



## The Coalition Of Lifelong Learning Organizations

### **COLLO Meeting**

Monday September 15, 2008

Present: P. Greasley, M. Buckner, A. Charters, J. Maloney (National Coalition for Literacy), L. McLendon, J. Wertheim, M. Boucouvalas, M. Lakin (for part of afternoon session), K. Schuhle-Williams, R. Weng (COABE), R. Gilman, L. Selmsler, A. Zemek (U. S. Commission for UNESCO), E. Spencer (UNESCO office in State Department), T. Kowalik.

### Reports/Discussions

- P. Greasley opened the meeting, explained the agenda and asked participants to introduce themselves.
- A. Charters gave brief historical overview of COLLO, his history as a member of one of the National Commissions for UNESCO, and his participation in previous CONFINTEA's. (See attached documents)
- A. Zemek gave presentation on UNESCO, history of U.S. participation, and plans for US participation in CONFINTEA VI.
  - State Department Strategic Plan Goals – Achieving peace and security; governing justly and democratically; investing in people; promoting economic growth and prosperity; and providing humanitarian assistance.
  - To view the U.S. mission to UNESCO visit this site: [The Permanent Delegation of the U.S. to UNESCO](#)
  - UNESCO roles – laboratory of ideas; standard setter – normative instruments; clearinghouse; capacity building; catalyst for international cooperation
  - U.S. National Commissions role is to advise the U.S. Government; its deliberations and decisions on recommendations must be made in public forums
  - U.S. focus areas – programs (strengthen and focus priority program areas); reform (increase cost effectiveness and accountability); normative instruments (work on securing outcomes consistent with US policy)
  - Programs – literacy; teacher training; rebuilding education systems in countries emerging from conflict; capacity building in engineering and basic sciences; water - access to potable water and disaster mitigation; democracy promotion and expansion of freedom of expression
  - CONFINTEA VI – 19-22 May 2009 in Belem, Brazil “Living and Learning for a Viable Future – The Power of Adult Learning”
- J. Wertheim presented the CAEL Report - Adult Learning in Focus: National and State-by-State Data (Report and related information can be found at: [Adult Learning in Focus: A National and State-by-State Look at Adult Learning](#))
- Brief reports on member organizational goals and agenda.
  - ACHE- this year's agenda is to train and support continuing educators and advance institutions developing and offering CE programs;
  - Alpha Sigma Lambda – this year's agenda is to merge the foundation and society;
  - AAACE – this year's agenda is to continue work with *Reach Higher America* report from National Commission on Literacy and possibly adding a commission for program managers;
  - COABE – this year's agenda is to offer conferences throughout the U.S. and co-publish journal – *Adult Basic Education and Literacy Journal*;
  - National Association of Adult Education Directors – this year's agenda is to offer a national conference with leadership theme, develop national certification for adult basic education and

- literacy for program managers, work on national legislation to support adult education, work with Hispanic groups for Hispanic education and related legislation, respond to *Reach Higher America*;
- SUNYASS - this year's agenda is to continue work on student motivation and participation research;
  - CEANY – this year's agenda is to work with NYS Dept of Labor, develop credit and noncredit programs for workforce development, economic development, and professional development, advocate for adult and part-time students, and possibly move organizational archives to Charters Library at Syracuse University
  - CAEL – this year's agenda is to disseminate information from their report, publish two new books to help cope with barriers on prior learning assessment and an adult learner inventory, work with states and regions to assess career pathways and retraining/learning
  - National Coalition for Literacy – this year's agenda is to bring groups together seeking consensus to support literacy policy and legislative action, develop an advocacy tool kit, bring in speakers to learn of issues and policy agenda, e.g. WIA and Even Start., HONDA bill and MULDEF, develop one document highlighting priorities for Congress
- P. Greasley reported incorporation papers have been prepared; an executive committee decision to ensure meetings were of substantive nature; offered a short demonstration of the new COLLO website <http://thecollo.org>; handed out the COLLO financial report; and announced that M. Buckner becomes president today with Marcie Boucouvalas voted as President-Elect.

### Decisions

- T. Kowalik is to reproduce materials from this meeting's presentations and distribute to members with meeting notes.
- T. Kowalik is to send link for "Convergence" journal to be found at website for International Council for Adult Education <http://www.icae.org.uy/> – Special Issue dealing with CONFINTEA VI.
- T. Kowalik is to add a link to the CAEL site on the COLLO site to access the report - *Adult Learning in Focus: National and State-by-State Data*
- J. Wertheim, L. Selmsler and L. McLendon are to work together to draft a letter for COLLO to contact legislative representatives regarding Lifelong Learning Accounts Bill.
  - COLLO will send a letter of support to key legislative staffers for this action based upon information provided by Judy, Lynn and Lennox.
- M. Buckner and T. Kowalik are to add affordability, accessibility and Lifelong Learning Accounts, UNESCO, ILR and CONFINTEA VI links under new issues – International Adult Education to "Current Issues" on Website
- ACE and CAEL might work together to encourage higher education institutions to use ACE recommendations for awarding college credit to encourage veterans and other adults toward degree completion.
- COLLO members are to look for authorization bills as they come forward and be prepared to assist with a position, meet appropriate legislators and their staff, and send letters to support them.
- T. Kowalik is to modify the COLLO Website to change members to organizations first, then individual name and contact; change Minutes to COLLO meeting minutes.
- T. Kowalik is to check M. Shinn to see if membership invoices have gone out for 2008 and encourage her or the new treasurer to send out new invoice for the 2009 membership year.
- COLLO is to discuss the definition of Lifelong Learning to reach consensus on its meaning.

COMMENTS ON THE COALITION OF ADULT EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS  
(COLLO)

September 22, 2008

The Library of Continuing Education (LCE) at Syracuse University was developed in 1948 to serve the educators of adults. In 1964 it received a grant of \$249,000 from the Office of Education to further develop and expand. I decided to get input from the field to plan the further development of LCE. A meeting was called with the presidents of Adult Education organizations in the U.S., Canada and representatives from UNESCO. They met and made a substantial contribution to planning the future of LCE.

After the Conference of Adult Education Organizations (CAEO) some of the representatives of the organizations from the U.S. decided to continue to meet as the Committee of Adult Education Organizations (CAEO). It later changed its name to Coalition of Adult Education Organizations (CAEO). It later again changed its name to Coalition of Lifelong Learning Organizations (COLLO). In the 1990's COLLO became inactive but kept its identity largely by Dr. Starla Jewel Kelly, Executive Director of Council of Community Education Association. A major activity of COLLO occurred when I suggested that it invite the major Adult Education Organizations to meet in one place at the same time. Twenty organizations in the U.S. changed the time and place of their annual meetings or Executive Committee meetings to meet in Washington D.C. as the 1969 Conference of Adult Education Organizations. The early history of COLLO is in the Galaxy Conference report titled, "A Report on The Galaxy Conference of Adult Education Organizations" by Alexander Charters.

In 2003, I suggested to Dr. Thomas Kowalik, Director of Continuing Education and Outreach, Binghamton University, that he take the leadership to reactivate COLLO. After discussion with the former President of the inactive COLLO, Dr. William Draves, he then became the leader. About that time Dr. Wayne Whalen, Executive V.P. of ACHE expressed an interest. He joined with Dr. Kowalik and other Educators of Adults to reactivate COLLO in 2004.

The Library of Continuing Education at Syracuse University is now named The Alexander N. Charters Library of Resources for Educators of Adults. It continues to expand and develop today. It is free and open to the public for use by researchers and practitioners in the field of Adult and Continuing Education ([src.syr.edu/charterslibrary](http://src.syr.edu/charterslibrary)).

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ADULT EDUCATION & THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO  
September 28, 2008.

The U.S. has membership in UNESCO, an agency created by the UN. The U.S. National Commission for UNESCO is an organization that serves in an advisory role to UNESCO and as a liaison with organizations and individuals in the U.S. who are interested in education, science and culture. The Adult Education Association (AEA) of the U.S., one of about forty Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) members, was a member of the National Commission when the third International Conference of Adult Education was scheduled for Tokyo in 1972. The AEA was asked to nominate 3 persons, one of whom would be selected as a member of the U.S. delegation to the Conference. I was appointed to the U.S. delegation and did attend the Conference. I was also the AEA representative to the National Commission where I was active and served as chair of a committee to nominate NGO representatives to the Commission.

The U.S. gave up its membership in UNESCO in 1984 and therefore was not eligible to send a delegation to the fourth International Conference held in Paris in 1984. However, I was invited as an individual from the Coalition of Adult Education Organizations (CAEO), to attend the Conference and I participated in the deliberations but did not have a vote. I made an official report of the Conference for some colleagues in the U.S.

The fifth UNESCO International Conference on Adult Education, (CONFINTEA V), was held in Hamburg in 1997. The U.S. was still not a member of UNESCO. Dr. Paul Belanger, Coordinator of CONFINTEA V, contacted me as Coordinator for the U. S. (private sector) seeking participation in the Conference. He indicated that if I gave him the names of some educators of adults from the U.S., he would invite them as individuals to attend the Conference as unofficial observers. Some 30 people from about 20 organizations from the private sector volunteered, received invitations and attended. They participated in the meetings and other activities but could not vote. At the end of the Conference, I designated a small committee to follow up, but as far as I know, it did not meet.

Immediately before the CONFINTEA V Conference the U.S. did name an unofficial delegation which did attend, but like the representatives from the private sector, did not have a vote. I was appointed as a member from the private sector on the delegation.

The U.S. became active in UNESCO again in 2004 and planned to send an official delegation to CONFINTEA VI. There is neither an organization nor an individual representing Adult Education on the current U.S. National Commission for UNESCO.

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