

Issue No. 40, December 16, 2013



CAAL AND YOU: Meeting 2014 Together!

December ends one year and begins a new one. It's a time to assess what we've accomplished and choose what's most important for the coming year.

In 2013 we understood what's important to you -- for example, return on investment in adult education and working to pass WIA and keep the AEEGA alive -- and we focused on those things. Other activities will be apparent from a visit to our website (www.caalusa.org) and a review of some of our E-Newsletters during the year (www.caalusa.org/enews.html). We'd also like to draw your attention to CAAL's blog posting about the PIAAC findings. The story is about "adults,"

we said, a theme we'll keep stressing in 2014 (<http://blog.caalusa.org>).

As we continue planning for the coming year, we'd like to hear from you. We invite you to tell us in an email what 2-3 big issues you expect to face so that we can be most helpful to you through policy, research, or in our communications to the field and policymakers. (Please send your comments to gspangenberg@caalusa.org and be sure to identify yourself.) Unless you wish to speak to us confidentially, we will report your needs in summary fashion in an upcoming issue of the E-News and we will set our priorities to help you as much as we can.

We also ask for your help in another way. Resources are tight everywhere and so many worthy nonprofit groups are struggling to stay alive. CAAL is no exception. Your financial support to help ensure the coming year is vital to us -- any amount will be helpful and very deeply appreciated! Here are just a few examples of what your donation can do:

- \$50-100 Cover the fee for our E-Newsletter for one-two months
- \$200 Buy a supply of cartridges for our printers
- \$500 Cover two days of professional service for budget and grant monitoring
- \$1000 Help support the writing and distribution of CAAL's report on the results of its November ROI Roundtable in Adult Education.

As a special for the Holidays, in cooperation with [Purple Scooter Poetry](#), CAAL is pleased to be able to reward donations of \$1,000 and above with a giclee print of an original oil painting of their choice by Brooklyn artist Earl Black from among those at [the artist's website](#). Just tell CAAL by email the title of the painting that most interests you. Donors of \$5,000 and above will receive an *original* Earl Black oil painting of choice except for those held in the artist's personal collection (please give first and second choices).



Earl Gray's Huntington East - Brooklyn 2012

Let's do what we can during this holiday season to support each other! Your donation can be made online by clicking the Support CAAL button below, or you can mail your check to CAAL. We appreciate your support and will listen carefully to your issues and concerns.

Thanks so much, and warm happy holiday wishes to you all.

PLEASE DONATE NOW



NEWS IN BRIEF



Planning a PIAAC Response at OVAE. On November 12th, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) released its "Time for the U.S. to Reskill?" report. This followed publication of the "Literacy, Numeracy, and Problem Solving in Technology-Rich Environments Among U.S. Adults" report (the "First Look" report) released in October. The Office of Vocational and Adult Education of the U.S. Department of Education commissioned the report to look more analytically at PIAAC's U.S. findings and consider some appropriate responses.

OVAE is currently using the two reports to support a series of national and regional "engagement" events, a process by which they will gather stakeholder input and information from around the country to help them develop a strong national adult education initiative. Among other things, OVAE wants to scale up proven practices and use technology to expand access, build stronger partnerships to "sustain the nation's workforce capacity, economic vitality, and democratic values," and launch new activities to strengthen the connection between adult basic skills and workforce readiness.

On November 19th, Assistant Secretary Brenda Dann-Messier sponsored a private invitational dinner for about 50 national adult education leaders. It was held at the home of Dan and Sunita Leeds in Georgetown (Dan Leeds is president of the National Public Education Support Fund and Chair of the Alliance of Excellent Education). Among the invitees were CAAL, CLASP, the National Coalition for Literacy, the Dollar General Corporation, ETA of the Department of Labor, and the White House Domestic Policy Council. At that event we considered various questions posed by OVAE and offered an initial set of suggestions.

A series of public invitational "stakeholder engagements" are also planned. The first was held November 20th in D.C. and others will follow through January in Philadelphia, Chicago, Cleveland, San Jose, and Boston. Local groups can also hold their own "engagement" events if they wish and OVAE is providing resources to help them do that (see <http://www.timetoreskill.org> for more information). U.S. reports and information on PIAAC-related activities are available from <http://www.piaacgateway.com> and <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/piaac/>. World reports are available from <http://www.oecd.org/site/piaac/surveyofadultskills.htm>.

It should be noted that OECD's Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) was issued in November. This assessment is carried out every three years and measures 15-year-olds'

"literacy levels" in reading, math, and science. Among the PISA findings is that poverty is "more crushing" in the U.S. judging from low test score results and that in the U.S. 15-year-olds are a priority challenge in terms of being work- or job-ready when they leave high school. Urgent action is needed to counter these problems, the report concludes. Copies are available from <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pisa>.



New Skills Toolkit. The Manufacturing Institute, an affiliate of the National Institute of Manufacturing (NAM), has announced a new Skills Certification System Toolkit for employers, adult education groups, and others who provide skills training for jobs in manufacturing. A guide titled [Developing Skilled Workers](#) offers steps, templates, and a range of other resources to help education/training providers develop appropriate services that will qualify adults for jobs according to standards that employers can count on. The guide was written by representatives of small, medium, and large manufacturing firms in cooperation with the Institute and is endorsed by NAM. The [Institute's website](#) also provides resources to help programs serve veterans and others in a way that qualifies them for manufacturing jobs.



IHA's Health Literacy Listserv. Good news bears repeating. This new listserv, announced in CAAL's last E-News, is very active and engaging. The listserv was launched only a few weeks ago by the [Institute for Healthcare Advancement](#), a nonprofit organization dedicated to "empowering people to better health." It is already enjoying vibrant daily discussions on various topics, and its subscriber base has grown well beyond its initial 1,500. Offered at no charge, it is an informative and stimulating resource for anyone interested in health literacy. CAAL is impressed by the extent to which low-skilled adults are a focus of the discussion. To join, go to <http://listserve.ihahealthliteracy.org> and register a password. You will be able to post, reply to, and view messages by email. Julie McKinney, formerly of World Education, moderates the listserv. She can be contacted at mjckinney11@gmail.org.



The Game Changers. Complete College America recently published the first issue of its newsletter, called "Complete College America: The Movement." The organization is dedicated to enhancing college completion, with one focus on low-skilled adults. The first issue presents a variety of data and information on this topic. It also provides a link to a major new report put out in October: [The Game Changers: Are states implementing the best reforms to get more college graduates?](#) It focuses on "proven strategies that lead to real and lasting results" and on methods that create the conditions for success and pathways for achieving success.



Centre for Literacy Summer Institute. Canada's Centre for Literacy will hold a Summer Institute in Montreal from June 25-27, 2014. Among the themes they will examine are Aging and Skills Loss, Technology and Learning, and Making Connections between PISA and PIAAC. The Australian Council for Educational Research, the Center for the Study of Adult Literacy (University of Georgia), the National Centre of Literacy and Numeracy for Adults (New Zealand), and The National Research and Development Center for Adult Literacy and Numeracy (United Kingdom) are co-sponsors of the effort. More information including registration is available from the Centre's website at <http://www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca>.

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