

COLLO Meeting
February 22, 2005

Present: Drew Allbritten, Cle Anderson, Marcie Boucouvalas, Cecilia Bowie, Alexander Charters, Tom Flint, Regis M Gilman, Phil Greasley, Clare Klunk, Tom Kowalik, Mary Beth Lakin, Dan Miller, Janet Poley, Linda Sayre, Michele Shin, Wayne Whelan

Reports/Discussions

- W. Whelan opened the meeting, greeted attendees and had everyone introduce themselves. New participants were welcomed and encouraged to become engaged in the discussions of the day.
- M. Shinn reported on the status of the project previously identified by COLLO members. P. Greasley reported on the status of COLLO bylaws and the need to review them. D. Allbritten distributed information about the work keys program.
- T. Flint asked about the impetus for restarting COLLO. A brief overview was provided, i.e., COLLO was incorporated in 1973; membership has spanned literacy, unions, non-formal, distance education; COLLO was created as a venue to assure we were dealing with the learners' issues even though participating organizations might have been competitive outside this group. We decided to reconstitute the group because we felt there was no one organization speaking to anyone about adult and continuing education. We started with organizations that belonged before. W. Whelan explained external factors affecting adult education and continuing education and higher education were motives for renewed his participation. A. Charters mentioned the need for unified voice to speak on behalf of adult learners. T. Kowalik explained his motives, i.e., shifting demographics in the US, growing number of adults, the need for United States non-governmental organization representation on international fronts, the need for economics development and workforce development initiatives, and that it is in our national interest because COLLO represents millions of learners in the U.S.
- D. Miller, of the US Department of Education, Division of Adult Education and Literacy, made a brief presentation to the group. His office has three divisions: (1) high schools and career and technical education; (2) vocational education; and (3) a small community college program. D. Miller reported on the work within the Department of Education, i.e., The No Child Left Behind Program with special emphasis in math and science. He 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. D. Miller also mentioned that the President's budget eliminated the Perkins Funding, but the money was redirected to the high school reform budget. In the past, Perkins has supported about 3 million learners, a small number compared to what we see as the need. Both houses have taken up reauthorization for Perkins; however, the President's budget has reduced the amount of money dedicated for adult education from \$500 million to \$200 million. Miller indicated the adult education initiatives of the department were focused on 4 primary areas, i.e., (1) Technology driven education to increase access and improve the teaching work force – using technology as a delivery system and infra structure within the states; using technology as an instructional tool; developing and electronic portal for adult learners; developing a warehouse of proven activities for

adult educators; (2) adult numeracy; (3) adult literacy; and (4) working with states to develop standards for adult education. He mentioned the website www.caalusa.org as a reference site for English as a second language. When asked about how COLLO might interface with department of education initiatives, D. Miller responded that we could help adult learners through all the systems that exist to assist adult learners.

- T. Kowalik led the group through a series of items leading to decisions regarding various organizational issues. (See Decision/Actions below)
- P. Greasley suggested 3 issues he would like this group to address
 1. Everyone needs to continue to send the latest links of resources in adult and life long learning to M. Shinn.
 2. We need to continue to explore ways to determine the value of continuing education to individuals, communities, higher educational institutions, and to develop good models in the best of practices.
 3. We need to move quickly on the by laws, constitution, and corporation issues so that we can ratify the organization at our September meeting.
- The Group discussed the request to offer help in determining the value of Continuing Education and decided to conduct a conference all among those individuals interested in this particular topic. Key words that surfaced and seemed to be helpful language in this effort included “institutional benefit calculator”, “tool kits”, and “develop a blue ribbon commission.” Other members of the group suggested that we look at *Catalyst* and their report on women in the work place, the need to get out front and look and future strategies and future issues, i.e., related to 10 year to meet family needs and how we can restore the ideas of public education, to review the CAEL website to identify best practice information for employers in the work force 2.0 project and for post secondary education at these institutions and their adult learning focused institution materials. A. Charters reminded this group that as an advocate for life long learning; we need to become knowledgeable about state and federal government issues. He also mentioned the importance of establishing and maintaining connections with UNESCO and other international groups, e.g., the International Council for Adult Education. He noted that none of us knew the federal government was reducing funding for adult education programs from 500 million dollars to 200 million dollars. He also noted that we had no opportunity to shape that policy.

Decisions/Actions

- The group elected officers as follows: Thomas Kowalik – President; Philip Greasley – President Elect; and Jan Poley – Secretary Treasurer.
- Four action groups were identified with the charge to explore how COLLO might work in various aspects of life long learning:
 - Bylaws/corporation issues – P. Greasley, M. Boucouvales, and C. Bowie
 - International issues – J. Poley, M. Boucouvales, L. Sayre, and M. B. Lakin. T. Kowalik
 - Membership issues – C.Clunk, R. Gilman, and L. Sayre.
 - Issues and program identification – D. Allbritten (with help from all through the list serve)

- Each action group is to prepare an interim report of their findings and distribute that report using the COLLO list serve by May 15th, 2005. P. Greasley indicated he would attempt to provide monthly updates on his findings regarding by laws in corporation issues.
- T. Kowalik will contact the NCEA to determine the status of the COLLO treasury and will share his findings with the Bylaws/corporation issues group.
- J. Poley will provide a list of some of the 501©3 things that need to be done like trade marking so the Bylaws/corporation issues group might recommend if they want to revitalize the old COLLO or start over.
- It was decided that a participant directory would not be developed at this next time, however, links to the various association web sites are to be emailed to M. Shinn. These links will be added to the resource site being developed on the acheinc.org web site.
- It was decided that P. Greasley would arrange a conference call among those individuals interested in determining the value of Continuing Education (Marybeth Lakin, Tom Flint, Phil Greasley, Jan Poley, Wayne Whelan, Cecelia Bowie, and Tom Kowalik)
- D. Allbritten may approach a representative from the office of secondary education as a prospective speaker for our next meeting.
- J. Poley will explore the COLLO designation for a web site address (T. Kowalik will forward findings from previous exploratory work by Starla Jewell-Kelly).
- Next meeting
 - Date: September 27, 2005, Tuesday
 - Location: NCHE Conference Rooms at One Dupont Circle
 - Time: 10am – 3pm
 - Tentative Agenda:
 - Welcome of new members
 - Overview of COLLO and why we are reconvening
 - Presentation by guest speaker
 - Organizational issues – reports from action groups
 - Report on status of “value added” project

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(As of February 22, 2005)

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