



## MESSAGE FROM MK

JANUARY 2006 – GUIDING PRINCIPLES: SYNERGY

*An update from Mary Katherine Moen, State Director of Adult Education  
[mkmoen@doe.nv.gov](mailto:mkmoen@doe.nv.gov), 775.687.9167*

**Synergy**—We believe that by working together, both internally and externally as part of an integrated system, we can achieve more than as separate entities.

—*Nevada Adult Basic Education Directors, 2004*

Adult Basic Education programs collaborate proactively with community resources and develop strong linkages among partners who serve their student population. These include such resources as One-Stop Centers, job training programs, other educational institutions, state and social service agencies, and private businesses.

Programs leverage resources, avoid duplication of efforts, and maximize the impact of their work by regularly collaborating with other educational and community agencies. Activities are made available throughout as much of the state as possible, via the most efficient and effective means. Collaboration usually includes:

- determining and serving the needs of potential participants;
- planning so that activities are scheduled to maximize effective participation and impact; and
- making activities accessible to the widest audience possible, with consideration for rural, hard-to-reach areas.

Partnerships with business and industry are also critical to the success of the ABE programs. For example, many programs deliver workplace literacy classes at workplace sites. They provide instruction specifically geared to union and apprenticeship needs. Business and industry representatives sit on advisory boards.

An indicator of program quality for Nevada ABE/ESL programs states that each program is an integral component in the community's human service and adult learning system. This can be accomplished through synergistic interactions and collaborations that lead to greater outcomes than could be produced by a single agency alone. An Ethiopian proverb sums up this process: When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion.

Synergy: Cooperative interaction among groups so that their combined effect is greater than the sum of their individual efforts.

