DRAFT AGENDA

Navigating New Pathways: Are You Ready for the Future?

Objectives:

• To provide an opportunity to interact with senior administration leaders and congressional staff on policy related to the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

• To provide a forum to network with colleagues about the impact of various proposals and initiatives on the preparation and implementation of state plans.

• To provide learning opportunities related to the administration of the adult education state grant, including the development of new programs and services to support the transition of adults into postsecondary education and training.

Tuesday, April 3

7:00 AM–4:00 PM  Registration and Information

8:30 AM–9:15 AM  Welcome and Opening Session
Room: Congressional Hall A/B

Presenters:
Anthony Wilder Miller, Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Education

Brenda Dann-Messier, Assistant Secretary
Office of Vocational and Adult Education
U.S. Department of Education

Cheryl Keenan
Office of Vocational and Adult Education
U.S. Department of Education
9:15 AM–10:00 AM
**Keynote Presentation: Harnessing Technology to Meet the Challenge**
Room: Congressional Hall A/B
Presenter: Karen Cator, Director
Office of Educational Technology
U.S. Department of Education

The National Education Technology Plan and the Digital Promise project lay out an exciting vision of how technology can enable more effective teaching and learning. But what are the key ingredients? With limited resources, where should programs invest first? The latest research synthesis from the National Academies of Science emphasizes the importance of digital literacy and supplemental practice for adult learners. Karen Cator will explore how programs can leverage technology to motivate and engage students, assist programs to become more productive, and connect teachers to peers and leaders to inspire more effective and creative teaching.

10:00 AM–10:15 AM
**Break**

10:15 AM–11:30 AM
**State Systems for Transitioning Adults to Postsecondary Education—Leveraging Federal, State, and Foundation Resources**
Room: Congressional Hall A/B
Moderator: Judy Alamprese, Principal Scientist
Abt Associates
Panelists: Mary Jane Bagwell, Oregon
Jennifer Foster, Illinois
Anne Serino, Massachusetts
Randall Stamper, Virginia

This moderated panel will provide participants with an overview of the key elements needed to transition adults into postsecondary education opportunities. After this overview, participants will hear from four adult education state directors, each of whom will describe: (1) the state’s particular approach to an Adult Basic Education (ABE) career pathways system, (2) the ways in which the state has used Federal, state, or foundation funding to support ABE career pathways development, (3) challenges the state has encountered, (4) results to date, and (5) next steps in building the state system. A question-and-answer period will conclude the panel’s presentation.

11:30 AM–1:15 PM
**Systems That Support Effective Teachers—Working Lunch and State Networking Sessions**

- Red Group Meeting Room 7
- Green Group Meeting Room 12
- Blue Group Meeting Room 13
- Orange Group Meeting Room 14
- Yellow Group Meeting Room 15
This networking session will provide an opportunity for states to explore issues related to teacher quality and effectiveness and discuss implications related to teachers’ use of innovative practices.

1:30 PM–1:45 PM  
**Special Announcement: Department of Transportation**  
Room: Congressional Hall A/B  
Presenter: Bryna Helfer, Director of External Communication  
U.S. Department of Transportation

This session will describe the work of an interagency group including the Departments of Labor, Transportation, and Education to provide information and training for individuals seeking employment in the transportation industry. Participants will learn how adult education directors can assist programs to help adult learners make career and education plans that will result in successful employment in the transportation industry.

1:45 PM–3:15 PM  
**Administration Accomplishments: Keeping Adult Education at the Core**  
Room: Congressional Hall A/B  
Moderator: Brenda Dann-Messier, Assistant Secretary  
Office of Vocational and Adult Education  
U.S. Department of Education

Panelists: Roberto Rodriguez, Special Assistant to the President  
Education  
White House Domestic Policy Council

Felicia Escobar, Senior Policy Advisor  
Immigration  
White House Domestic Policy Council

Gerri Fiala, Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Employment and Training Administration  
U.S. Department of Labor

Mark Greenberg, Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Policy Administration for Children and Families  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Amy L. Solomon  
Senior Advisor to the Assistant Attorney General  
Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice

Senior officials from President Obama’s Administration will discuss major policy accomplishments during the first term, including their relevance to low-skilled adults.
3:30 PM–4:00 PM  
**Special Interest Session: Maintenance of Effort**  
Room: Congressional Hall A/B  

**Presenters:** Jay LeMaster  
Greg Loos  
Office of Vocational and Adult Education  
U.S. Department of Education  

This session will provide participants with a description of the statutory maintenance-of-effort (MOE) and matching requirements. Participants will learn how to calculate MOE using both aggregate expenditure and cost-per-participant options. They will hear about a variety of possible scenarios resulting from reduced non-Federal spending. This session also is an opportunity to receive technical assistance on specific state concerns with meeting the MOE requirement. Each state attending this session will receive an individualized state profile containing data on aggregate Federal and non-Federal expenditures and non-Federal cost per student for the past 14 years.

4:00 PM–4:30 PM  
**Repeat Special Interest Session: Maintenance of Effort**  
Room: Congressional Hall A/B  

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**Marketplace of Ideas for Innovative Practice**  
Open 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM  
Room: Meeting Rooms 12, 13, & 14  

Visit *Marketplace of Ideas for Innovative Practice* to learn about the Office of Vocational and Adult Education’s (OVAE’s) national activities and projects as well as other Federal technical assistance opportunities. Explore training topics with the developers, meet with Literacy Information and Communication System (LINCS) Regional Professional Development Center leaders, and learn about resources to help your teachers and programs innovate and improve services and outcomes for adult learners.

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**Wednesday, April 4**

7:00 AM–4:00 PM  
**Registration and Information**

8:30 AM–10:00 AM  
**Concurrent Sessions**  

**Promoting Standards for College and Careers**  
Room: Meeting Room 7  

**Presenters:** Kathy Chernus, Director of Adult Education  
MPR Associates, Inc.  
Susan Pimentel, President  
Susan Pimentel, Inc.  
Larry Condelli, Managing Director  
Division of Education, Human Development, and Workforce  
American Institutes for Research  

Everyone is talking about preparing students for postsecondary and career success, and rightly so, given the demands of today’s workforce and global economy. How should adult education programs respond? This session will
provide the inside scoop on OVAE’s Promoting College- and Career-Ready Standards in Adult Basic Education project. This project seeks to determine the extent to which the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are: 1) implementable in the context of adult education teaching and learning, and 2) aligned with the National Reporting System (NRS) for Adult Education. The CCSS, which define the necessary skills for success in postsecondary education and work, have been adopted for K-12 education by 46 states and the District of Columbia. Following an overview of the project, participants will learn about the project’s “why’s, how’s, and who’s,” with special attention to its relevance for state and local adult education programs.

**Prisoner Reentry: Moving toward an Education Continuum**

**Room:** Meeting Room 12

**Presenters:** Michelle Tolbert, Associate Director of Adult Education  
MPR Associates, Inc.

John Linton  
Zina Watkins  
Office of Vocational and Adult Education  
U.S. Department of Education

This session will focus on the important challenge of articulating the role of education in reentry and establishing where and how it fits in a continuum of reentry services. MPR Associates is currently developing a conceptual model to illustrate the role of education in this continuum. The model is based on research, theory, and feedback from a blue ribbon cross-disciplinary expert panel composed of criminologists, education and corrections administrators, formerly incarcerated individuals, and staff of a variety of program providers. Please consider joining OVAE and MPR staff in a discussion and examination of this model, and join peers in a discussion of how it can inform efforts at the state level to advance state-specific reentry and adult education agendas.

**Funding Local Programs: Achieving State Objectives within AEFLA’s Parameters**

**Room:** Meeting Room 13

**Presenters:** Tony Corio  
Carolyn Buser  
Teresa Bestor  
Office of Vocational and Adult Education  
U.S. Department of Education

Participants will learn about the provisions of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) affecting states’ processes for funding local programs. The session will identify how to navigate relevant key requirements of the law and administrative regulations when preparing to fund local programs. Presenters will discuss useful procedures to put in place as well as practices to avoid when competing funds. Participants will take part in a hands-on activity focused on achieving a specified state strategic objective, identifying potential obstacles that may arise in the competitive funding process, and determining how those can be overcome.
**Promoting Teacher Effectiveness**

Room: Meeting Room 14

Presenters: Mariann Fedele-McLeod, Principal Researcher  
American Institutes for Research  
Mark Kutner, Senior Vice President  
American Institutes for Research

An effective teacher is the single most important factor in student success. Through OVAE’s Promoting Teacher Effectiveness in Adult Education project, the American Institutes for Research (AIR) is supporting teacher quality and effectiveness by developing adult education instructor competencies, an induction model, and an implementation toolkit. The competencies build on an E-scan of current research and practice on teacher effectiveness, wisdom from a national technical working group, and the PRO-NET competencies, which have been adopted by many states. Participants will learn about the project, review the new competencies, and give input to inform final development of the competencies.

**Adult Education and State Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS): Virginia’s Success**

Room: Meeting Room 15

Presenters: Randall Stamper, Director  
Office of Adult Education and Literacy  
Virginia Department of Education  
Matthew Bryant, Program Manager  
Virginia Department of Education’s 2009 American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) Grant

Tracking of adult education participants’ progress in employment and further education continues to provide an important measure of program success. Representatives from the Commonwealth of Virginia will recount their strategies that will lead to the full integration of adult education into the Commonwealth’s SLDS, including provisions to track without need of SSNs, for both employment and postsecondary education. The presentation will not only cover how the Virginia SLDS functions and the design for integrating adult education data, but will also provide an overview of lessons learned regarding engagement of essential stakeholders. The presentation will also provide practical insight into how the Virginia approach could be undertaken by other states, particularly with respect to working with data for which unique identifiers either cannot be revealed or are not present.

10:00 AM–10:15 AM  
**Break**

10:15 AM–11:45 AM  
**Repeat Concurrent Sessions**
12:00 PM–1:30 PM  **Working Lunch and Keynote Presentation**  
Room: Congressional Hall A/B  
Presenter: Brenda Dann-Messier, Assistant Secretary  
Office of Vocational and Adult Education  
U.S. Department of Education

1:45 PM–4:45 PM  **Mini-Training Institutes**  
**Planning for the 2012 NRS Changes**  
Room: Meeting Room 12  
Presenters: Larry Condelli, Managing Director  
Division of Education, Human Development and Workforce  
American Institutes for Research  
Dahlia Shaewitz, Senior Research Analyst  
Division of Education, Human Development and Workforce  
American Institutes for Research  
Stephanie Cronen, Principal Research Scientist  
Division of Education, Human Development and Workforce  
American Institutes for Research  

This workshop will be a hands-on planning session for states to prepare for the changes to NRS requirements around follow-up measures, new data elements, and sampling for the survey. Presenters will summarize the NRS changes and demonstrate random assignment and reporting tools for survey sampling. Participants will then develop a plan for implementing the changes that will identify needed revisions to their state data systems and reporting procedures, data collection methods, and staff training. States planning to use the survey methods to collect or supplement measures will use their own data to identify cohort sizes, state and local program sample sizes, and sampling procedures. Presenters will discuss implementation issues, take questions, and identify state technical assistance needs based on state plans. States planning to use sampling for their surveys should bring their data or have access to data via the Internet for this training—the room will have Wi-Fi access.

**Technical Assistance Tools for Implementing Career Pathways**  
Room: Meeting Room 13  
Presenters: Christine Ollis, Director  
Division of WIA Adult Services and Workforce Systems  
U.S. Department of Labor  
Andrala Walker, Workforce Analyst  
Division of WIA Adult Services and Workforce Systems  
U.S. Department of Labor  
Mary Alice McCarthy  
Office of Vocational and Adult Education  
U.S. Department of Education
This mini-institute will provide attendees with information and hands-on experience using technical assistance tools created by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration (ETA) to support career pathways development. Among the tools to be showcased during this session is ETA’s recently released Career Pathways Toolkit: *Six Key Elements for Success*. This toolkit reflects the experiences of ETA in providing technical assistance to its Career Pathways Technical Assistance Initiative grantees (Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Maryland, Montana, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Gila River Indian Community, and Tucson Indian Center). As a result of ETA’s technical assistance efforts, all grantees have made significant progress with designing career pathway systems within their states and local communities. Based upon these lessons learned, ETA has subsequently made available a number of tools and resources to assist all state and local leadership with building comprehensive career pathway systems. Among these tools is the Career Pathways Toolkit: *Six Key Elements for Success*. This mini-institute provides an opportunity for states that were not part of the ETA grant program to learn more about accessing and using these high-quality technical assistance tools in order to advance the development of robust career pathways within their respective states.

**The Common Core State Standards and You: What Do They Mean for Adult Education?**

Room: Meeting Room 15

Presenters: Susan Pimentel, President
Susan Pimentel, Inc.

Ronna Spacone
Office of Vocational and Adult Education
U.S. Department of Education

This interactive session is targeted to those who want to understand what the Common Core State Standards are all about and how they could be valuable for preparing adult students for college and careers. The session will answer these questions: What purpose is the Common Core meant to serve? How were the Standards developed? What is their research basis? How many states have adopted them? And most importantly—what could they mean for adult education programs? Participants will leave the session with specific ideas, resources, and actions that can be implemented right now to help students prepare for the new assessments aligned to the Core, while creating effective pathways and transitions to college and careers. Participants will experience first-hand key advances in the English Language Arts/Literacy Standards that are critical to preparing students for postsecondary success, such as ensuring exposure to complex texts and that students analyze texts in writing with evidence. In addition, guidelines and strategies will be provided for how best to align program resources to what matters most, refocus professional development around the most important facets of the CCSS, and create observation protocols to evaluate classroom instruction.
Monitoring Adult Education Providers: Policy, Guidance, and Risk Analysis for State Adult Education Offices

Room: Meeting Room 14

Presenters: Tony Corio
Rebecca Moak
Sharon Lankford
Office of Vocational and Adult Education
U.S. Department of Education

This session will identify key Federal requirements and guidance for monitoring states’ grantees funded through Adult Education and Family Literacy Act formula grants. Presenters will provide an overview of relevant Federal Government guidance and resources from the Federal Office of Management and Budget, along with specific provisions in the Education Department’s General Administrative Regulations and AEFLA. They will also discuss how to incorporate risk analysis into the monitoring process. The latter half of this session will be dedicated to hands-on activities, discussion of review questions or other items critical to the monitoring process, and strategies for conducting grantee risk analyses, including demonstration of a resource available at the Federal level. Thus, state participants will learn ways to develop and implement an effective and useful monitoring system aligned with Federal guidance while taking unique state circumstances and priorities into account.

Thursday, April 5

8:00 AM–10:00 AM State Regional Meeting Breakout Sessions
Region 1 Meeting Room 7
Region 2 Meeting Room 16
Region 3 Meeting Room 10
Region 4 + 5 Meeting Room 11

10:00 AM–10:15 AM Break

10:15 AM–11:30 AM Meet the Congress: State Directors Come to Washington
Room: Congressional Hall A/B

Moderator: Denise Forte, Deputy Assistant Secretary
Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development
U.S. Department of Education

Panelists: David Johns, Professional Staff Member
HELP Committee, Senator Tom Harkin, Chairman
Kelly Hastings, Professional Staff Member
HELP Committee, Senator Mike Enzi, Ranking Member
Rosemary Lahasky, Professional Staff Member
Education and Workforce Committee, Rep. John Kline, Chairman
Livia Lam, Professional Staff Member
Education and Workforce Committee, Rep. George Miller, Ranking Member
Robert Purga, Supervisor, ACCES – Adult Education
New York State Education Department

Barry Schaffer, State Director of Adult Education
Minnesota Department of Education

Reecie Stagnolia, State Director of Adult Education
Kentucky Adult Education

Maureen Whelan, State Director of Adult Education
Delaware Department of Public Instruction

Minority and majority professional staff from both the House and Senate authorizing committees will share the latest developments on WIA reauthorization, as well as other legislation that may impact adult education. A panel of state adult education directors will discuss key state reforms and their role in reauthorization proposals.

11:30 AM–12:30 PM

**Next-Generation Assessments: Helping Adults Become College- and Career-Ready**

Room: Congressional Hall A/B

Moderator: Patrick A. Rooney, Education Program Specialist
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
U.S. Department of Education

Panelists: Laura McGiffert Slover, Senior Vice President, Achieve Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)

Martin D. Kehe, Vice President, Products, GED Testing Service
2014 GED® Assessment System

Robert Purga, Supervisor, ACCES – Adult Education
Adult Education and Workforce Development
New York State Education Department

This session will engage participants in a discussion on: 1) new assessment systems that measure college and career readiness skills based on the Common Core State Standards; 2) how these assessments differ from what is currently used; and 3) potential high school equivalency options for adults. Find out more about the 2014 GED® and PARCC assessment systems as well as state efforts to explore high school options for adults, including the PARCC and SMARTER Balanced assessment systems. Panelists will discuss and respond to questions about their assessment work and implications for adult education policy and practice.

12:30 PM–12:45 PM

**Closing Remarks**

Room: Congressional Hall A/B

Presenter: Cheryl Keenan
Office of Vocational and Adult Education
U. S. Department of Education