



January 1, 2017

MACAE and FAMILY SPEAK



MACAE, together with Michigan’s Children, will be hosting the second annual **Family Speak** advocacy event on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 in Lansing at the Capitol Building in the Speakers Library.

We will have 14-16 participants speak at this event.

Our goal is to have a balance of speakers from each of program categories: ESL, HSC and GED. Each student speaker has prepared a written speech that will be read or shared with our legislative audience. Last year MACAE had over 100 attendees, including an aid from the governor’s office. This is a great opportunity to send a powerful message of the importance of adult education to our lawmakers. MACAE has over a dozen representatives throughout Michigan that will be attending and listening to our powerful messages. Messages straight from our families!

Please contact Linda Cianferra at lcianferra@novischools.net or (248) 449-1718 for event details.

Special points of interest:

- Family Speak
- What is Happening in MDE?
- COABE
- Michigan’s Children
- Program Spotlight
- Calendar of events

Message from the President

I would like to thank everyone who was able to attend our Fall Conference at Boyne Mountain. I hope you came away with renewed enthusiasm and new programming ideas. Our



overall survey results were very positive; 94% of our members were satisfied or very satisfied in the facilities, breakout sessions, speakers, food, etc. MACAE is pleased to announce that our 2017 – 2018 Conferences will be held at the Amway Hotel in Grand Rapids. We will be announcing our exact dates sometime this spring.

Your MACAE Board has had two meetings (August and November) with the Workforce Development Association. Our goal is to build bridges between both associations, discuss commonalities within our groups and to better understand the services workforce provides and how those services align with adult education. Other topics we’ve discussed were: MOU’s and infrastructure cost agreements, conference sharing, integrated education and training, employer engagement, and opportunities for collaboration under WIOA. We look forward to continuing our conversations, to not only improve relationships, but to build a stronger coalition to advocate for our adult learners.

Please be watching for our next Topic Friday, where we will invite all members for lunch and have you participate in discussing specific issues of interest. Your MACAE Board wishes all of you a Happy New Year and successful new semester.

Bob

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Did you know?

MACAE was incorporated on November 1, 1983?

Did you know that one in five children in the world has never been inside a schoolroom?

Wherever you are in Michigan, you are within 85 miles of one of the Great Lakes.

What is Happening in MDE



The 2016-2017 school year is proving to be a busy one for those involved with alternative education. Changes in 388.1606 allowing a good number of students through age 21 to be counted as pupils as well as alternative accountability pilot are both positives for those in the field and we here at MDE. There will be much more to come on accountability that should make more sense when

considering how our alternative population does not fit with when using traditional measures. I am very encouraged by the progress to date and hope to be able to share more with you on this over the next year and a half as Alexander Schwartz in the Department of Accountability Services leads us through the process. On another note, I would like to share how energized and encouraged I was after participating in the MACAE conference last fall. I came into the Community Education game in the 1995-1996 school year and witnessed hard working people (including myself) struggle to

keep MACAE afloat. But, over the last few years there has been a resurgence! MACAE is growing. There are new faces and increased attendance at the conference. I mention this not only because of my excitement for the organization, but to help the membership understand that the two positives listed above have come to pass, in part, because of the increased strength and influence of MACAE! We at MDE are best able to help with alternative education issues when MACAE is "MACAE Strong".

We wish Brian Barber good luck as he has moved from MDE to a new career!

COABE-COALITION ON ADULT BASIC EDUCATION-OUR PARTNER

COABE

The Coalition on Adult Basic Education is organized to advance national and international adult education and literacy opportunities for all persons. The purposes of COABE are:

COALITION ON ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

- To promote adult education and literacy programs, including Adult Basic Education, Adult Secondary Education, English for Speakers of Other Languages, Family Literacy, Skills Development, Workforce Development, and other state, federal, and private programs which assist undereducated and/or disadvantaged adults to function effectively
- To provide leadership in advancing the education of adults in the lifelong learning process by unifying the profession, developing human resources, encouraging and using research, communicating with the members and the public, offering other member services, and otherwise advancing adult education, and literacy
- To advocate the development and dissemination of publications, research, methods, and materials, resources, and programs in adult education and literacy

ABOUT COABE

We are educators, administrators, mentors, and guides working to improve educational outcomes for adults and build communities. 15000 member strong!

Our members create new opportunities for adult students who need a wide variety of educational support.

Some 36 million working age Americans have low literacy skills, and more than 60 million can't perform simple math.

Across the nation, COABE members work tirelessly to help these underserved adults master the skills they need to compete and build careers—and better futures for themselves, their families, and their communities.

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Vulnerable kids can't improve reading if their parents can't help!



Michele Corey is vice president of programs at Michigan's Children and a member of MACAE.

Recently she wrote a powerful article about the new third grade reading policy.

In her article, she states that the current data indicates that Michigan has a challenge with the third grade reading benchmark. 37% of kids are unable to read at a basic level and 71% are not reading proficiently by the end of the third grade. Michigan is one of the lowest performing states in the nation so it is critical to move forward to tackle the problem. While this is a new policy in Michigan, Florida has similar legislation that requires all students reading below grade level to be retained in third grade. A new study released from research on Florida's retention policy discovered that the strongest predictor of retention was the educational attainment of students' mothers. Children whose mothers had less than a high school diploma were 14% more likely to be retained compared with children whose mothers had a bachelor's degree.

This is important research as it shows a link between children's success and that of their parent. For those in adult education, this comes as no surprise. MACAE is fortunate to have Michigan's Children write public policy that closes equity gaps and helps the state's most vulnerable children, similar to our mission in helping the state's most vulnerable adults.

In Michelle's article, Michigan's Children has argued that third grade reading scores won't rise appreciatively unless parents are able to engage effectively in their children's learning. Families are a package deal. Parent's are a child's first and best teacher and the home is the first and continues to be the most influential "classroom" for a child's learning, view of the world and ability to grasp success in life.

Michigan's Children was successful in maintaining our final legislation a requirement to collect information about barriers parents face to suc-

cessfully complete the required "read at home" plans.

A barrier that will be included is low adult skill levels.

Michelle states that those barriers will have to include a family literacy component.

Michigan Adult Education programs are aware of the startling data. It was critical that Michele reiterated that there are 42,000 adults in Michigan between the ages of 18-34 who have less than a ninth grade education, and that each year more than 15,000 babies are born in Michigan to mothers without a high school credential. It should be no surprise that the data will confirm that some parents of the poorer performing kids are themselves poorly educated, likely poorly employed and struggling to ably assist in their children's education.

She then states that we need to invest in family literacy programs as part of the strategy to improve third grade reading scores. Not only is adult education important, but legislatures need to consider high quality child care and afterschool and summer programs to help reduce the literacy gap.

MACAE members, this is your chance to support Michigan's Children and your adult education program. Contact your legislatures. Use your data to show how many adults in your program have school age children. Participate in MACAE's Family Speak on February 15, 2017 and Legislative Day on March 8, 2017!

You can find Michele's full article at:

<http://www.michiganschildren.org/Michigans-Children-in-the-news/>

Program Spotlight-Southgate Adult Education-ESL



News from Southgate: We are excited to start a new school year! We are continuing to work on several projects which we started last year and are continuing through this year. Our first project is incorporating speaking and interviewing skills. We use community volunteers from our local Kiwanis club, the Downriver chapter of The Daughters of the American Revolution, and The Downriver

Literacy Tutors. We are trying to find authentic ways of practicing English conversations. The interviews are basic employment interview questions. This year we are expanding this activity to our lower level ABE students. We are finding that our students are improving their speaking skills.

The next project that we are continuing is the Naturalization Fair. Last year we helped 30 families become citizens. The Immigration Rights Center provided assistance with the application process. This year our plan is to have the fair in conjunction with second semester registration. We invite anyone who is interested in becoming a citizen.

The last project is new. We are going to identify writing skills that help transition success for GED and college. We are looking at each level of our classes working on these skills in some manner with the idea of improving and building on the skills. We will be working with ABE and GED teachers to begin this project.

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Our Mission:

To provide a cohesive framework for community education through collaboration and guidance at the local, state and federal level.

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TESTS OF
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October 2-4, 2016
October 2-5, 2016
October 5-7, 2016
October 10, 2016
October 14, 2016
October 14-15, 2016
October 15, 2016
November 11, 2016
December 9, 2016
January 12, 2017
January 13, 2017
February 15, 2017
February 10, 2017
February 24, 2017
March 8, 2017
March 17, 2017
March 21-24, 2017
April 2-5, 2017
April 14, 2016
May 12, 2017
June 9, 2017
June 13-15, 2107

Upcoming Events

Michigan Works Conference, Mt. Pleasant, MI
Dropout Prevention Conference
Career Pathways, Indianapolis, IN
MI League for Public Policy's 2016 Policy Forum
Michigan ESLPAC Conference
MiTESOL, Flint, MI
Board Meeting- Fall Conference, Boyne Mountain
MACAE Board Meeting, Topic Friday
MACAE Board Meeting
MACAE Board Meeting
Topic Friday-Family Speak, Legislative Day
Family Speak
MACAE Board Meeting
Literacy Day
MACAE Legislative Day
Michigan ESLPAC Conference
TESOL Conference, Seattle, WA
COABE Conference, Orlando, FL
MACAE Board Meeting
MACAE Board Meeting
MACAE Board Meeting
CASAS Summer Institute, Anaheim, CA