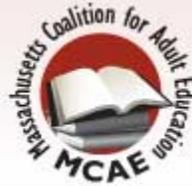


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*The Voice of
Adult Education
in Massachusetts*

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For Immediate Release

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**STATEWIDE COALITION RECOGNIZES NEW BEDFORD ADULT EDUCATOR
Local Director Wins Outstanding Administrator Award**

Boston, MA: Every year more than 20,000 adults--60 per cent of whom are female and most of whom are low-income or immigrants--participate in Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs in Massachusetts. In New Bedford, thousands of ABE students have benefited from the selfless dedication of Rosemary Wilde as a teacher, counselor, principal, and director of the New Bedford Public Schools/ABE/ESOL Instructional Program. Rosemary Wilde is this year's recipient of the Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education's (MCAE) Outstanding Administrator Award.

"Rosemary Wilde's name has been synonymous with adult education in the New Bedford area for more than 30 years," said MCAE Executive Director Kenneth Tamarkin. "Rosemary has dedicated her career to the cause of adult education."

Rosemary has served as the Principal of New Bedford High School Evening Extension and is the Chief GED Examiner for the New Bedford GED Test Center. She has served on the ABE Director's Council for several years. She has also committed many hours to working with organizations throughout the community to advance the cause of adult education in the greater New Bedford community. She continually stresses the importance of lifelong learning to all she meets, but especially those enrolled in the ABE/ESOL Instructional Program, New Bedford Evening Extension Program and GED examinees.

She has worked to help learners to understand and stress the importance of being involved in their child's education and has hosted an annual Open House/Family Literacy Day at the Adult Learning Center where the adult learners bring their children to school so that they can see their parent's school. These are held on professional development days for K-12 so that children do not miss a school day in order to participate.

"Rosemary is very dedicated to making the New Bedford program the very best. She spends countless hours in the office and at home to ensure that the program suits the needs of all her students," said Natalie Morais from New Bedford. "She has a deep respect for the community and instills in students a sense of belonging and civic pride by involving them in community activities."

Through her leadership, the New Bedford Public Schools Division of Adult Education was well prepared to continue with its Adult Diploma Program which was nearly decimated throughout the state with the changes made to graduation requirements. The Program

continues to successfully lead candidates toward a high school credential with increased rigor and intensity. Learners are well prepared to take and pass the MCAS requirements and all performance portfolios sent to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education have all been accepted.

Rosemary's selfless dedication to her students and the program were clearly exemplified throughout 2008-2009 as her husband was suffering from what ultimately turned out to be terminal cancer. She was in constant contact with the program and never seemed to miss a beat. It was through her leadership that the program continued to run smoothly and successfully. In what was the final week of her husband's life she was by his bedside at the hospital but would be sure to email important information to the program.

MCAE is the statewide organization for practitioners, adult students, individuals and organizations supporting equal educational opportunities for all adults. MCAE is dedicated to the advancement of adult education through high quality services and professionalism in the field from basic literacy and English for Speakers of Other Languages through preparation for a high school credential such as the General Educational Development (GED) test to programs such as family literacy, workforce development, and workplace education to transitions to post-secondary education. For more information about adult basic education in Massachusetts visit www.mcae.net.

MCAE annually honors outstanding students, businesses and practitioners in adult education at the NETWORK conference each fall.

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Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education

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