

Meeting Summary
February 12, 2008

Meeting between Representatives of the Coalition of Lifelong Learning Organizations (COLLO) and U.S. Departments of State and Education Regarding US Participation in UNESCO CONFINTEA VI.

In Attendance

Taskforce Representing COLLO

Marjean Buckner, Ed. D.
President, M.McLaughlin Buckner Associates, Inc.
Past President, American Association of Adult and Continuing Education
President-elect, Coalition of Lifelong Learning Organizations

Alexander Charters, Ph. D.
Vice President of Continuing Education and Professor of Education (Retired),
Syracuse University
Past President, Association of Continuing Higher Education
Past President, University Continuing Education Association
Founder and Past President, Coalition of Lifelong Learning Organizations

John A. Henschke, Ed. D.
Associate Professor of Adult Education, University of Missouri, St. Louis
Continuing Education Specialist, University of Missouri Extension
Past President, American Association for Adult and Continuing Education
President of the Missouri, USA / Para, Brazil [MO/PA] Partners of the Americas

Thomas Kowalik, Ed. D.
Director of Continuing Education and Outreach, Binghamton University-SUNY
Past President, University Continuing Education Association
Past President, Coalition of Lifelong Learning Organizations
Secretary, Coalition of Lifelong Learning Organizations

Representing U.S. Department of State

Alexander Zemek
Deputy Executive Director
US National Commission for UNESCO
Bureau of International Organizations

Emily Spencer
Education Program Officer
Bureau of International Organization Affairs

Kelly Siekman
Deputy Office Director
Office of UNESCO Affairs
Bureau of International Organizations

Representing U.S. Department of Education

Stephanie Robson
Chief of Staff
International Affairs Office

Notes

1. Department of State (DOS) has submitted UNESCO CONFINTEA VI guidelines for country reports to the Department of Education (DoE). The deadline for report submission is March 2008. The DoE is utilizing data the government collects on a regular basis, the knowledge of its staff experts in Adult Literacy to prepare report. Alexander Charters noted that the field of adult education is much broader than literacy. **The DoE may seek additional input from adult education experts in the field.** If they seek assistance, they may contact Thomas Kowalik at COLLO to help identify professionals from COLLO and other associations representing the field who can offer expert information and commentary to include in the report.
2. A discussion was held to explore the value of participating in the CONFINTEA, what products typically resulted from previous conferences and how were they used. No one at the meeting seemed to know of any follow-up in the U.S. from CONFINTEA V by the Department of State.
3. DoS staff mentioned they were considering the delegation to CONFINTEA VI. A. Charters offered some perspective about past delegations and advice about the makeup of the 2009 delegation. **DoS indicated they were reconsidering the composition of the U.S. delegation for the 2009 CONFINTEA VI.**
4. A brief discussion was held regarding the composition for the national commission for UNESCO. The COLLO representatives at the meeting expressed concern that Adult Education was left off of the Commission and hoped that this would be changed in the future. **As a result of this meeting, it is hoped that non-governmental representatives from Adult Education may be included in this group.**
5. AS DoS and DoE prepare for CONFINTEA VI, representatives will contact T. Kowalik as the point-of-contact to reach COLLO, its member associations, and professionals adult education. The members of the COLLO attending this meeting will act as primary liaisons with the entire COLLO membership to secure the assistance and expertise of professionals in the field when needed to assist with preparations for U.S. participation in CONFINTEA VI.