 years: 2
- Student: 197
- Student – 2 year: 17
- Retired: 53
- Retired – 2 year: 3
- Retired – 3 years: 0
- Affiliate: 21
- Corporate: 3
- Life: 20



Commission memberships as of December 2023:

- Commission for Adult Basic Education and Literacy (CABEL): 152
- Commission for Community, Minority, and Non-Formal Education (CCMNFE): 198
- Commission for Distance Learning and Technology (CDLT): 219
- Commission for International Adult Education (CIAE): 168
- Commission for Labor, Unions, and Workers: 27
- Commission for Professors of Adult Education (CPAE): 279
- Commission for Workforce and Professional Development (CWPD): 240
- Commission for Graduate Students (CGS): 216

# COMMUNICATIONS

Communicating with our members and partners continues to be of great importance. Ongoing communication vehicles include: the AAACE quarterly newsletter, professional journals, the AAACE website, social media, and regular eBlasts and conference newsletters.

- Facebook:
  - 6.5K Audience reach (up 125.8% from last year)
  - 1.6K Audience interactions (up 748.7% from last year)
  - 1,176 Followers
  - 441 Link Clicks (up 444.4% from last year)
- Twitter: 644 total followers
- LinkedIn: 9,476 group members
- Instagram:
  - 120 Audience reach (up 114.3% from last year)
  - 227 Audience interactions (up 100% from last year)
  - 68 Followers
- Primary activities involved promotion of AAACE annual conference, AAACE official website, and related scholarly news
- Newsletter articles were cross posted on social media platforms
- Photo sharing was conducted via the Whova AAACE conference app during the 2023 conference
- Commission activities were promoted via social media channels

# EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS

AAACE's Partners include:

- AHEA (Adult Higher Education Alliance)
- AHRD (Academy of Human Resources Development)
- CASAE (Canadian Association for the Study of Adult Education)
- COABE (Commission on Adult Basic Education)
- European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA)
- eLearn Magazine
- European Society for Research on the Education of Adults (ESREA)

- EUCEN (European University Continuing Education Network)
- HELLIN (Higher Education Lifelong Learning Ireland Network)
- IACET (International Association of Continuing Education and Training)
- ProLiteracy
- UK University Association for Lifelong Learning (UALL)

# PUBLICATIONS

The Publications Committee, comprised of journal editors and representatives of other stakeholder groups and chaired by Dr. Amy Rose, makes recommendations to the Board of Directors concerning all publication- related requests and processes. This committee reviews communications from SAGE, the publisher of our journals, monitors editorial contracts and policies for the journals, manages the editor selection process, and spearheads the development of the Handbook of Adult and Continuing Education. The Publications Committee has supervisory authority over all AAACE Publications, including Journals and Books. It coordinates all publication efforts, identifies editors, and identifies books for publication.

## **Committee Members:**

- Mary Alfred
- Jim Berger
- Ann Brooks
- Cathy Hansman
- Ed Taylor

This report includes a list of the activities of the Publications Committee, as well as brief individual reports from the three journal editors.

## **Purpose:**

The Publications Committee has supervisory authority over all AAACE Publications, including Journals and Books. It coordinates all publication efforts, identifies editors, and identifies books for publication.

## **Completed Activities/Action Items in 2023:**

1. A fourth book was published as part of the AAACE/Routledge series. It is *Career Pathways in Adult Education: Perspectives and Opportunities*, edited by Catherine Monaghan, Paulette Isaac-Save and Paul Putman.
2. A fifth book was delivered for publication. This is in process. It is co-edited by Aliki Nicolaides, A. Lim, & N. Herr

#### **Action Items for 2024:**

1. Possible renewal of JTED editors or search for new editors
2. Outreach for publishing program – both for proposals and for published books.

## **EDITOR REPORTS**

### **Adult Education Quarterly (AEQ)**

*(Lisa Merriweather, Edith Gnanadass, Dianne Ramdeholl, and Ralf St. Clair)*

A total of 20 articles, 11 book reviews, and 2 editorials were published in 2023. AEQ currently has an impact factor of 1.3 according to the 2023 Publisher's Report received from Sage. The decrease in the impact factor is due to newly implemented metric calculations implemented by Sage. AEQ received a total of 245 original manuscripts and 68 revisions. Additionally, twelve book reviews and three essay reviews were received. Throughout the year, the editors made 248 final decisions on manuscripts of which 28 were accepted for publication. Of these 28 acceptances, 17 came from scholars based in the USA, 2 each from United Kingdom and Australia, and one each from Taiwan, Norway, Netherlands, Korea, Germany, Canada, and Austria. Fulfilling the quarterly format, four editions appeared in print. The journal also published papers through OnlineFirst soon after acceptance and compliance with editing and administrative procedures.

The editorial team participated in the *How to Write for Journals* sessions at both the Adult Education Research Conference (AERC) and the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education (AAACE) Annual Conference with the editors of *Adult Learning* and the *Journal of Transformative Education*. Additionally, the editorial team sponsored a session on writing for *AEQ* at AAACE which was attended by over 20 participants.

### **Adult Learning (AL)**

*(Davin Carr-Chellman, Lilian H. Hill, and Carol Rogers-Shaw)*

Four issues were published in 2023 containing 18 original articles, 3 Innovations in Practice, 4 Reflection articles, 4 Resource reviews, and two editorial articles. The acceptance rate for all article types was reduced to 25%. The time to final decision on manuscripts was reduced to 50 days (40% reduction). There were 35,816 full-text downloads in 2023 (through the end of August) compared to 32,712 by August 2022 (an increase of 9.5%). We published a special issue on Democracy in August 2023 and in 2024 will publish a special issue on CONFINTEA VII, guest edited by Marcie Boucouvalas. We are ending the year with 20 accepted manuscripts in reserve, equivalent to 4 issues. The number of manuscripts submitted to Adult Learning has increased to 131 in 2023 compared to 120 in 2022 (9% increase). This continues the trend in submission increases since 2019, when we first began to co-edit the journal. Adult Learning metrics now include an Impact Ratio of 1.3, with a 5-year Impact Factor of 1.6.

## Journal of Transformative Education (JTED)

*(Chad Hoggan, Fergal Finnegan, and Cheryl Baldwin)*

In 2023, the editors of JTED continued their efforts to build the journal and make it more international in scope and audience. We promoted the journal at the following conferences: AAACE, AERC, ESREA Transformative and Emancipatory Adult Education network, and the ESREA Active Democratic Citizenship and Adult Learning network. The journal received 144 manuscripts in 2023, a 16% increase over the previous year. Our acceptance rate is 18%, our time to first decision is 41 days (a slight improvement), and SAGE's time from "accepted" to "online first" improved from 57 to 47 days. In 2023, for the first time, JTED received an impact factor: 1.0 (1-year) and 17.7 (5-year). We cannot explain the excessively high 5-year score and are curious how it evolves next year. Internally, the journal is running smoothly. We have a new managing editor, Laura Bernhard, who is doing a great job. The former managing editor, Somanita Kheang, is now the book review editor. There is a special issue in preparation on the topic of radicalization, which we expect to go to print in late 2024.

# PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Public Affairs activities of the association shall be overseen by the Public Affairs Committee which include the collection, approval, and dissemination of position papers and the development and implementation of the National Public Policy Forum at the AAACE Annual conference.

The Public Affairs Committee is charged with engaging AAACE in the public domain. This is done by:

- Preparing and proposing Position Papers
- Processing Position Papers submitted by the general membership
- Recommending for endorsement Position Papers issued by other organizations
- Organizing an annual National Public Policy Forum
- Other outreach activities, which may include but are not limited to interviews (as interviewer or interviewee), op-ed pieces, blog posts, social media outreach and other means of communicating with the public

(AAACE Policy and Procedures Manual, p. 20, 2021)

**Committee members:**

- Kelli Rhodes
- Elizabeth Castaneda
- Rebecca Klop Davison
- Amy Pickard

**Activities completed in 2023:**

- Development and implementation of the National Public Policy Forum.

**Action items for 2024:**

- Approval of position papers



# FINANCIAL REPORTS

2023 was a tough year financially for the organization, with total liabilities & equities only up 0.68% from last year.

Investment performance went up 6.13% from last year.

Total membership dues ended the year up 23.2% from last year.

## COMMISSION FOR ADULT BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY (*CABEL*)

**Commission Director:** Sam May-Vara (10/2022-Present)

The purpose of the AAACE Commission for Adult Basic Education and Literacy (CABEL) is to facilitate the research, discussion and implementation of policies, and to provide the development of professionals in the area of adult basic education and literacy.

### **Activities Completed in 2023:**

- Annual meeting at conference Started proposal for new commission for community colleges.

# COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY, MINORITY AND NON-FORMAL Education (CCMNFE)

**Commission Director:** Mattyna Stephens (10/23 –Present)

**Outgoing Commission Director:** Doris Flowers (3/2021-10/2023)

## **Purpose:**

As it stands currently, the Commission for Community, Minority and Non-Formal Education (CCMNFE) functions to facilitate the education of persons working with minority and non-formal life-long learners. The commission on Community, Minority, Non-Formal Education (CCMNFE-AAACE) is dedicated to the belief that all learners are contributors to professional development and human fulfillment within communities as promoters of productive social change and advocates of relevant public policy and programs. We are committed to making a difference in the profession and community that is equitable and leads to social justice remedy.

Our commission membership includes professionals, faculty members, and students engaged in adult education whose work benefits communities and adult learners from diverse backgrounds. CCMNFE includes representatives from non-profit groups, religious organizations, continuing education programs, industry and government organizations, and colleges and universities.

## **Completed Activities/Action Items in 2023:**

Met with membership of CMNFE during the 2022 and 2023 AAACE conferences to hold morning breakfast meetings. We discussed ways to build the interest of committee as well as expanding the concept of our purpose. Our first goal however is to maintain our commitment to equity and social justice by introducing meetings throughout the year to focus on relevant issues. The second goal is to consider a name change of committee to better reflect who we are to our community.

# COMMISSION FOR DISTANCE LEARNING AND TECHNOLOGY (CDLT)

**Director:** Kayon Murray-Johnson (10/2023-Present)

**Outgoing Commission Director:** Tricia Berry (11/2020-10/2023)

**CDLT Webpage:** [www.aaace.org/cdlt](http://www.aaace.org/cdlt)

### **CDLT Purpose**

In recognition of the growing influence of online and other distance learning technologies on adult learning, AAACE supports this commission to provide members with opportunities to share best practices and research on how adults are learning in networked learning environments. The primary goal is to increase communication and collaboration among adult educators across academic, workplace, community, and other settings who have an interest in sharing their knowledge and practice about learning with virtual and other technologies.

### **Completed Activities in 2023:**

- Conducted a membership survey, analyzed responses and have continued to build action items based on those responses. A key theme arising from the survey was keen interest in diversity and inclusion related knowledge building initiatives relative to the online environment. In addition, the board has continued to respond to members' interests in ongoing networking opportunities with some of the action items to be shared in this report.
- Launched a new “Top Tip” initiative in January of 2023 that would feature cutting edge trends in distance learning and technology. New top tips are released via email – and on a bi-monthly basis, so far ranging from strengthening sense of community in online spaces – to generative AI nuts and bolts. Tips serve to continuously equip the AAACE community with practical, relevant and ready to use strategies that will enhance their work with adults in diverse online contexts.
- Engaged in a AAACE Bridge Series Webinar: Bridge to the Future, hosted by Commission Directors in July.
- Hosted a successful 2023 pre-conference in Lexington, KY. In particular, we had a significant number of first-time attendees (about 35-40%), networking that continues to evolve – and presentations that generated much small and large group discussion– e.g. on AI promises and pitfalls, a recently released inclusive toolkit, hyflex environments and a case study on effective online support services.
- Transitioned to an incoming board and new Director (webpage with that information also updated by the AAACE office team): Kayon Murray-Johnson, (Director/Chair); Corina Caraccioli (Secretary); Leann Kaiser and Michael Porterfield (Members at Large). Tricia Berry, outgoing Chair, was presented with an AAACE appreciation plaque for her commitment and dedication in moving the Commission forward for the past 5 years (pic attached).

- Awarded Amanda Young (Texas State University) with the Outstanding CDLT Educator Award for 2023. Amanda was also featured in our inaugural newsletter.
- Launched and published our inaugural member newsletter in October of 2023. The publication aims to become a meaningful communication source during the in-between months leading up to pre-conference, serve as a hub of information for our members and provide our membership with opportunities to make and/or add creative contributions  
\*(copy and paste this link to view, or see attached:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ngfGy-mqgrUruIIEI9D5D3rsT1ur-oSm/view>)
- (Re) established an official CDLT email account to help with board transitions and knowledge retention over time: [cdlt@aaace.org](mailto:cdlt@aaace.org)
- Facilitated approximately six board (member) planning meetings, January to present

### **Outstanding Action Items for 2024:**

Action items for 2024 will include maintaining initiatives that occurred in 2023. Most items below are not necessarily "outstanding" but are a snapshot of what we are currently planning to achieve in 2024 (several in keeping with survey responses and/or responses we are getting as we connect with our members). \*Again, most of these are to be completed on an ongoing basis

1. Launch a new LinkedIn page for added connections and networking amongst members. The page will likely be open to "viewing" mode beyond just the CDLT commission, as a way to garner interest.
2. Establish a brief membership directory, spotlighting member expertise
3. Host a CDLT Mini Spring Showcase. In this virtual session, participants will engage in professional learning and networking experiences via · guest/s with expertise on a trending topic · CDLT member chats, think tanks, networking and/or updates
4. Create intentional opportunities and initiatives that · highlight or serve our graduate students in particular · demonstrate growth in inclusive excellence and/or social justice for our members
5. Prepare for and host a successful pre-conference in Reno, Nevada for 2024

## **COMMISSION FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS OF ADULT EDUCATION (CGS)**

**Commission Director:** Lauren Vilen (10/2022 – Present)

## **Purpose:**

The purpose of the Commission for Graduate Students is to support AAACE graduate student members. The Commission focuses on helping members make the most of their conference experiences, build a professional support network, and prepare for future careers.

## **Completed Activities/Action Items in 2023:**

- January - February: Assembled a leadership team to spearhead the CGS conference planning and facilitate activities at the event:
  - Secretary: Trish Barefield
  - Members at Large:
    - Shannon Perry
    - Ruoyi Qiu
    - Martina Schiavo
    - Melissa Gorz
- November: Filled the position of the CGS Director Elect: Marissa Molina.
- Appointed a social media coordinator: Dauran McNeil
- Held CGS leadership meetings in March, April, June, July, and September.
- Held the first ever CGS business meeting in November, open to all CGS members.
- Collaborated with the AAACE conference planning team to organize timing, materials, and room set up for the CGS in-person conference event.
- Created social media posts and posted reminders regarding conference scholarships, conference events, AAACE Bridge webinars .
- Organized and secured five speakers for the CGS in-person conference event: Jill Zarestky, Kalpana Gupta, Tricia Berry, Allie Cox, Paul Putnam.
- Secured two speakers for the CGS virtual conference event: Edith Gnanadass, Mitsunori Misawa.
- Facilitated the CGS networking event at the 2023 in-person conference.
- Facilitated the CGS-sponsored session at the 2023 virtual conference.
- Facilitated a networking dinner for student attendees at the 2023 conference.
- Using CGS budget allocations, secured an annual student membership for two CGS conference event attendees
- Using CGS budget allocations, secured an annual student membership and one Amazon gift card as awards for two student-member survey respondents.
- Managed the CGS Leadership Award process.
- Developed, distributed, analyzed, and shared results of the AAACE student member survey with CGS members and broader AAACE community.
- Further developed and organized the CGS-managed Google account to ensure smooth transitions and accessibility of policies, resources, and meeting documentation within CGS leadership.

- Co-sponsored two Bridge to Engagement webinar series (along with other commission directors).
- Facilitated the nominations and election process for CGS elected leadership positions, per the CGS Policies and Procedures.
- Updated the CGS Policies and Procedures (P&P) using processes outlined in the P&P, emailed a copy to the national office.

### **Outstanding Action Items for 2024:**

- Create a new LinkedIn Profile (the old one was linked to previous director's personal account)
- Create a bi-monthly newsletter

### **2024 Plan of Action**

#### Activities Planned

- Secure a keynote speaker/s for the in-person 2024 conference event.
- Plan an activity or session for the virtual 2024 conference, as applicable or available depending on conference schedule.
- Facilitate a Graduate Student Networking Dinner at the in-person 2024 conference.
- Organize the CGS Leadership Award nomination process and form CGS Leadership Award Selection Committee to determine the winner
- Develop and facilitate a graduate student writing group.
- Develop and coordinate a graduate student webinar opportunities to support student-student sharing of research, practices, and information.
- Continue to develop the CGS Google Drive for easier succession, including documentation of leadership meetings, team processes/timelines, budget, and conference planning.
- Maintain a consistent social media presence.

#### Leadership Succession Plans (if applicable)

- Direct-elect Marissa Molina will assist with conference planning and other activities as preparation for stepping into the director role at conference 2024.
- Recruit, appoint, or elect open leadership positions as needed.

#### Areas of Concern

- Recruiting new folks to the leadership team. Several members-at-large are anticipated to be ineligible going into 2025 based on the eligibility requirement of being a current

graduate student. Recruiting a director-elect in 2023 was extremely difficult, so I have concerns over the succession of other positions as they become available.

## COMMISSION FOR LABOR, UNIONS, AND WORKERS (CLUW)

**Description:** The Commission for Labor, Unions, and Workers (CLUW) seeks to elevate the knowledge, identity, and visibility of workers across multiple sectors of employment (blue collar, white collar, new collar, and pink collar). Using adult education practices for literacy, worker-based knowledge, community building, and collective action, CLUW will work with partners to provide a pathway for upward social mobility and community prosperity. We will be a platform for collaboration and voice between workers, union members, labors and the wider adult education community, scholars, and researchers.

**Commission Director:** Ramo J. Lordeni (11/2023-current)

### Completed Activities/Action Items in 2023:

- Commission formation
- Commission meeting at AAACE Conference.

### Outstanding Action Items for 2024:

- 1st Quarter Webinar Learning from Strikes: Fighting for Life's Necessities
- Commission Formal Meeting
- 2nd Quarter Webinar Union Retirees: Being More involved in CLC and Communities
- Labor Day Activities
- 3rd Quarter Webinar The Role and Impact of Labor Councils in Strengthening Labor and Communities
- Commission Formal Meeting (Possibly in Reno)
- 4th Quarter Webinar Workers' Rights and the Whistle Blower Law

# COMMISSION FOR INTERNATIONAL ADULT EDUCATION (CIAE)

**Description:** CIAE provides a forum for the discussion of international issues related to adult education in general, as well as adult education in various countries around the globe.

**Commission Director:** Wendy Griswold (11/2020-current)

## Leadership

- The Leadership Team met eight times during the year. This team planned and executed the 2023 pre-conference and Proceedings.
- At the annual business meeting, Christy Rhodes was elected to the position of Director Elect.
- Beginning in November 2023, the Leadership Team was staffed with the following leadership positions:
- Director: Wendy Griswold
- Director-elect: Christy Rhodes
- Secretary: Jane Teel
- Committee Chair: Pre-conference: Sara Bano and Wendy Griswold
- Committee Chair: Webinars/Events: Anita Samuel, Yidan Zhu, and Taiwo Olatunji
- Committee Chair: Communication: Sunny Leong
- Committee Chair: Website/Member Engagement: Rachel Gray
- Committee Chair: International Liaison Committee: Fujuan Tan
- Proceedings Editor: Billie McNamara

## Pre-Conference

- The 2023 Pre-Conference was held October 2-3 in Lexington, Kentucky. Twenty-three peer-reviewed papers from 38 authors comprised the agenda. At least 45 attendees participated in the pre-conference.
- As part of the agenda, we devoted significant time to discussing the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights as part of the global recognition of the 75th anniversary of this document on December 10.
- At the main conference, CIAE hosted a Commission breakfast meeting. Approximately 10 participants discussed plans for the 2024 pre-conference

## Proceedings

- We continued our contract with ERIC (Educational Resources Documentation Center) for annual inclusion of CIAE Proceedings in the ERIC database. Full text of the 2022 papers were submitted to ERIC for archiving in April 2023.
- The 2023 papers are in the final editing stage and will be submitted to ERIC for archiving in spring 2024.
- This CIAE/AAACE publication is registered with ISBN. Many of our international colleagues are at institutions that require publications with ISBN in order to count toward tenure and promotion. Registering our proceedings with ISBN help our international colleagues secure funding to participate in future conferences, which will help grow our commission and AAACE's global reach.

#### CONFINTEA VII

- A special issue of Adult Learning will focus on CONFINTEA VII and the MFA, edited by Marcie Boucouvalas with manuscripts by CIAE, COLLO and Proliteracy members. It will be published in 2024. This will be the third CONFINTEA-focused Adult Learning Special Issue connected to CIAE efforts. (5th Assembly Adult Learning Issue - 1998 Vol 10 No 1 and 6th Assembly Adult Learning Issue – 2011 Vol 22 No 4)

We continue to facilitate communications and collaborations among CIAE members, which continue to result in joint papers, joint research projects, and study visits to each other's home bases.

#### Outstanding Action Items for 2024:

- CIAE was unable to execute any webinars in 2023. We are planning a webinar series for 2024.

## COMMISSION FOR PROFESSORS OF ADULT EDUCATION (CPAE)

**Commission Director: Davin Carr-Chellman (10/2022-Present)**

**Description:** Our organization seeks to provide a caring, supportive, and collegial community for professors of adult education working in a variety of positions and across their lifespan. We seek to achieve this through our annual meeting in conjunction with annual AAACE conference, usually in November. The meetings feature speakers and networking events as well as presentations, workshops and panels by our members. We invite AAACE members to explore our Commission through the AAACE web site, meet the people that form our leadership team,

and join the faculty and doctoral students in our field that have found a professional home with CPAE.

**Commission Structure and Terms:** CPAE has a long-standing structure for service and transitions of leadership within a structure called the Executive Committee that meets approximately ten times annually. At the AAACE annual conference, the following individuals maintained or assumed new roles. An election took place electronically prior to the AAACE conference and the CPAE membership elected Junghwan Kim to the member-at-large position and Sue Barcinas as incoming CPAE Chair. Sue's position as a member-at-large was vacated with her election, so we held a special election in December 2023 to fill that vacant position. We are waiting for the results. The Executive Committee is comprised of the following individuals and terms of service:

- Sue Barcinas, Incoming Chair (2023-2024), Chair (2024-2026), Past Chair (2026-2027)
- Davin Carr-Chellman, Incoming Chair (2021-2022), chair (2022-2024), Past Chair (2024-2025)
- Junghwan Kim, Member-at-Large (2023-2026)
- Mitsunori (Mitsu) Misawa, Member-at-Large (2021-2024)
- Maja Stojanovic, Member-at-Large (2022-2025)
- Rachel Wlodarsky, Secretary-Treasurer (2019-2025)
- Vacant, Member-at-Large (2023-2026)

### **Completed Activities in 2023:**

CPAE supported the commission's purpose and the AAACE mission by organizing virtual educational programming and communication throughout the year as well as contributing to review processes and CPAE outreach. The major activities are the following:

CPAE sponsored two webinars during the 2023 year:

- Proposal to Publication (2/23/2023): Ways to create a successful AAACE conference proposal and how to build on that proposal for other creative works such as manuscripts, blogs, podcasts, and white papers. Facilitators: Sue Barcinas and Chad Hoggan, All. Outcomes: guidance for new writers and reminders for all. 45 people attended. We aim to repeat a publication focus annually.
- Bridge Series in partnership with all AAACE Commissions: Strategies for Facilitating Learner Presence Online (3/9/2023): Instructor Strategies for designing and delivering online courses. Facilitators: Simone Conceição, and Kelly McKenna. Outcomes: Effective Strategies for creating learner and instructor presence.

CPAE held a gathering at the AERC in June 2023. CPAE EC Members Edith Gnanadass and Mitsu Mitsunori facilitated group engagement.

A workshop was held at the 2023 AAACE conference focusing on the politics and processes of the professoriate in which scholars at different career stages offered reflections on their careers. CPAE presentations were held as a strand throughout the conference. The topics were well received. Following the workshop, a research and practice networking session with food and refreshments was held.

The Annual business meeting was held, open to CPAE members. Approximately 70 individuals attended that meeting. Several important decisions were made, including ratifying the partnership between AERC and CPAE/AAACE in which AERC becomes a Standing Committee of CPAE

Tuition grants were awarded to 11 graduate student applicants. Students were asked to submit a one-page reflection to coordinator, Edith Gnanadass post-AAACE conference. The CPAE Awards Committee (Davin Carr-Chellman, Sue Barcinas, Rachel Wlodarsky, and Geleana Drew Alston) met to determine the recipients of the 2023 CPAE Early Career Award and Mid-Career Award, as well as the recipients of the AAACE Houle and Okes awards.

The CPAE Standards for Adult Education Graduate Programs were updated over the past two years. Steve Schmidt, Cathy Hansman, and Geleana Drew Alston have spearheaded this important work.

AERC as a Standing Committee of CPAE: Over the last two years the CPAE EC, the CPAE/AERC Partnership Sub-committee, and the AERC Steering Committee have worked to create the structure for AERC to become a Standing Committee of CPAE. This change was ratified at the 2023 CPAE Annual Business meeting.

CPAE engages in regular communication with members through a member listserv (supported by CPAE member Jim Berger), a tri-annual newsletter (organized by Maja Stojanovic and Rachel Wlodarsky), and general AAACE newsletter organization communication.

### **Outstanding Action Items for 2024:**

CPAE will continue to address challenges regarding the changing ways current and potential commission members may find value add and support from CPAE activities. CPAE will continue to refine the new relationship with AERC. We will continue efforts to support graduate program accreditation.

At the end of 2021, a CPAE member began the efforts to update and organize a comprehensive, accessible list of adult education in higher education programs (U.S. and international). CPAE will continue supporting this effort.

## **2024 Plan of Action**

Activities Planned: This year CPAE aims to continue building on virtual and in-person engagement of and service to members including, but not limited to the following action items:

- Coordinating, facilitating and sponsoring virtual programming. Virtual programming was a success throughout 2023 and we will continue that virtual programming in several areas:
  - Publishing
  - Sustaining growth in adult education programs
  - Branding adult education programs
  - Collaboration with the Public Affairs Committee, the Commission for Graduate Students, and other commissions on programming that may be of interest to our commission.
- Generating a comprehensive, accessible list of adult education programs within higher education (U.S. and international). A CPAE member has expressed interest in developing this resource.
- Confirming the revised CPAE Standards for Graduate Programs in Adult Education in order to support adult education graduate program sustainability and growth. CPAE is in a unique position to support members and graduate programs in adult education by providing documentation and standards for adult education as a field of study. These standards may play an important role in potential accreditation options for AAACE
- Streamlining CPAE communication through effective differentiation of newsletter messages and social media engagement.
- Organizing CPAE/AAACE conference track and activities: CPAE will organize a CPAE conference track, provide general conference support, review various award submissions, review proposals, organize a workshop and networking session, as well as the annual business meeting, with the aim to provide virtual access to that meeting. CPAE would like to move towards a hybrid conference within a sustainable business model that will maintain our in-person attendees and increase participation virtually from those who may be unable to attend in person.
- Partnering: CPAE will continue to partner nationally and internationally in adult education with relevant initiatives.
- Supporting AERC: The Adult Education Research Conference to be held face-to-face in Gwynett, Georgia in June 2024 at which we will hold a CPAE informal gathering.

- Update the CPAE by-laws

Leadership Succession Plans: Current leadership includes the executive committee below with Sue Barcinas elected as the incoming chair who will assume the chair position in October 2024. An election for one member-at-large will be held electronically in 2024.

- Sue Barcinas, Incoming Chair (2023-2024), Chair (2024-2026), Past Chair (2026-2027)
- Davin Carr-Chellman, Incoming Chair (2021-2022), chair (2022-2024), Past Chair (2024-2025)
- Junghwan Kim, Member-at-Large (2023-2026)
- Mitsunori (Mitsu) Misawa, Member-at-Large (2021-2024)
- Maja Stojanovic, Member-at-Large (2022-2025)
- Rachel Wlodarsky, Secretary-Treasurer (2019-2025)
- Vacant, Member-at-Large (2023-2026)

Areas of Concern: Of continued concern is the ability of the Commission to increase engagement and access. The commission sees the development of a hybrid conference as an important building block to increase that engagement and access. This hybrid initiative directly connects to education for social justice by increasing access to international participants, participants who may not have sufficient funding, and participants who may have limited mobility for various reasons and who therefore may find it impossible to travel to the U.S. during this time. Of special mention, with decreasing travel budgets, our members without travel funding can still engage in the CPAE community through a hybrid conference offering. We do not envision a decrease in overall membership, or a decrease in face-to-face participants in the conference, but rather an expansion of the diverse mosaic of adult education scholars.

## COMMISSION FOR WORKFORCE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CWPD)

### **Description:**

Education to increase competencies, knowledge, career opportunities, and development in workforce and continuing professional education.

**Commission Director:** Yvonne Hunter-Johnson (10/21-current)

### **Activities Completed in 2023:**

**Formation of Leadership Team:** A dedicated leadership team was established to steer the commission towards success. **Webinar "Moving from Knowing to Doing":** The commission hosted an insightful webinar focusing on practical strategies for translating knowledge into action. **CWPD Policies Approved and Implemented:** Crucial policies were developed, approved, and successfully implemented, ensuring the commission's effective operation. **Active Involvement in AAACE Newsletter:** The CWPD remained actively engaged in the AAACE newsletter, contributing valuable insights and updates. **Introduction of CWPD Awards:** Recognizing excellence, the commission introduced awards for students, practitioners, and faculty members who have made significant contributions.

**Increase of Annual Budget:** The annual budget received a substantial boost, growing from \$300 to \$1000, empowering the commission to expand its initiatives. **CWPD Conference Panel Discussion:** A thought-provoking panel discussion was hosted during the conference, fostering meaningful conversations. **Annual Membership Meeting (AAACE Conference):** The commission held its annual membership meeting, providing a forum for members to connect and collaborate. **A total of 13 Proposals Accepted and Presented at AAACE:** A remarkable achievement, with 13 proposals accepted and presented at the AAACE conference.

### **Outstanding Action Items for 2024:**

- **Webinar on Artificial Intelligence:** Delve into the world of Artificial Intelligence in our upcoming webinar, where experts will explore its impact on workforce and professional development.
- **Quarterly Newsletter:** Keep an eye out for our quarterly newsletter, packed with updates, insights, and news from the CWPD community. We look forward to continuing our journey of excellence and collaboration in workforce and professional development. Thank you for your ongoing support!



# 2023 AWARDS

Each spring, AAACE sends out a call for nominations for annual awards. Following are the 2023 AAACE Awards and award winners.

## CYRIL O. HOULE AWARD

*for Outstanding Literature in Adult Education*

The Cyril O. Houle Award was established in 1981 to honor the scholarship and memory of Cyril O. Houle, Professor of Adult Education at the University of Chicago. It is given annually by the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education (AAACE) for a book published in English in the previous year that reflects universal concerns of adult educators. Nominated works should exemplify outstanding literature in adult education.

### 2023 AWARD RECIPIENT



*Jonathan Taylor*

*Motivational Immediacy: Fostering Engagement in Adult Learners*

## **IMOGENE AWARD**

### ***for Outstanding Research in Adult Education***

This award recognizes persons whose research contributes significantly to the advancement of adult and continuing education and honors the memory of Imogene Okes, whose reports on adult education participation have been widely used and quoted in the field. It is given annually by the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education (AAACE) for a report of original research done by single or joint authors and published in English in the previous year for a work that reflects the ideals for which Imogene Okes stood. Nominated works should exemplify outstanding and original research in adult education.

### **2023 AWARD RECIPIENT**



*Susan J. Barcinas      Susan S. Braithwaite*

*Experienced paramedics' navigation of and learning about ethical dilemmas in the field, Studies in Continuing Education*

# MALCOLM KNOWLES AWARD

## *for Outstanding Adult Education Program Leadership*

This award was established in the name of Malcolm S. Knowles for his distinguished contribution to theory and practice in the field of adult education from 1935 onward. A hallmark of "Malcolm's" work has been his popularization of the theory of andragogy — the art and science of helping adults learn — in the USA and the spread of its influence around the world. This award is intended to give recognition to an adult education program, including the personnel responsible for carrying out the program, in accordance with the andragogical process.

## 2023 AWARD RECIPIENTS



*Annalisa L. Raymer*  
*Community Learning and Service Partnerships CLASP*

# PRESIDENT'S APPRECIATION AWARD

## *for Outstanding Contributions to AAACE*

This award honors the person or persons who have exemplified outstanding contributions to AAACE during the past year. They have shown visible evidence of selfless dedication to projects while being committed to helping others in accomplishing their goals. It is given to the person or persons who have exhibited a standard of excellence while demonstrating

**leadership within a formal or non-traditional learning environment in meeting educational needs.**

## 2023 AWARD RECIPIENT



*Michelle Johnson*



*Mitsunori Misawa*

## COMMISSION AWARDS

Commission for Distance Learning & Technology (CDLT)  
Outstanding Distance Learning Adult Educator: Amanda Young

Commission for Graduate Students (CGS)  
Leadership Award: Billie Mcnamara

Commission for Professors of Adult Education (CPAE)  
Early-Career Award: Jeremy Bohonos  
Mid-Career Award: Qi Sun

## POSTER AWARDS

*Highly Relevant, Novel, or Insightful topic:* Building capacity online: Adapting fieldbased community science for virtual engagement (Lauren Vilen, Jill Zarestky)•

*Standout Conceptual or Methodological Framework: A Literature Review:*  
Disrupting Majoritarian Discourses in Adult Educational Research (Esther Pippins, Cindy Peña, Elizabeth Pippins)•

*Significant Findings or Lessons Learned: Teaching for transfer: Exposure, experiences, and instructional behavior in higher education (Thomas Rausch)*