

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT

March 31, 2021 Roberta Soolman 617-482-6223 508-479-4833 litvolma@aol.com

MCAE Presents Lifetime Achievement Award to Andrea Perrault of Lynn

BOSTON, MA – The Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education (MCAE) recently presented a Lifetime Achievement Award to Ms. Andrea Perrault, recognizing her decades of dedication, leadership, and service to the Adult Basic Education (ABE) community in Massachusetts.



MCAE Board President Roberta Soolman presented the award to Andrea Perrault in a ceremony held via Zoom.

Watch the award ceremony video here

Ms. Perrault worked at the Massachusetts Department of **Elementary and Secondary** Education/Adult and Community Learning Services (DESE/ACLS) from 1998-2014, where she was instrumental in linking the workforce development system and ABE system together, creating a partnership that carries students from basic learning through to post-secondary learning and career placement. Ms. Perrault was a teacher, advisor, and program coordinator at numerous higher education institutions, including Boston State College's Flexible Admissions Program at the Urban Learning Center, Salem State University, Newbury College, Quincy

College, Mt. Ida College and, most recently, North Shore Community College. She helped to facilitate information and access to higher education opportunities while working at the Educational Opportunity Center at the Boston Public Library to coordinate a statewide program to facilitate access to postsecondary education. She also worked at the Education Development Center and the Continuing Education Institute.

Andrea was a visionary who nurtured and foster partnerships between ABE and workforce development and was able to work simultaneously with policymakers and students to make sure they had the chance to have a real career, not just a job. As Mary Saras of the MassHire North Shore Workforce Board said, "Andrea had a unique ability early on to understand what a workforce board does, what a community college does and how that could help the ABE community. She deeply understood the work world that our DESE students were trying to access and how it would work."

Ms. Perrault was a founding member of MCAE, served on the MCAE Board for many years, co-chaired MCAE's NETWORK Conference Committee and recently retired from the MCAE Board in 2019. She remains actively -30-

involved in civic work in her local community and at the state level.

The Lifetime Achievement Award is awarded periodically by the MCAE Board of Directors and Awards Committee in recognition of a lifetime of service to the ABE community in Massachusetts.

Based in Boston, MCAE is a statewide membership organization dedicated to championing the right of all adults to acquire the 21st century literacy, English language, and numeracy skills that lead to economic prosperity, strong families, and vibrant communities. Since 1992, MCAE has advanced quality adult basic education in the Commonwealth through professional development opportunities, strategic communications, and sophisticated advocacy. Its annual NETWORK Conference is the largest gathering of its kind in New England and routinely attracts more than 500 adult education professionals from across the Massachusetts and beyond. For more about MCAE, visit www.mcae.net.

###