



## MESSAGE FROM MK

JULY 2005 – GUIDING PRINCIPLES: EXCELLENCE

*An update from Mary Katherine Moen, State Director of Adult Education  
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Excellence — We are committed to a quality adult education system that promotes continuous improvement and is held accountable for performance results.

*—Nevada Adult Basic Education Directors, 2004*

This statement is one of five principles that guides Nevada's Adult Basic Education system. In the pursuit of excellence, Nevada has implemented key components that enable the system to continually improve and be accountable.

Structures are in place to promote continuous improvement:

- Quality Indicators are in their final stage of development and will be implemented as components of program monitoring.
- Content Standards based on CASAS competencies have been developed for all ESL levels with implementation to begin during the 2006-2007 academic year. Content standards for Adult Basic Skills instruction will be developed in 2005-2006.

Tools are available to track performance:

- State Performance Measures are negotiated annually with the US Department of Education; Nevada's federally funded programs then negotiate their own performance measures with the State office.
- CASAS (assesses and evaluates student performance) and TOPSpro (tracks and reports information) are implemented statewide, allowing the State office and individual programs to monitor student progress on an ongoing basis.
- A performance-based funding formula is being developed and will be implemented in 2006-2007.

Undoubtedly the most important indicator of a quality adult education system is whether and how its students learn. In addition to curriculum appropriate to students' needs and vibrant teaching techniques, a system of excellence must possess concern for the individual student. All personnel must address students with dignity and caring.

A Native American proverb from the Dakota people states: "We will be known forever by the tracks we leave." Through continuous improvement and exemplary practices, Nevada's Adult Basic Education system will surely leave tracks of excellence — visible as performance outcomes — throughout the state.