



The Coalition Of Lifelong Learning Organizations

Executive Committee Meeting Notes
April 2, 2009 (Phone Conference)
10:00 – 11:00

Present: M. Buckner, M. Boucouvalas, P. Greasley, K. Peno, T. Kowalik.

M. Buckner asked that we begin the meeting by discussing a concept COLLO could create as a national initiative, i.e., a nationwide agenda to advocate that adult education be recognized as a critical element of the U.S. educational policy.

P. Greasley provided the following background:

1. President Obama has said that education is important to the U.S.
2. Internationally, the US education position is slipping
3. Adult education is tied to a strong U.S. economy
4. U.S. is in recession; huge numbers of workers currently laid off; ranks of unemployed growing – urgently needing training for new jobs
5. Adult education funding and policy is currently disjointed – Education, Labor, Justice, etc. – depending on language used and definition of adult education, e.g., education vs. training
6. NGO's currently serving needs of adult learners have further fractured the field into small, focused special interest groups, associations, and organizations.

Members of the committee held considerable discussion about a concept and strategy to implement the concept. Results are as follows:

The concept: To encourage organizations representing adult training, education and learning to join forces using their collective strength to advocate that adult learning become a critical element in the US educational and workforce development policy.

This is a call for association and NGO leaders to come together to forge a common approach that advances the cause of adult and continuing education, training and lifelong learning.

The strategy:

1. Craft a general statement/white paper
 - a. Define adult education or use language that is inclusive (education for U.S. adults)
 - b. Ask adult education organizations (broadly defined) to harness their collective strengths to advocate on behalf of adults

- c. Develop principles we might work towards (literacy, college course work, certificates, training,) – see CONFINTEA V documents
 - d. Possibly include strategy suggestions – letter writing, joint meetings, etc
 - e. Contact Alan Knox to obtain list of adult education associations
 - f. Distribute the paper to leaders of all adult and continuing education organizations encouraging they lend their voice to this initiative
 - g. Invite associations to join forces with other associations in the initiative
 - h. Emphasize it is not about COLLO but about adult learners, i.e., we want to help support every associations goals as they meet the needs of their special target population of adult learners
2. Contact Lennox to see if this concept and approach would be of interest to his organization
 3. The outcomes
 - To develop a national summit of association leaders
 - To change U.S. education policy to place greater emphasis on adult learning
 - To provide greater educational/training opportunities for adults
 - To strengthen U.S. competitiveness in world
 - To help with U.S. economic recovery
 4. Committee Tasks ahead.
 - a. Tom is going to draft minutes
 - b. Phil takes first shot at drafting concept paper – April 5
 - c. Other committee members will edit and enhance – April 10 back to Phil
 - d. Edit and include changes and sent to committee – as final draft April 15
 - e. Full committee will review before distribution – April 30

K. Peno reported on current membership and finances. She has received from M. Shinn all necessary documentation to make transition complete. She is confident that she has received enough information to move membership invoicing ahead. She has a list of previously paid members. Using that list as a starting point, on May 1 she will send membership invoices for July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

T. Kowalik reported that he has been working with J. Poley to develop webinar for current COLLO members.

Topic: Technology in adult education

Speaker: J. Poley

Dates being considered: May - 4, 6, 8, 11; between 9:30 and 12:00 Eastern time

Action: Executive committee needs to experiment with web meeting software before advertising the webinar to the full COLLO board.

At the conclusion of this meeting several members briefly experimented with the webinar system.

Respectfully submitted by Thomas F. Kowalik, Secretary