



MESSAGE FROM MK – December 2003

*An update from Mary Katherine Moen, State Director of Adult Education
mkmoen@nsn.k12.nv.us, 775.687.9167*

Nevada's Adult Basic Education system rests on the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act and is comprised of various building blocks: accountability, professional development, leadership, program management and improvement, quality instruction that is research-based, content standards, and access. Some of these building blocks are quite sturdy; others are in need of construction or of finessing. In order to expand the infrastructure of the system, these building blocks must be solid and strong.

In most states, professional staff at the State Adult Education office work to develop and maintain these building blocks. In Nevada there is only one consultant and one administrative assistant to carry out all management functions for the Adult Basic Education program, the GED testing sites, and portions of the Adult High School Diploma program. Due to this structure, it is difficult to give the necessary energy and time to the maintenance of the blocks. However, Nevada has a history of granting out Leadership monies for specific tasks and projects. This allows the Adult Basic Education system to have several experts working to meet the needs of the system.

Access
Content standards
Research-based instruction
Quality instruction
Program management/improvement
Leadership
Professional Development
Accountability

Due to this structure, it is difficult to give the necessary energy and time to the maintenance of the blocks. However, Nevada has a history of granting out Leadership monies for specific tasks and projects. This allows the Adult Basic Education system to have several experts working to meet the needs of the system.

Sharyn Yanoshak heads up the professional development component of the system. Her recent developments include the Certificate of Performance, the Pre-Service Training module, and the *Administrator's Handbook*. She coordinates management training as well as pre-service training and supervises Rachael Dilling's coordination of ongoing workshops for instructors and tutors. In addition, Sharyn is in charge of publications, specifically *Nevada Connections* and Nevada's literacy website.

Vicki Newell coordinates efforts of the Bridges to Practice Training Team for adults with learning disabilities. She also directs the 18-24 Year Old Credential Initiative, a statewide collaboration to increase high school/GED completion for 18-24 year old Nevadans.

Paul Marsala provides site consultation and workshops on the use of the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS). His grant also supports curriculum development.

Susan Graf provides training, technical support, and resources to volunteer literacy programs throughout the State. She also maintains and promotes the State Literacy Resource Center and coordinates a Literacy Awards luncheon each year.

Ken Zutter developed and provides training for JR (Just Right for Nevada), a database system for reporting program data to the Nevada Department of Education. JR is based on the National Reporting System. Ken is also developing a Management Information System at the state level.

John Griffin is charged with coordinating the development of a new State Plan for Adult Basic Education.

While these are the primary responsibilities of each of these people, they consistently say “yes” to pleas for help from the Adult Education office in other areas as well. Their help is invaluable as they extend their creativity to the growth of the adult education system in Nevada.

See *Nevada Connections* (November, 2003) for more information on these projects and providers.