



MESSAGE FROM MK

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

As part of a strategic planning process, Kathi Polis of Strategic Training and Resources, Inc. (STAR) designed a survey to gather and analyze input from instructional providers and local adult education administrators, as well as from key stakeholders and partnering agencies across the state. Sixty-one teachers, tutors, and local program directors responded to the Practitioner Survey, providing information that can inform the assessment of operations and programs to determine what is working well and what areas may need to be developed or improved. An additional ten individuals responded to the Key Stakeholders Survey.

Key findings revealed the following:

STRENGTHS:

- There was a high degree of pride and satisfaction with overall program design and structure. The availability of free services was regarded as a particular strength, in addition to the programs' flexibility, variety of course offerings, and quality of instruction.
- The respondents considered the instructional and administrative staff as one of their greatest strengths, citing the commitment, dedication, support, and knowledge of the field.
- Professional development opportunities and availability of instructional materials were also cited as strengths.

IMPROVEMENTS:

- Primary areas for improvement and/or expansion included increased access to additional classes, staffing issues (the hiring of more full-time instructors and better salaries), increased marketing to raise community awareness of ABE programs, greater business involvement and linkages with partnering agencies, increased professional development and services for adults with special learning needs, increased capacity and integration of technology in the instructional setting, and additional resources (funding and instructional).
- There appears to be a disparity among programs regarding strengths and improvements. While some respondents noted existing teaching resources as a strength, others noted it as an important need. While some programs experienced overcrowded classes, other programs recommended additional marketing and recruitment efforts to attract more students.

While response from the Key Stakeholders Survey was limited, the respondents viewed the availability of ESL and GED classes as the most important service to their organizations. The flexible, multiple class locations and no-cost services were also noted as strengths. To increase effectiveness, respondents recommended greater public awareness in the form of fliers and advanced notification of class scheduling. More course offerings, with an emphasis on computer job search, goal setting, and possible bi-lingual instruction, were also recommended.

NEXT STEPS

The full report addresses external threats, local program strengths, local program improvements, accountability, collaboration, professional development, and most important goals. The contents of the report will be explored thoroughly and used as a tool, along with other data (such as state performance reports, census data, and the updated state needs assessment), to develop a strategic plan for ABE in Nevada.