

COLLO Update Report
September 3, 2009
Thomas Kowalik, Secretary

Marjean Buckner, president, recently reviewed COLLO meeting notes for the past five years since the rebirth of the Coalition. Her effort resulted in the following observations that are intended to summarize the initiatives and accomplishments COLLO has undertaken and achieved in that timeframe. They also provide necessary background as COLLO develops plans for the future.

Membership and Organizational Development:

During our first meetings it was decided to contact a variety of other organizations and association that, either were past members of COLLO or, might share our purpose of advancing adult and continuing education

Initiative:

1. Expand COLLO membership

- a. Task: Contact former members of COLLO to determine interest in rejoining.
- b. Action: Former members of COLLO were contacted. (See attached list.)
- c. Result: Former members rejoining COLLO include:
 - i. Alpha Sigma Lambda
 - ii. The American Association of Adult and Continuing Education
 - iii. American Council on Education
 - iv. American Distance Education Consortium
 - v. Association for Continuing Higher Education
 - vi. Commission on Adult Basic Education
 - vii. Council for Adult and Experiential Learning
 - viii. Learning Resources Network
 - ix. National Adult Education Professional Development Consortium
 - x. International Associates
- d. Task: Contact organizations with similar goals to share information about COLLO and extend an invitation to join.
- e. Action: A number of national, state and regional groups were contacted.
- f. Result: New members joining COLLO include:
 - i. SUNY Summer Sessions Association
 - ii. Continuing Education Association of New York
 - iii. Kentucky Association of Continuing Higher Education
 - iv. Mountain Valley Adult Education Association
 - v. Missouri Association for Adult Continuing and Community Education
 - vi. American Association of Retired Persons
 - vii. National Association for Adults with Special Learning Needs
 - viii. Mountain Plains Adult Education Association (MPAEA)

ix. Ohio Association for Adult and Continuing Education (OAACE)

2. Incorporate COLLO

- a. Task: Explore best location for incorporation and seek legal assistance.
- b. Action: Decision to incorporate in Washington, D.C.; attorney Venable LLP, and Certified Public Accountants Ribis, Jones & Maresca PA were contacted.
- c. Result: Bylaws adopted, Articles of Incorporation filed, Form 1023 sent to IRS:

3. Establish COLLO website and marketing materials

- a. Task: Create website, virtual brochure, membership invitations, PowerPoint presentation
- b. Action: All materials created by executive committee; website administrator hired.
- c. Result: COLLO has online presence, Gmail address, all records and materials viewable by public, invitation letters have been used for membership recruitment, PowerPoint available to any COLLO member to share with colleagues, interested individuals and prospective members.

Value Add Project

Members requested that we explore ways in which participation and membership in COLLO adds value to their associations and the field of adult and continuing education

Initiative:

1. Determine value add concepts

- a. Task: Survey COLLO members to identify topic, issues of importance and to seek guidance in determining “value add” project(s).
- b. Action: Surveyed members.
- c. Result: Several themes emerged as important topics for COLLO to explore:
 - i. Possible joint marketing campaigns
 - ii. Respond to RFP’s for funding
 - iii. Promote the field/profession
 - iv. Information exchanges and networking
 - v. Critical mass for advocacy for legislation
 - vi. Collaborative projects
 - vii. Research/data gathering, Impact of HE CE organization trends
 - viii. International, national, state advocacy for Lifelong Learning
 - ix. Profession building
 - x. Determine institution, state, national, and international policy value of adult and lifelong learning

2. Design COLLO meetings to fulfill some value add needs

- a. Task: Develop meeting agendas to include time for networking, information sharing, emerging issue identification, and professional development.

- b. Action: Establish bi-annual meetings with meaningful agendas.
 - c. Results: Meetings have been designed to include time for organizational development issues, member sharing and networking, professional development (guest speakers), discussion of emerging issues, and adult learning advocacy campaigns at national and international levels.
- 3. Create a virtual repository of materials supporting adult and continuing education**
- a. Task: Identify useful information sources and place/link to allow access to members of the profession.
 - b. Action: COLLO members researched, identified, and forwarded materials and web-links to be placed on the COLLO website.
 - c. Result: Preliminary materials were hosted on ACHE website, and then transferred to COLLO website where they are currently hosted; also links to organizations, association, and other sources are available on the website.
- 4. Develop ability to utilize technology to conduct virtual meetings and to deliver professional development programs**
- a. Task: Explore technological alternatives for conducting face-to-face meetings and conduct Executive Committee meetings using the technology.
 - b. Action: Technical options explored; decision to use audio conference calls for Executive Committee meetings; video conferencing software options explored; decision to use pilot Dim Dim for first webinar
 - c. Result: Periodic meetings held via this technology. Pilot webinar conducted with 11 participants.

Advocacy at the National and International Level

Members asked that COLLO attempt to forge linkages with key national and international players to gain greater insight into issues, policies, and to attempt to advocate on behalf of adult learners.

Initiative:

- 1. Explore connections with U.S. Department of Education**
- a. Result:
 - i. D. Miller, of the US Department of Education, Division of Adult Education and Literacy, presented overview of his office, reported on the work within the Department of Education, i.e., The No Child Left Behind Program with special emphasis in math and science; mentioned the link with community colleges and developmental education, adult literacy and secondary literacy programs and the fact that the department was increasing the dialogue in community colleges – blending developmental education of adult literacy (Feb 2005)

- ii. Presentation by Ed Kealy, Executive Director, Council for Education Funding reported that education received \$24 billion from the federal government in 1995, and that has risen to \$56 billion now. Now the federal government wants to constrain higher education. There has been a precipitous decline in investment in education from 2001-02 forward. (Sept 2005)

2. Explore connections with UNESCO

a. Result:

- i. Presentation by R. Arndt, representing Friends of UNESCO presented information about UNESCO and described the current status of affairs. (October 2004)
- ii. Presentation by M. Boucouvalas and J. Henschke - "Towards the 6th World Assembly on Adult Learning (CONFINTEA): Insights from the Regional (North American/Europe/Israel) Preparatory Meeting and Their Relevance to the Coalition of Lifelong Learning Organization" (Feb. 2009)

3. Explore connections with U.S. Department of State.

a. Result:

- i. Held meetings with Department of State staff members
 1. Alexander Zemek, Deputy Executive Director
 2. Emily Spencer, Education Program Officer
 3. Kelly Siekman, Deputy Office Director, Office of UNESCO Affairs, Bureau of International Organizations
 4. Stephanie Robson, Chief of Staff, International Affairs Office, U.S. Department of Education (2008)
- ii. Presentation from Department of State on UNESCO, history of U.S. participation, and plans for US participation in CONFINTEA V (Sept 2008)
 1. Alexander Zemek, Deputy Executive Director, US National Commission for UNESCO, Bureau of International Organizations
 2. Emily Spencer, Education Program Officer, Bureau of International Organization Affairs
- iii. Assisted Department of State efforts to garner practitioner input while U.S. was preparing CONFINTEA VI, International Conference on Adult Education. (2008)
- iv. Secured membership in U.S. delegation selected to attend CONFINTEA VI. (2009)

4. Learn about emerging issues in adult education

a. Result:

- i. Presentation by R. Wlodkowski (University of Denver and Commission for Accelerated Programs) on an initiative he is undertaking in partnership with CAEL, to request funds from the Lumina Foundation that would support a national summit of adult education organizations. The proposal seeks \$800,000 over several years to research, develop, and organize a four-day summit and to distribute findings, results, and information following the event. (Sept 2005)
- ii. Presentation by A. Wise of NCATE, National Council for Accreditation of Teachers, presented on NCATE's accrediting process for Schools of Education based upon learning outcomes assessment. (Jan 2006)
- iii. Presentation by A. Knox – "AAACE Futures Report" (Dec. 2006)
- iv. Presentation by L. McLendon, of the National Council of State Directors of Adult Education on his organization's structure, strategy, and processes for advancing adult education and family literacy on a state and national basis. (Jan 2007)
- v. Presentation by L. McLendon -1) getting the adult and continuing education agenda among the top issues of Presidential contenders, 2) nurturing and feeding congressional champions for adult education, and 3) proactively and reactively pushing issues.
- vi. Presentation by L. McLendon, NAEPDC, Inc. on House Democratic Stimulus Proposal: Implications for Adult Education (Feb. 2009)
- vii. Presentation by J. Wertheim the CAEL Report - Adult Learning in Focus: National and State-by-State Data (Sept 2008)
- viii. Webinar by J. Poley; CEO and President of the American Distance Ed Consortium titled COLLO and the Crystal Ball: Technology Trends for Lifelong Learning Organizations (May 2009)

5. Prepare letters of support and advocacy

a. Result:

- i. Support to CAEL and Accelerated Programs for Lumina Funding for national adult education summit. (2005)
- ii. Support and introduction of Alex Charters, COLLO representative to the 10th International Conference on the History of Adult Education in Helsinki, Finland (2005)

Outstanding Issues, Directions, Opportunities?

- 1. Continue to expand membership, reach and adult education advocacy
- 2. Identify the big national issues and prepare position papers
- 3. Expand professional development programming
- 4. Review the Mondale Bill and look at it as a possible push for adult learning via COLLO.

5. Ask the National Association for Adults with Special Learning Needs (NAASLN) to show how collaboration between NAASLN and COLLO would assist both associations. NAASLN has produced many studies which rarely get enough publicity in the lifelong learning community
6. The Ohio Association for Adult and Continuing Education (OACE) has some webinars which they use for information and to educate; COLLO might want to learn about these webinars

Associations contacted, provided information, and asked to consider joining COLLO.

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NATIONAL COALITION FOR LITERACY
PROLITERACY
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
CAEL
ALLIANCE --- ADULT PROGRAMS IN HIGHER EDUCATION
AAACE
ASTD
AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT
AFTE/NEA
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