



MESSAGE FROM MK – April 2004

*An update from Mary Katherine Moen, State Director of Adult Education
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I am privileged to interact with some extraordinary people in my role as Adult Education Consultant in Nevada. Having recently participated in a Directors' Meeting, I am struck again by the commitment and the creativity of the ABE/ESL program directors, coordinators and other staff in the state's Adult Basic Education system.

All participants were involved in discussions about data reporting, the grant extension, matching funds, percentage of students with Social Security numbers, student registration software programs, and funding formulas. Presentations were made regarding TOPSpro software and the installation timeline, proposed benchmarks, ESL materials, Bridges to Practice, the 18 to 24 year old credential initiative, and professional development activities for 2004-2005. Attendees even participated in a demonstration from a new GED curriculum developed by Nevadan Val Lyons-Brady entitled "Pig Hearts and Onion Skins" (posted at www.literacynet.org/nevada/sdocs/pighearts.pdf).

"What's best for the students?" and "Will this work for my teachers/tutors?" are the key questions constantly posed by Nevada's ABE/ESL program directors as they wrestle with new ideas and strategies.

A focus on excellence and a willingness to change describe these hard-working directors. From social security numbers to pig hearts, the ABE/ESL program directors bring their energy and attention to the myriad issues demanding their attention. Throughout it all they stay focused on their most sacred goal: educating adults in basic skills that enable them to participate more fully in the workplace, at home, and in the community.