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E-News

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CLOSING CAAL: A Message from Gail Spangenberg

Our latest CAAL Blog post is a personal message from founder and president Gail Spangenberg about the coming closure of the Council for Advancement of Adult Literacy (blog.caalusa.org).



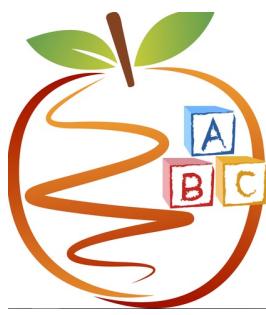
PIAAC UPDATE: Public Data Files, Health Literacy Competition, & More

The vigor with which the American Institutes for Research is promoting the use and understanding of [PIAAC](#) continues unabated. The August issue of [*The Buzz*](#) AIR's monthly PIAAC Update, carries important news on many fronts and shows the range of AIR's activities and commitments. (New subscriptions to *The Buzz* are welcome.)

Public Data Files & Other New Material. In-depth attention is given to PIAAC data files now available to researchers, plus a technical report and a PIAAC Data Explorer (for which online training is available). Four kinds of data files are accessible including the U.S. National Public-Use File (downloadable), the U.S. Restricted-Use File (for which an access license is needed and can be obtained online), the U.S. PIAAC Technical Report (downloadable), and the International Data Files for each of the participating countries (downloadable from OECD). Links are provided to access and use the data files and other material. Address questions to piaac@air.org.

Health Literacy Research Competition. The issue also announces a new health literacy research competition based on use of PIAAC data. Applicants are urged to first become familiar with the [U.S. PIAAC Background Questionnaire](#), and then to submit a proposal/paper to the National Institute of Health for funding consideration by January 30, 2015. [CLICK HERE](#) for application guidelines. The research competition is a collaboration of NIH, the U.S. Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, and OCTAE of the U.S. Department of Education. Research must focus on adults most at risk for education, economic, and health care outcomes. The competition theme is: *Improving the Lives of Adults and Families: Identifying Individual and Systems-level Factors Relating Education, Health, Civic Engagement, and Economic Well-being.*

The August issue of *The Buzz* also covers numerous other topics: new material available from the PIAAC Gateway...PIAAC Presentations on YouTube...a new Researchers' Corner...a recording of the July 16 Webinar on Health-Related Issues in PIAAC held by the National Center for Education Statistics...PIAAC events around the world...and other activities.



OCTOBER IS HEALTH LITERACY MONTH

October will be the 15th year of National Health Literacy Month. Adult educators are essential participants in developing health literacy awareness, material, and services, and you may want to plan special activities, possibly in cooperation with researchers and medical clinicians. A wide variety of action ideas and information is available from a range of sources to help guide such efforts, including the [Center for Disease Control](#), the [Health Literacy Month Organization](#), and the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#) (HHS). Other resources that might be useful are [Building Health Literate Organizations: A Guidebook to Achieving Organizational Change](#) from Unity Point Health and [Teaching Patients with Low Literacy Skills](#) by Leonard and Cecilia Doak (available in PDF from Harvard University). Other reports and articles are [available from HHS](#), including an information-rich article published in 2012: *New Federal Policy Initiatives To Boost Health Literacy Can Help The Nation Move Beyond The Cycle of Costly 'Crisis Care'*. Readers not already subscribed to the [Health Literacy Discussion Listserv](#) operated by the Institute for Healthcare Advancement may also wish to consider signing up to join or follow ongoing discussions of practitioners, researchers, curriculum designers, program planners, and others active in this area of Adult Education.



OTHER NEWS

- The Pell Institute has developed the [Evaluation Toolkit](#) to help Adult Education planners, including community colleges, evaluate their programs. It is designed for outreach programs that want to demonstrate accountability through "small scale, high quality evaluations" that show program effectiveness and can guide improvements. The

Toolkit has several major strands: Evaluation 101 (The Basics), an Evaluation Guide (which covers developing, collecting, and analyzing data), and Communicating Effectively. Illustrative program examples are also given, along with other helpful resources.



A collaborative effort of the U.S. Departments of Education, Labor, and HHS will hold a [National Dialogue on Career Pathways](#) on September 23rd. The session will be streamed live (via the above link). Federal leaders will speak about the importance of career pathways as a job training strategy, and there will be various other presentations and panel discussions for the benefit of students, workers, program planners, and business. Adult educators at all levels are encouraged to tune in. A main goal is "to increase the number of states that are building comprehensive career pathways systems for youth and adults." A new technical assistance service will be announced during the session. For a meeting agenda, contact hastings.sara@dol.gov.

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Your tax-deductible donation to CAAL today will help us cover closing and other expenses. Please give either online or mail a check to CAAL at the address shown below.

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