

Coalition of Lifelong Learning Organizations

Meeting Notes September 27, 2005

Present: Drew Allbritten (CEC), Cle Anderson (AAACE), Marcie Boucouvalas (IA), Marjean Buckner (AAACE), Alexander Charters (Friends of COLLO), Regis M Gilman (ASL), Phil Greasley (ACHE), Kathy Guglielmi (AAACE), Susan Kelly (CAEL), Clare Klunk (Friends of COLLO), Tom Kowalik (UCEA), Lennox McLendon (NAEPDC), Steve Parsons (NCEA), Michele Shinn (ACHE), Betty Ward (Dept. of Education and Friends of COLLO), Raymond Wlodkowski (Commission for Accelerated Programs).

Meeting Purpose and Proposed Outcomes:

1. Review revised organization constitution and approve.
2. Review organizational financial status and transfer funds to new location.
3. Professional development.
4. Gain momentum on value added project.
5. List next steps in COLLO revival.

Reports/Discussions

- M. Shinn opened the meeting, greeted attendees and had everyone introduce themselves. She explained the purpose of the meeting and listed expected outcomes.
- P. Greasley presented a report describing the status of the COLLO Constitution, Not-for-Profit designation, and organizational finances. He led an excellent discussion of the Constitution. Members present suggested several changes and asked him to distribute a corrected version for ratification. (See Decisions/Actions below.) During the discussion regarding the COLLO charter and nonprofit status, several members suggested exploring re-chartering in Washington, D.C. or establishing a new charter in Delaware. (See Actions/Decisions below.) S. Parsons reported that NCEA has been holding \$15,500 for COLLO and was now ready to transfer the funds to another organization. P. Greasley indicated that, if approved by this group, the Executive Committee of ACHE had agreed to temporarily hold COLLO funds and act as fiscal agent until COLLO held official NFP status. (See Decisions/Actions below.) An initial membership fee of \$100 for Charter members was agreed by those present. (See Decisions/Actions below.) A final element of this discussion included selection of a domain name/site for COLLO—TheCOLLO.org. A decision was made to purchase a domain name in preparation for a COLLO website. (See Decisions/Actions below.)
- C. Klunk reported organizations were contacted and invited to attend this meeting. Everyone invited responded with interest but several were unable to attend. Additional follow-up is necessary.
- M. Boucouvalas reported on work related to international issues. She introduced Betty Ward, International Education Policy Specialist from the Department of Education who

addressed this group. Betty is a strong supporter of COLLO's purpose and encouraged us to continue our efforts.

- Following the discussion, M. Boucouvalas and B. Ward were asked to continue to explore connections with UNESCO, which has held a conference on adult education every ten years. B. Ward suggested that COLLO send a letter to the U.S. State Department, Bureau of International Organizations, and ask to participate in international education initiatives. (See Decisions/Actions below.) T. Kowalik was asked to distribute an introductory letter that could be used by members attending conferences and international events. (See Decisions/Actions below.)
- D. Allbritten reported preliminary findings resulting from his survey of participants to determine priority issues. His findings showed 15 clusters of priorities and were ranked as follows:
 1. Program Funding (Local/State/Federal Sources) Grant/Contract Opportunities)
 2. Advocacy (Policy Development)(Legislative/Regulatory Review)(Position Papers)
 3. Best Practices (Practitioner-Based)(Research/Evidence-Based)
 4. Job Training Improvement Act (Workforce Development)(Upward Bound)
 5. Research Priorities (Program Effectiveness)(Innovation)(New Directions)
 6. Enhancing the Profession (Image)(Profession Building)(The Continuum)
 7. Technology (Integration)(Cost/E-Rate)
 8. Special Populations (Minorities)(Disabled)(Special Education)
 9. Higher Education Act (Teacher Preparation)(Program Enhancement)(Accountability)
 10. Professional Standards (State Uniformity)(National Model)
 11. Adult Education (Basic Education/Literacy)(Postsecondary)(Transition Skills)
 12. CEU (Relevancy)(Paperwork/Records Management)
 13. Certification (Requirements)(Re-certification)(Alternative Certification)
 14. Supplemental Services (Remedial Courses)(Interventions)
 15. NCLB Ramifications (IDEA)(ATA)
- During the discussion of issues, it was suggested that a speaker from NCAT be asked to attend our January meeting. (See Actions/Decisions below.)
- Ed Kealy, Executive Director, Council for Education Funding, founded in 1969 and now with 100 members, presented to the group. Kealy 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. Prior to Katrina, a .2% increase was projected for education in 2006, meaning that after inflation, education would lose funding. Now that allocation to education is being refigured downward as a means of helping to pay the cost of Hurricane Katrina. He provided an overview of his Coalition, its purpose, how it operates, and offered suggestions that COLLO might consider as it attempts to grow. CEF works to bring its member organizations to work in a unified way to impact federal legislation and provide timely, accurate information as well as to provide early warning and therefore prevention of impending hits against specific educational programs. The purpose of CEF is to represent education groups and to seek a growth in federal funds directed toward all aspects of education. CEF does not lobby on behalf of one educational organization over another. The Coalition focuses on large

issues for which consensus can be achieved. It doesn't take things to a vote until there is consensus. Their game plan for this year is to increase their presence on the Hill and to use research-based information to make the case for better funding education. CEF doesn't do research; it only encourages and synthesizes research already done. It speaks about the cost of not supporting education. The CEF launched the Foundation for Educational Investment this year for that purpose. In terms of techniques for effective operation, most important, Kealy asserted was the need to find "champions" who will stand up for your program, who will say, "Don't cut this program or I will vote against the bill." For that reason, the CEF holds fund raisers for legislators who stand up for education. Kealy feels it is necessary to know where the interest (e.g., U.S. history for Senator Byrd) and "hot buttons" of the champions are. Ed indicated an interest in Adult Education and Lifelong Learning and indicated that many of his member's organizations also share that interest. He invited COLLO to participate in CEF.

- R. Wlodkowski (University of Denver and Commission for Accelerated Programs) reported on an initiative he is undertaking in partnership with CAEL Executive VP Karen Steinberg, 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. Members were supportive of his proposal and offered additional ideas. (See Actions/Decisions below.)
- P. Greasley and M. Shinn reported that little progress had been achieved on the "Value Added" project. T. Kowalik asked members to contribute additional ideas to gain more momentum on this important project. Although critical to many of our members it appears little empirical evidence exists to determine the efficacy of a centralized CE function within higher education institutions. The following ideas and suggestions were generated. CAEL's document, *Adult Learning Focused Institutions*, provides one source of information. Susan Kelley will send copies to all present. An RFP was proposed for 1) interviews with influential provosts and presidents regarding the issues that govern their thinking and decisions regarding CE in order to be able to make clear to them that CE helps them achieve their goals and is not marginal to them, 2) development of best practices, and 3) return on investment data. Another recommendation was to get a respected external reviewer to present the information. Another suggestion was that the Kellogg Foundation should be challenged to fund a unit that champions the needs of adult students for skills training and education. The ACE library at 1 Dupont Circle has CEU data. As one source of data, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing show that adult students enrolled in accelerated programs score higher on students enrolled in traditional programs. Employer/supervisor evaluations support this. CE's value to students should be an important component of CE's "value added" data gathering. COLLO should write to leaders of institutions of higher education contemplating dropping their CE programs as a means of preempting this action. At the conclusion of this discussion, it was decided additional information could be shared using the listserv.

Decisions/Actions

- The group unanimously accepted the COLLO Constitution as modified at this meeting. P. Greasley is to make final edits and forward copies to all participants in one week via the

COLLO listserv. It was decided to remove the statement about dues from the Constitution and include this item in the COLLO operating rules.

- Participants agreed to review the Constitution with their respective organizations for approval and ratification. Ratification responses are due back to P. Greasley through the listserv by October 15, 2005.
- The group directed P. Greasley to explore re-chartering COLLO in Washington D.C. or Delaware. He was authorized to seek legal assistance.
- The group unanimously decided to secure the web domain name of TheCOLLO.org.
- Initial membership dues were set at \$100.
- The group unanimously decided to move COLLO funds from NCEA to ACHE until COLLO has the necessary organizational structure to handle funds. ACHE will act as COLLO fiscal agent until that time.
- T. Kowalik will contact by phone and personal letter those individuals previously contacted by not attending this meeting to seek their participation at the January meeting.
- It was decided that a general letter of introduction explaining COLLO would be a useful way to inform others about COLLO when members attend events. T. Kowalik is to send a copy of the COLLO letter of introduction used by Alex Charters in Helsinki, Finland to everyone.
- M. Boucouvalas, with B. Ward, M. Lakin, J. Poley, and L. Sayre, is to continue to pursue connections with UNESCO.
- The group decided to support the initiative for an Adult Education Summit proposed by R. Wlodkowski. T. Kowalik is to send a letter of support.
- D. Allbritten is to contact representatives from NCAT to secure a speaker for the January meeting.
- D. Allbritten will reformat and resubmit his findings from the preliminary effort to identify issues of interest to members of this group. He will seek further clarification of priorities using the listserv.
- P. Greasley, M. Shinn, and T. Kowalik will continue to explore the continuing education “value added project.” The group decided to utilize the listserv as a vehicle to ask and answer questions every two weeks to expand this ideas generated from this project.
- Next meeting
 - Date: January 24, 2005, Tuesday
 - Location: NCHE Conference Rooms at One Dupont Circle
 - Time: 10am – 3pm
 - Tentative Agenda:
 - Welcome of new members
 - Status reports – Ratification, NFP Charter, Membership, International Issues, Website domain
 - Website design, contents, etc.
 - Marketing materials explaining COLLO and its purpose (establishing an over-arching goal that would be attractive to all organizations and associations, e.g. “adult education – mains stream, but marginalized”)
 - Presentation by guest speaker(s) – possibly representative from NCAT
 - Report on status of “value added” project

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