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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 ABE LEADER
Outgoing Board President Earns Special Recognition 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. Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education's (MCAE) outgoing board president Connie Nelson has worked tirelessly with educators, adult students, individuals, organizations, and businesses to advance equal educational opportunities for adults in Massachusetts. Connie is this year's recipient of MCAE's Special Recognition Award.

"It has been a privilege to work with Connie Nelson as our President," said Kenny Tamarkin, MCAE Executive Director. "She has done an admirable job guiding MCAE and the field of Adult Basic Education in Massachusetts during very challenging times."

As the President of MCAE for the past four years, Connie Nelson has provided thoughtful and wise leadership for Adult Basic Education in Massachusetts. She has prepared and facilitated MCAE Board Meetings, supervised and assisted the Executive Director, provided effective liaison with allies and funders, and led MCAE through a time when the staff and Board of Directors have grown and MCAE's voice has become even stronger and more effective.

Prior to becoming MCAE President, Connie served as MCAE Vice-President and Board Member, and will soon take on the role of Past President, providing a smooth transition and experienced support to our incoming President. Connie was also a leader of the joint MCAE/MATSOL ABE Working Conditions Committee, which was MCAE's first organized effort to address ABE Working Conditions.

In addition to her work with MCAE, since 1995 Connie has been Director of the Massachusetts Worker Education Roundtable. In that role, she has worked with business and labor to provide basic skills learning opportunities for employed workers throughout Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Worker Education Roundtable is a network of worker education programs dedicated to promoting partnerships of employers, unions and educators that provide high quality education as well as training for Massachusetts union members. For more information regarding the Massachusetts Worker Education Roundtable visit <http://www.umass.edu/roundtable/>.

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 (ESOL) 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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