



Michigan Association
of Community and
Adult Education

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 6

MACAE MONTHLY

MAY 2020

OUR BEST DAYS ARE AHEAD OF US

Message from Bob Steeh, MACAE President

Dear MACAE members:

WOW! I cannot believe my last few months as your President will end having our monthly board meetings virtually, canceling our Spring Institute and adjusting our planned one-day workshops to webinars. This is an un-presented time in our world and I am sure stressful for many of you and your programs. Patrick has done a very good job helping us navigate through zoom to conduct our board meetings, (which have been very productive) as well as redirect our one-day workshops into webinars and we hosted two successful check-in calls for members. He has filled his days connecting with program directors, working with our advocacy committee (putting out talking points and sample letters to legislators), and we have been communicating with Erica and the State Office of Adult Education staff on a weekly basis, etc. I am not sure we will ever be back to “normal.” That being said it is critical for us to start planning as to how we, (our programs) will re-connect with customers and bring them back into buildings. MACAE will be there for you and can help with those conversations.

It has been an honor to serve as your President these past six years. I feel good where MACAE has been and where we are today and look forward to watching this organization continue to grow to be a strong voice in Michigan. MACAE is in good hands with Tammy Brown as your new President. I have been fortunate to work with many fine board members over the many years, (too many to count) serving on this Board. Jeff McNeal, my past President, (for more years than I think he wanted) was instrumental in helping us put MACAE in the best financial position. Our overall strategic plan, (goal) was to make sure MACAE’s budget would be sustainable for years to come. I feel, through the dedication of our volunteer board and membership we have achieved a sound financial position. Another reason for our financial success is our partnership with Michigan’s Children, which continues to look for ways we can share resources and support our common goals. Our partnership allowed

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us to hire Patrick Brown, Outreach Coordinator two years ago, to expand MACAE’s outreach to its membership and other like organizations. Our partnership is important to MACAE. We are proud of our relationship, which focuses on public policies made in the best interest of children from cradle to career. We have worked hard to create an awareness of the need for two-generational programing.

(Please see the rest of Bob Steeh’s message on pg. 2)

Take advantage of our upcoming Professional Development today!

[Click HERE!](#)

Follow us on social media:

@macaetoday



(Bob Steeh's message continued from pg. 1)

Over the past six years' we have:

1. Brought back our committee structure and added Topic Friday once a month; (where we have averaged 30-60 members in attendance) This has helped us keep a pulse on educational policies and listen to our members in the field, so that we can support and provide you with information that can help your program. Our collaboration with other organizations and agencies helps keep MACAE connected to educational policies initiatives and remain on the cutting edge of change. Your participation is important to us.

2. Created an Ambassador Program to strengthen advocacy by training students how to be an effective voice.

3. Through our partnership with Michigan's Children, we have conducted several successful student speaks programs throughout the state, advocating on issues we believe will strengthen adults and families in Michigan. Michele Corey has been a dedicated participant on our Advocacy Committee, strategizing and guiding us through the legislative process.

4. Our 2019 Fall Conference was most successful, drawing one of its largest attendance in years at Crystal Mountain

5. We have conducted several Spring Institutes and hope to bring it back in May of 2021 to Kalamazoo.

6. MACAE became a member of the Michigan League for Public Policy. They have been a valuable partner where the League focuses on policy, which includes skill building for low-income adults, wage mobility, public assistance, family self-sufficiency and tax credits for working families. Peter Ruark, Senior Policy Analyst has been a faithful participant on our Advocacy Committee. Peter authored a report on

adult education demonstrating the Leagues support of the need to increase state funding.

7. We had some success securing additional dollars (\$4 Million) for adult education with the addition of special projects grants.

8. MACAE has worked hard to connect with the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). Through people like, Gregg Dionne, the late Brian Barber, Eric Lipinski, and now Jeff McNeal, they have provided valuable workshops, shared important information and participated in our monthly board meetings. Our collaboration with MDE has helped keep MACAE connected on educational policy initiatives and on the cutting edge of change.

9. The MACAE Board made a decision to become a partner with COABE, which includes our entire MACAE membership roster as members of COABE too.

MACAE is a great organization who works to connect people to schools through community and adult education. It is through these connections that we have become a valuable resource for districts. I believe community and adult education is an integral part of the educational delivery system. Adult education plays a vital role in educating the entire community by providing an opportunity for all people to engage in a process. Community and adult education is the foundation to meet the needs within the community and plays a critical role in school improvement. I love it and believe in it. **Thank you all for the opportunity to serve.**

Thank you being a member of MACAE and I wish you all the best and hope to see all of you at future MACAE activities. Be well, take care, and stay safe.

Bob Steeh, MACAE President

Advocate today for Adult, Alternative and Community Education!

We need your immediate help to advocate for the populations we serve. Now more than ever it is imperative that we advocate for these populations. Adult education, alternative education, community and workforce development partners can ensure that program participants have increased opportunities for success in the 21st century and are part of a pipeline to build a skilled workforce by:

- ⇒ Bridging the Skills Gap by achieving educational outcomes for those at the foundational levels of learning
- ⇒ Increasing Employment and Economic Stability
- ⇒ Preparing for Higher Education, Training and Credentialing
- ⇒ Connecting Adults and Families with Needed Essential Services
- ⇒ Building Resilient Communities



MACAE IN THE NEWS:

It's been a few weeks since our last newsletter and there have been many changes. But through it all there have been some wonderful bright spots!

What's the Latest?

MACAE Non profit literacy programs across Michigan have launched virtual one-to-one tutoring sessions with participants emphasizing the importance of education and literacy.

Ottawa Area ISD, Zeeland Adult Education, Traverse Bay Area ISD, Consolidated Community Schools, Bay-Arenac ISD, Dearborn Adult Education, Muskegon ISD and Kent ISD Adult Education met along with the other Career and Technical Education to discuss challenges in programming and training and to prepare for next program year.

Oakland County Community and Adult Education (OCCA) partners completed a new IFA agreement and continue to collaborate strongly with Oakland County Michigan Works!

MACAE Outreach offered technical assistance for programs in jeopardy of not meeting the target performance metric for the new WIOA Application Grant. MACAE worked with those programs to identify best practices, strategies and resources for improvement.

Kent ISD Adult Education has been working to transition its learning and instructional platform to a Moodle format for the upcoming program year.

Kalamazoo, Michigan Works! Southeast, Sparta, Royal Oak

Adult Education and others have been working to develop an online registration tool utilizing the Adult Learner Plan to onboard new participants and students during this difficult time. Some of their work is being adopted at the state level for an electronic ALP for program year 2020-21.

Saline Community Education has transitioned a majority of its community education programming to online and virtual formats. Director Brian Puffer has been instrumental in engaging families and the community at large!

Reading Works Detroit has instituted a weekly Check-In call for metro Detroit programs to share ideas, best practices and host invited guests during this time.

Novi Adult Education is preparing to conduct a parking lot testing day for post testing.

CASAS has been working closely with pilot test sites in Michigan at **Kent ISD Adult Education** and **Southwest Solutions Adult Learning Lab** to pilot the remote testing capabilities to be launched soon across the country.

MACAE Member **Oogie La Mar** was featured on the front page of the COABE website advocating for increased funding of adult education.

Iosco RESA Alternative Ed is moving to a new building!

Other Information

- Governor Whitmer held a press conference to discuss the creation of the Return to Learning Advisory Council, formalizing a process for determining how schools may be able to reopen in the fall. [Here to see the video](#)
- Michigan predicts \$3.2 billion budget shortfall. [Click here.](#)
- The May 7th Edition of the Michigan Department of Education's Spotlight on Student Assessment and Accountability released the dates for fall 2020 standardized testing in Michigan. [Click here.](#)

News and Update from the State Adult Education Office

WIOA Grant RFP Applications 2020-2024

AEFLA WIOA Grant for 2020-2024 have been submitted to the State Adult Education Office for review and scoring. Providers should become aware of their grant approval or status in early June.

Assessment Policy Changes for AE

The State Adult Education Office released assessment policy changes for the remainder of this program year. The updated assessment policy can be found on their website by [clicking here](#).

MACAE is here for you!

Throughout these challenging times, MACAE is dedicated to providing you the information, resources, tools, guidance and advocacy that you need to better serve and help your participants.

Since the middle of March we have continued to offer a number of resources for members as we all navigate these challenging times, together.

- Our MACAE Office staff have been working remotely and have gone above and beyond!
- MACAE Leadership has been meeting weekly with State Adult Education Staff to address needs, offer suggestions and advocate for the needs of programs
- MACAE Leadership met with state and federal representatives, departmental officials from MDE and LEO and the Governor's Office
- We were able to switch to and offer 6 online virtual professional development opportunities
- We created a 'Response to Coronavirus' page on our website with resources, tools and best practices
- We surveyed members for feedback on policy guidelines, immediate needs/concerns and troubleshooting with members
- We offered technical assistance to programs on the WIOA Grant RFP Applications for 2020–2024
- We worked with educational vendors to provide product discounts and trials for MACAE members only
- We renegotiated a MACAE rate for E-CASAS Testing for MACAE members only
- We have offered monthly webinar Membership Check-Ins
- Our MACAE Board of Directors has met each month to monitor financial implications, offer guidance and best practices and to advocate for adult, alternative, community education and workforce training at the local, state and national level
- The MACAE Committees have met each month to share tools and online learning resources. They have also discussed professional development for the upcoming program year
- MACAE Leadership has created a number of templates and tools to help program administrators craft contingency operations plans and distance learning
- We released our calendar of events, professional development pricing and membership information for 2020-2021
- Over the summer we are planning, in some fashion, for our MACAE Board of Directors Strategic Planning Session

"IF YOUR ACTIONS INSPIRE
OTHERS TO DREAM MORE,
LEARN MORE, DO MORE AND
BECOME MORE, YOU ARE A
LEADER."

-JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

RECOGNIZING THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES WE FACE AHEAD

These have been challenging times for all of us, navigating uncharted water, facing uncertain outcomes and finding level footing.

While there have been some difficult moments, we are proud of the work, determination and grit of our programs to transition to make new opportunities. And most importantly, we have been inspired by the way programs have adapted, shifted and responded to helping participants reach their goals. It's been amazing to see!

So many programs have rallied their staff together like Dearborn Adult and Community Education, addressing student needs and planning for the future.



We've been motivated by teachers and instructional staff like Nancy from Troy Continuing Education, who have turned their living rooms and kitchens into classrooms. They are the people who are making a difference in the lives of our participants each day.



And through it all we have been encouraged, and inspired by our program participants. Those like Peter Blum from Swan Valley Adult Education who have reached their educational goals and are now pursuing their next steps or continuing their studies or entering employment.

We truly believe that our best days are ahead of us.

MACAE Board Update

As we look to prepare for the future, the MACAE Board is excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and expanding its leadership and growth across the state.

MACAE is proud to announce the election of new Officers of the Board.

More information on the 2020-2021 Board of Directors will be shared in our June 2020 issue.

President: Tammy Brown

Vice President: Karyn Goven

MACAE Region 1: Bill Henry

MACAE Region 2: Tina Williams

MACAE Region 3: Brenda Baker

MACAE Region 4: Stacie Zeien

MACAE Region 5: Connie Cox

MACAE Region 6: Maha Makki

Professional Development: Renae Gowen

Networking: Heather Robidoux

At Large/Advocacy: Oogie Lamar

At Large: Kelly Vella

Past President: Bob Steeh

More information on each MACAE Region and the board of directors can be found at our website by [clicking here.](#)

MACAE WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS:

We are happy to welcome these new members to the network as of May 2020!

Michelle DeVries, Sturgis Community Schools

Brian Barry, Sturgis Community Schools

Alexis Gering, Sturgis Community Schools

Jeannie Koeneke, Sturgis Community Schools

Olivia Oberc, Sturgis Community Schools

Do you know all the benefits of being a MACAE Member?

- ⇒ Professional Networking with practitioners from across the state!
- ⇒ Access to low cost, high quality professional development and training
- ⇒ Free webinars and automatic enrollment as a COABE member
- ⇒ Regular communication on statewide updates and initiatives
- ⇒ Access to professional job postings and support for administrators, teachers and support staff
- ⇒ Advocacy and program spotlight at the local, state and national levels

**2020-2021
MEMBERSHIP:
JOIN TODAY!**

MACAE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: JENNIFER MAJORANA



Each Month, MACAE recognizes the hard work and achievements of its members. This month we highlight Jennifer Majorana, the Director of Adult Literacy at The Legacy Center for Community Success.

1)What is your current position and what motivates you the most working with the adult/alternative education populations that you do?

I currently serve as Director of Adult Literacy at the Legacy Center for Community Success in Midland. I work with ESL and ABE learners. These students inspire me with their motivation to learn and excitement at developing relationships with their tutors. I believe that asking for help takes great courage, and I really admire our learners for taking that first step on their journey – then sticking with it.

2)What is the most important thing to know about the work that you do?

Our model at the Legacy Center is one-on-one tutoring. That means each learner gets individualized instruction from a trained volunteer tutor to help them reach their educational goals. No one gets lost in the crowd here, and I think that's something really special. We do have two small group classes, which help build a sense of community.

3)What resources would be helpful from MACAE to continue to offer your support in your role?

Coming from the world of college-level ESL and being relatively new to adult education, I have appreciated all the MACAE offerings related to navigating MAERS and state reporting requirements. It has been very helpful to network through MACAE with other adult educators, particularly in terms of listening to questions they raise and challenges they face in their programs.

THANK YOU MACAE, COMMITTEES!

What we accomplished, together!

Last week was the last formal meeting of our MACAE Committees (Advocacy, Alternative Education, ABE/Literacy, Community Education, High School Equivalency, and Workforce Development).

We would like to thank all who participated this year to produce professional development, resource sharing, new tools, updates, new partnerships with Michigan Works and MDE, and new ideas for program growth and innovation.

Each committee meeting this year we had over 30 members in attendance and were able to offer SCECHs for all who attended. In person meetings allowed for a networking lunch and updates from MACAE vendors and partners.

In April and May, MACAE transitioned to virtual committee meetings and we are looking forward to how to continue this option in the fall.

More information on our Committees can be found at our website by [clicking here](#).

Summer Learning Opportunities

MACAE has received great interest in conducting some summer learning opportunities around remote testing and instructional platforms. We are seeking input from you if members would be interested in these options, participating virtually.

Learning would occur in July and August.

If you are interested in either of these topics or joining these working groups, please email us at [macaeoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:macaеoutreach@gmail.com) or [macaeoffice@gmail.com](mailto:macaеoffice@gmail.com)

If we are able to offer SCECHs for learning, we will attempt to do so as well.



MACAE concentrates on work in the following areas:

- *Adult Education*
- *Alternative Education*
- *Community Education, Childcare*
- *Adult Basic Literacy*
- *Workforce Training/ Credentialing*
- *High School Equivalency*
- *English as Second Language*

We want to hear from you! Contact [macaeoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:macaеoutreach@gmail.com) with questions or concerns!

MACAE OFFICE CONTACT:



Michigan Association of Community and Adult Education

826 Municipal Way
Lansing, MI 48917
Ph: 517-492-1367
Fax: 517-492-1368

Office Email (Judy Walker):
[macaeoffice@gmail.com](mailto:macaеoffice@gmail.com)

Communications/Outreach Email (Patrick Brown):
[macaeoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:macaеoutreach@gmail.com)

Website: www.macaе.org