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CAAL CONGRESSIONAL CHAMPION AWARDS



The Council for the Advancement of Adult Literacy presented CAAL Congressional Champion Awards to **Senator Jack Reed** and **Representative Rubén Hinojosa** in February. The plaques were hand-delivered on behalf of CAAL's president and board of directors by CAAL Legislative Advisor, Gene Sofer. The awards were given to honor these Congressional leaders for the work

they do on behalf of Adult Education and workforce skills development. Their citations read as follows:

For Outstanding Leadership In Advancing Adult Education in America

through the Adult Education and Economic
Growth Act and related efforts to recognize
the vital role of adult education in building
a skilled competitive workforce



NEW CAAL RESOURCES

CAAL has issued several new publications, each described briefly below:



[**Invitation to a Roundtable: A Discussion of Return-on-Investment in Adult Education**](#) was released March 17. This paper is a report on an invitational Roundtable of state and national leaders held by CAAL in New York City on November 8th. The report uses a format that gives readers a close-up look at the contents of the day's conversation and the next-step recommendations that flowed from the discussion. The main body of the report is 23 pages long. Appendices include a participant listing, a collection of ROI resources, and selected materials presented at the Roundtable. **Invitation to a Roundtable** is a companion publication to a report published last September by CAAL, [**Stepping Up to ROI in Adult Education: A Survey of State Activity**](#). Publication of the two reports and of the Roundtable were made possible by grants from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, and individual donors, with in-kind support from McGraw Hill Financial.



CAAL recently commissioned two new fiscal/social benefit analyses from the Center for Labor Market Studies of Northeastern University (Andrew Sum et al) to reinforce the case for Adult Education, the provisions of the Adult Education and Economic Growth Act, and WIA. These reports add depth to CAAL's two ROI reports, and the PIAAC assessment findings. Collectively, the material makes clear the case for major new investments in and greater visibility for Adult Education, and for special attention to low-skilled adults. The two papers update and expand the data presented in the 2008 final report of the National Commission on Adult Literacy, [**Reach Higher, America:**](#)

[**Net Annual Fiscal Contributions of U.S. Adults Aged 18-64 by Education Attainment.**](#)

[2009-2012](#) (January 2014) analyzes the fiscal gains to the nation and to individuals of high school and college graduation for adults aged 18-64. It also presents aggregated and state-by-state data for 15 states : CA, CO, FL, IL, KY, MD, MI, MN, NJ, NY, OH, OK, PA, TX, and VA. The companion report (February 2014) [Labor Market Experiences, Earnings, Income Inadequacy Problems, and Civil Behavior of U.S. Adults by Educational Attainment: Consequences for Adult Education Programs](#) provides current data and analyses in the areas indicated in the title. The Dollar General Literacy Foundation provided funding for this paper.

▶ CAAL has also posted in its website an essay titled [Size and Flow: Adult Education Issues in the Senate Immigration Bill](#) (March 3, 2014). The authors, Garrett Murphy and Gail Spangenberg, address the need for understanding better than we do the number of undocumented immigrants likely to need adult education services under provisions of Senate Immigration Bill S.744.

▶ And, finally, a new blog, [Whatever Happened to Workplace Literacy?](#), was just posted. It is by James Parker, CAAL research/policy associate. Blog readers are encouraged to respond with information they may have about workplace literacy programs today and their thoughts about how to advance workplace education through partnerships between business and adult education.

THE BARBARA BUSH FOUNDATION 25 Years and Going Strong



March 6th was the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the [Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy](#). To celebrate the occasion, some 30 guests were invited to join Barbara Bush and President Bush earlier this month for a luncheon held at the Julia Ideson Library in Houston. The invitees, including Gail Spangenberg of CAAL, were the same group present at the White House luncheon in 1989 when the Foundation's formation was announced.

The menu reproduced the one served 25 years ago: Lobster Consommé Madrilene, Cheese Twists, Supreme Chicken with Prosciutto, Rice Pilaf, Carrot Ring with Broccoli Rosettes, Arugula and Spring Salad, Pear Pithiviers with Carmel Sauce, and wine. Mrs Bush and a few guests gave brief remarks and the "reunion" was enjoyed by all.

Anyone who wants to congratulate the former First Lady can send a greeting to the Foundation's president Liza McFadden at Liza.McFadden@barbarabush.org. She will see to it that Mrs. Bush gets the message.

Jeb Bush and Doro Bush Koch are honorary co-chairs of the Foundation, and Doro Bush, who also serves as a director, is very active in the Foundation's affairs and frequently speaks at literacy events.

The Foundation offers a YouTube presentation looking back at 25 years of family literacy history. Go to <https://www.youtube.com/user/BBFFLiteracy?feature=watch> .



OTHER NEWS

▶ The American Institutes of Research, under contract to the National Center for Educational Statistics, has launched a new research grant competition. The research is to be based on topics related to PIAAC data. Successful competitors will each receive \$8,000 for their work. The project aims to broaden the research base by encouraging young U.S. researchers to participate. Proposals are due March 28. Applicants will be notified of awards on April 18. Papers are due September 30, and successful competitors will present their work at an invitational PIAAC research conference in late 2014. For more information [CLICK HERE](#).

▶ The Gallup Organization reported in February that U.S. business leaders consider the amount a candidate for hire knows about a field and that person's applied skills to be more important than the college they attended or what they majored in. Gallup learned this and other related facts from a telephone survey conducted in late November with a national sample of business leaders. The survey was carried out on behalf of the Lumina Foundation. For the article,

Business Leaders Say Knowledge Trumps College Pedigree [CLICK HERE.](#)

▶ The Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (formerly OVAE) is engaged in ongoing "employability skills" work. As a part of that effort, the [Employability Skills Framework website](#) has been launched. This handsome new site is an interactive clearinghouse of resources on instruction and assessment for employability skills. It aims to help employers, policymakers, and others "identify employability skills and compare them with various instructional standards and assessments, understand key considerations for selecting an employability skills assessment, create a customized assessment comparison worksheet, and view practical examples of employability skills instructions and assessment."

▶ The American Institutes for Research has developed an "infographics" series called [Tapping the Potential: Infographics Illustrate Need for Further Skills Training Among American Adults](#). The series is part of an ongoing AIR effort, in cooperation with OCTAE, to interpret findings from PIAAC.

▶ DNAinfo New York carried an article on March 3 titled [New 'GED' Test Will be Harder Than Regents Exam, Critics Say](#).



**WHEN THE RED RED ROBIN
COMES BOB BOB BOBBIN' ALONG...**

..we all need to throw off the winter doldrums and gear up for spring with renewed energy, renewed programs, and most important, a renewed budget. Will you help us spring forward?

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