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MCAE NEWS



The Voice of Adult Education in Massachusetts

November 4, 2009

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Southeast
Region
Advocacy
Meeting
scheduled for
Friday
December 4,
2009.

U.S. Senate Candidates Respond to MCAE ABE Questionnaire

Boston, MA: Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education (MCAE) is pleased to announce that four U.S. Senate candidates have responded to MCAE's Adult Basic Education Questionnaire sent to all the declared candidates for U.S. Senate. "As a service to our members, MCAE has gathered information on the positions of candidates for U.S. Senate regarding issues that are of great concern to the field of adult basic education," said Kenny Tamarkin, Executive Director of MCAE. "We are sharing with our members the responses that we have received so far from Mike Capuano, Martha Coakley, Alan Khazei and Steve Pagliuca and will be making them available publicly to anyone interested on MCAE's website," added Tamarkin. To read the questions and candidate responses [click here](#) or visit www.mcae.net.

As a 501(c)3 organization, MCAE will not be making any endorsement of a candidate, nor will we comment upon the answers we receive. Our goal is to share, with our colleagues around the state and with the public, answers submitted by the candidates exactly as we receive them.

State Announces \$1.4 Million Available for Workplace ABE/ESOL Programs

Today Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Suzanne Bump and Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education Paul Reville announced the availability of \$1.4 million from the MA Learn at Work fund. This program will provide grants to support workplace English and adult basic education classes offered by business-labor-community partnerships. MCAE was pleased to co-sponsor today's press event held at the UMass Medical School in Worcester.

Crittenton Women's Union is Seeking Stories from Low-income Adults About Student Loan Defaults

Dear Colleagues,

Crittenton Women's Union is working with the National Consumer Law Center to address the enormous problems facing those who have

defaulted on student loans and/or have had negative experiences with high-cost vocational schools. Many adults who want to go back to school to upgrade their skills and earning potential are prevented from doing so because of defaulted or unwieldy loans.

We need your help finding low-income adults who are willing to share their stories about student loan default or bad experiences with high-cost vocational schools that did not live up to their promises to provide adequate training or job placement assistance. These stories will be used by lawyers at the National Consumer Law Foundation who are working with the US Department of Education this fall to insure that schools that are eligible for federal assistance programs (such as Pell Grants and Perkins Loans) are in compliance with federal and state laws and have some minimum standards particularly in the areas of completion and job placement.

Please share your stories about people you have worked with who have experienced these problems. You can contact us by email RLiberman@liveworkthrive.org or by phone at (617) 259-2933.

Thanks so much for your help!

Ruthie Liberman
V.P. for Public Policy
Crittenton Women's Union

P.S. Anyone needing step-by-step information on how to handle student loan problems or where to go for help with student debt should go to www.studentloanborrowerassistance.org. This informative website is produced by the National Consumer Law Foundation.

Southeast Region Advocacy Meeting: 12/4/09

Join MCAE at the Brockton Adult Learning Center in December to discuss MCAE's Fiscal Year 2011 advocacy efforts. This year's efforts will be focused on maintaining funding for ABE in line item 7035-0002 of the state budget during these difficult fiscal times and seeking increased federal funding of ABE in Title II of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), which is expected to be reauthorized by Congress in the spring of 2010.

The public policy meeting is open to anyone interested in ABE advocacy efforts, and Program Point People are strongly encouraged to attend. The meeting will be facilitated by Suzanne Martin, Director, Brockton Adult Learning Center, and Jennifer McAllister, MCAE Public Policy Field Organizer.

Friday, December 4, 2009, 10:30-12noon
Brockton Adult Learning Center
211 Crescent Street, Brockton, MA

Please RSVP to Jennifer McAllister:
jmcallister@mcae.net or (508) 208-0130

RI Director of Adult Education Appointed Senior Advisor to OVAE

Rhode Island Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Deborah A. Gist has announced that Johan Uvin, current Rhode Island Director of Adult Education, has been appointed senior advisor to the Assistant Secretary of the Office of Vocational and Adult Education, Dr. Brenda Dann-Messier, under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act. Johan previously worked for Massachusetts Adult and Community Learning Services and for Commonwealth Corporation.

Award Winning Film *Precious* Highlights ABE

The award winning film *Precious* based on the novel *Push* by Sapphire is being released on Friday November 6, 2009. The all-star cast including Mo'Nique, Mariah Carey and Lenny Kravitz, will be in limited release in conjunction with National Family Literacy Month in November.

The story is a familiar one in family literacy - an illiterate teen mother is living a life of despair until a teacher helps her transform her life through education and encouragement. This powerful story, produced by Tyler Perry and Oprah Winfrey, has been made into a movie that has won a Sundance Film Festival award. It's also one that will be touting the National Center for Family Literacy and the family literacy message.

Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education
101 Tremont Street, Suite 812
Boston, MA 02108
617-482-MCAE (6223)
www.mcae.net

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