



# MACAE MONTHLY

SEPTEMBER 2020

## THE WAY FORWARD

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### A Message from the President

Welcome back! This is going to be a year like no other! While I was trying to figure out how best to welcome you all back, in the midst of a pandemic, I just kept reiterating to myself to focus on the positives! **“Every adversity contains, at the same time, a seed of equivalent opportunity!”** Please take a moment to look for the positives hidden within the chaos. Believe it or not our programs are better prepared to educate through this pandemic than most traditional programs. Be proud of our roots in alternative programming for all levels of students and the community!

For adult education and workforce programs, we are being provided an opportunity to showcase what we are capable of together through the Futures for Frontliners initiative. This now puts adult education in the spotlight! We need to ensure this project is successful to open the door for additional opportunities to engage students in training and post-secondary advancement.

For Community Education, I am hearing about some awesome innovative opportunities for community members! Stay strong! Your programs will be needed more than ever once you can get back to “normal” as so many community members will need the social and educational opportunities you can provide to reengage communities!

For Alternative Education, isn’t it great to see “traditional” educators looking to you for support in alternative methods of teaching and flexible learning! I wish you well as you transition from virtual to hybrid, maybe back to virtual and then back to hybrid again throughout this year. You are positioned to manage these changes better than many of your peers.

(A Message From the President continues on pg. 2)

**(A Message from the President continued from pg. 1)**

I am not naïve, and I understand this year will not be without challenges, however, how we present the challenges can impact greatly how we and our participants and clients react. Look at each as an opportunity to grow your programs, staff, and students. Challenges build character, new skillsets, and community unity.

MACAE is here to support you through this challenging year. We are so very fortunate to have Patrick and Judy on board! Reach out to them with anything you need. I know if they do not have the answer, they will certainly work hard to find it! MACAE needs to hear from you what you need to ensure we are providing appropriate resources and training opportunities. Looking forward to “seeing” you at future PD Opportunities, monthly check-ins, and at our Fall Conference: In It Together!

Stay Safe and Healthy!

Tammy Brown, MACAE President



**MACAE Board Conducts Strategic Planning**

This summer, the MACAE board met virtually and utilizing social distance parameters to conduct its strategic planning session. Our board of volunteers worked over the last few months to gather input from a variety of partners including members, regional, state and national partners to inform our mission and vision.

Through the work of the summer strategic planning sessions, the MACAE Board identified 6 Strategic Focuses that will carry forward the organization over the next two years. The identified Focuses are:

1. *Positioning MACAE as the recognized Association in the State for Adult, Alternative, Community Education and Workforce Development*
2. *Reviewing and Gathering Data Analysis, Research and Resources*
3. *Ensuring sustainability of the Association through a growth in grant funding and earned revenue*
4. *Providing Impactful Programming Guidance*
5. *Advocating and educating members and policymakers on the impact of adult, alternative, community education and integrated education and training*
6. *Maintaining the quality and effectiveness of the MACAE Association and board to increase effectiveness of core activities*

The final version of the strategic plan will be presented to the membership at large at the MACAE Virtual Fall Conference.



## COVID-19 RETURN TO LEARN AND WORK RESOURCES

Over the summer of 2020, MACAE has been actively sharing resources to help programs and organizations reopen for learning or work. Here are some of the most useful!

### **MiSymptoms App:**

MI Symptoms is a free online tool built with leading public health experts to help organizations screen their members for COVID-19 symptoms.

[Click here to access the website.](#)

### **COVID Workplace Safety Guidelines:**

Guidelines by Industry for returning to work and learn parameters for employers and employees.

[Click here to access the website.](#)

### **Local Health Department Resources:**

Link to local health department tracking and resource information.

[Click here to access the website.](#)

### **MACAE COVID-19 Resource Page**

A repository of our recorded Membership Check-Ins, tools and templates, and vendor resources.

[Click here to access the website.](#)

### **Mask Up Michigan!**

Four million free masks are being provided to Michigan residents who are most vulnerable to COVID-19 through a partnership involving the state, Ford Motor Company and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Anyone interested in receiving a free mask can find a distribution location by calling the COVID-19 Hotline at 888-535-6136 or looking up their local [Community Action Agency](#) online.

Information around the COVID-19 outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](#) and [CDC.gov/Coronavirus](#).

MACAE encourages all programs to share this information with participants and employees who may need it. We should encourage all participants and employees to have their own personal mask! Mask Up Michigan!

*We hope you find these resources helpful!!*

## **Updated Michigan Hot Jobs Resources**

At our September 2020 MACAE Membership Check-In we shared some updated resources on the Hot Jobs Trends and Industries in Michigan.

These resources will be extremely helpful to you as you continue planning for this year and beyond.

### [Michigan Hot 50 through 2028](#)

The top 50 professions for job growth, annual job openings and wage growth in Michigan through 2028.

### [Michigan's Career Outlook through 2028](#)

List of in-demand occupations in Michigan and education and training requirements.

### [2020 Annual Planning Information and Workforce Analysis Reports](#)

Economic and demographic data for each prosperity region.

## **Alternative Education:**

The Michigan Department of Education has been hosting a number of webinars on the Pupil Accounting and Days/Hours Waiver Changes for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

To access the slide deck from one of these presentations, please [access it here](#). To access a recording, please visit their [video page](#).

The Department also released an Application Process for Alternative Education Days/Hours Waiver for this school year. The deadline is October 5th. [Click here to access the Memo](#).

## ADULT EDUCATION STATE AUDIT

### Adult Education State Report

As many of you know, the State Auditors General Office conducted an audit of the State Adult Education Office over the last three years beginning in 2016.

The completed report was published and released earlier this month.

The goal and scope of the audit was to analyze the effective policies and practices enforced by the State Adult Education Office. Overall findings indicated that the State Adult Education Office did not do enough to monitor and support adult education providers across the state.

Over the course of the audit, 15 providers were involved in the audit process.

MACAE is encouraging the State Adult Education Office to identify next steps.

The audit findings identified four areas that the Office could improve upon:

- Ensuring effective student record keeping
- Ensuring eligibility of adult education providers
- Providing oversight and monitoring to the Section 107 Regional Fiscal Agents
- Providing data on appropriate financial recordkeeping, resource usage and participant data collection

MACAE is encouraging the State Adult Education Office to identify next steps in response to the audit findings through professional development, technical assistance and streamlined policies and guidelines.

It is our hope that we can help create a technical assistance and peer monitoring program to ensure all providers know the parameters and guidelines. Additionally, that the State Office is creating consistent, clear and equitable guidelines and policies for the effective administration of programs.

To access and read the complete report, [click here](#).

### Additional Information and Interesting Articles

These are some of the interesting articles and resources this month that we know you'll be talking about:

- [The Evolution of Racism. The Atlantic](#)
- [New Career Cluster Industries across the nation](#)
- [Social Justice Instructional Standards](#)
- [MI College COVID Response Guide](#)
- [Michigan Department of Education: Superintendent's Workforce Guide](#)
- [The Emerging Playbook: Reexamining Professional Obligations in a Virtual Classroom](#)
- [Michigan Voter Information Center](#)



## MACAE IN THE NEWS:

A number of our member programs and individual members have had significant achievements since our last newsletter. Here are some bright spots!

### *What's the Latest?*

**ACCESS, Refugee Development Center, and the International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit** are new MACAE Members and were awarded WIOA Grants for 2020-2024 for the first time.

Charlie Wynne of **Plainwell** was named the new MACAE High School Equivalency Committee Chairperson.

In August, Renae Gowen was named the new Director of **Romulus Adult Education** and Romulus Virtual Learning Center. She previously was the Coordinator and Lead Teacher for the Adult Education Program. Congrats Renae!

Heather Robidoux, MACAE Board member, accepted a new position as the County Career Coach at the **Hillsdale County ISD Career Center**. In this capacity she will help high school students make employment and postsecondary connections.

Hollin De La Cruz, Administrative Assistant at the **Kent ISD Adult Education Program**, welcomed a baby this summer. Congratulations Hollin!

**MACAE** has partnered with the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity as a "Get Out the Word Partner" to support the Futures for Frontliners Program.

**Central Montcalm Adult Education** is expanding programming to the former Carson City-Crystal adult education site.

**MACAE** Director Patrick Brown served as facilitator for the second webinar in a series on Policy and Advocacy for the Michigan Network of Youth and Families. The webinar series was hosted by **Michigan's Children**.

Karyn Gowen from **Southwest Solutions**, Pam Gosla from **MiWorks! Southeast** and Kim Glenn from **EDSI** presented at the summer COABE Virtual Conference.

**All Saints Literacy** celebrated its 5th anniversary of service this summer. Additionally, the Board of Directors named Schum e Harrison as Director.

Kevin Upton, Region 9 Fiscal Agent at the **Washtenaw ISD** introduced a project developed for blended learning for K-12 instructors.

Brian Puffer of **Saline Community Education** was named the new MACAE Community Education Committee Chair.

**Steepletown Neighborhood Services** celebrated its move to a new space and expanded programming!

### **Julie DeRose receives award from Michigan Works Association!**

MACAE Member and Director of Potterville Adult Education, Julie DeRose, was recognized at the Michigan Works Association Conference in September with a "Shining Star" award. The award recognizes her efforts in working with the Michigan Works! Association to meet the educational and employment needs of youth and adults in Clinton, Eaton and Ingham counties.

Potterville Adult Education provides adult education services in all three counties of the Capital region.

One of the strongest programming aspects is that Julie coordinates adult education services at the Capital Area Michigan Works! Service Center in Lansing within the American Job Center.



According to the Michigan Works Association press release, Julie said of the award: "I am so very grateful for this honor. To be singled out is humbling, since there are so many awesome people that I work with every day who make lives better, futures brighter and our communities stronger."

Congratulations Julie!

## We Need Bread: Teaching Virtual Culinary Classes Amid a Pandemic

(This story comes from our members at Zaman International )

The request was simple, the need heart-breaking.

*“Can we move up the bread chapter? We need bread.”*

That’s the question students asked Chef and Culinary Arts Instructor Daniela Abel as they pursued adult education in Zaman International’s Building Ongoing Opportunities through Skills Training (BOOST) program.

Abel, of course, switched up the curriculum to meet the need just like Zaman pivoted to virtual learning when COVID-19 hit Michigan in March and the Governor issued the “Stay Home, Stay Safe” executive order.

“When COVID-19 surged there wasn’t bread on the store shelves, and there was a lot of desperation and increased food insecurity across the board,” said Abel, a veteran of the restaurant industry who now teaches the free of charge culinary arts classes. Her students are marginalized adult women facing extreme poverty, many of whom are members of immigrant and refugee communities.

Led by registered transcultural nurse Najah Bazy, Zaman had been planning for the eventual shutdown weeks in advance. When the executive order came, it quickly transitioned BOOST’s vocational and literacy classes to virtual platforms while its social workers managed their caseloads by phone.

Abel turned to Facebook Live, demonstrating the cooking techniques from her home kitchen as the 11 women enrolled followed along on their smart phones, often revisiting lessons once a paraprofessional added notes in Arabic to the video.

In switching to virtual lessons, Zaman still provided the basic supplies needed to participate such as a good set of knives and gift cards to purchase the food items. In some cases, staff provided home delivery to those without transportation.

The transition also reintroduced other challenges serving an impoverished population. A lack of a stove or microwave, for instance, something Zaman would normally provide for in-person instruction via its state-of-the-art commercial kitchen inside its Hope for Humanity facility in Inkster.

“We went raiding the facility for everything we could find, from plug-in skillets to heating plates to crockpots, anything they could cook on,” Abel said. “One student sent a photo of her children smiling around the panini maker we provided which allowed them to have heated sandwiches. Such a simple thing brought so much joy and made such a big difference.”

Despite the obstacles, the program succeeded with the students completing the coursework. One student used her newly acquired training to land a job at a local restaurant, earning a higher starting wage.

“It was really a lesson of adaptive leadership and making the impossible, possible,” said Gigi Salka, who serves as director of BOOST and managed the transition to virtual learning. “We have a lot to build on heading into the fall.”

Zaman is applying the lessons it learned in the spring to improve the experience for its fall programming, which it again intends to conduct virtually.

It will switch from Facebook Live to Google Classroom and loan students Chromebooks which will help centralize the curriculum and ensure better monitoring and communication. It will also provide start-up kits up front filled with basic spices, oils and cooking supplies needed to complete the coursework.

Similar steps will be incorporated to accommodate BOOST’s commercial sewing, literacy and English as a second language classes.



## Transitioning to Reopening 2020-2021

Southwest Economic Solutions Adult Learning Labs are making sure we provide opportunities for students, who are not digitally literate, to learn basic concepts for learning remotely. We are holding 2 separate, 2-hour classes sessions, once a week, for those who would like to come to an open-air, in-person, masked session that teaches the students how to use their computer. The concepts taught are how to log onto the internet, participate in zoom sessions, send and receive emails, open and work within multiple windows among other tasks. The students are very enthusiastic about learning these concepts as it will help them to have greater success as they attend classes and various appointments during the school year. **This story was submitted by member Jeana Harper-Kirkland.**



## Opportunities for Engagement:

There are two exciting opportunities to nominate hardworking staff, professionals and partners for supporting the work you do!

### MACAE 2020 Annual Awards

Consider nominating someone for Trailblazer, Program Support Staff, Outstanding Educator or Advocate! Deadline for submissions is October 5th. [Click here to nominate someone.](#)

### Michigan Department of Education Nominations for 2021-2022 Michigan Teacher of the Year

Nominate an outstanding instructor for the Michigan Teacher of the Year award! Complete eligibility and submission information is available on the MDE website. [Click here to nominate an educator.](#)

The National Council on Economic Mobility is seeking stakeholder input through a [request for information \(RFI\)](#). The U.S. Department of Education is a member of the Council, along with the U.S. departments of [Agriculture](#), [Labor](#), [Health and Human Services](#), [Housing and Urban Development](#), and [Treasury](#); the [Social Security Administration](#); and the [Council of Economic Advisors](#).

**Expand, Grow,  
Share the  
strengths of your  
program!**

The Council seeks to create an accountable and effective structure for interagency collaboration and to use federal authorities to promote family-sustaining careers and economic mobility for low-income Americans. For more information on the Council, refer to the RFI.

The information gathered in response to the RFI will be used to better inform the Council's priorities, working group activities, stakeholder engagement, and federal programs. Feedback on the specific economic mobility, recovery, and resilience challenges in local communities in the short, medium, and long term is welcome.

We want to make sure that our stakeholders' perspectives are shared with the Council, so we encourage you to review the RFI and submit your comments as soon as possible. The deadline for comments is Oct. 2, 2020.

### Michigan AmeriCorps Information:

On September 18th, the Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) announced the availability of funds to support new and re-competing Michigan AmeriCorps programs.

The AmeriCorps Program supports staffing and programming opportunities in the following fields: disaster services, economic opportunity, education, environmental stewardship, healthy futures, COVID-19 response, racial equity and veterans and military families.

In the past, AmeriCorps members have helped MACAE members to build adult literacy programming, economic development block grants and community foundation building around health and education.

[To access the information and consider applying, click here.](#)

## MACAE WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS:

**We are happy to welcome these new members to our network as of September 1st!**

Darren Barnes, Houghton Lake

Erika Brown-Binion, Refugee Development Center

Michael Evans, Kalamazoo Literacy Council

Vincent D'Ettorre, Mi Works! Southeast

Travis Neller, Eaton RESA

Sharon Rowe, Dominican Literacy

Tyra Thompson, Dominican Literacy

Susan Suryea, Dominican Literacy

Sr. Marica Higgins, Dominican Literacy

Kimberly Glenn, EDSI

Shana McCarron, EDSI

Andrea Foglietta, West Bloomfield

Wojciech Zolnowski, International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit

Anne Roth, International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit

Ignacio Gonzalez-Rogers, MSU Migrant Student Services

Samuel Saldivar, MSU Migrant Student Services

Debbie Abdulhamid, Zaman International

Neam Zalzal, Zaman International

Joel Render, Livingston ESA

Denise Van Heel, Troy School District/Oakland County Mi Works!

Heather Smith, ACCESS

Heidi Mellanen-Swiecki, ACCESS

Cindy Shick, Central Montcalm

Lori Brace, Central Montcalm

Lennda Brown, Central Montcalm

Erica Christensen, Central Montcalm

Sahanda Stauffer, Central Montcalm

Kathy Shick, Central Montcalm

Angie Vanderwarker, Central Montcalm

Kristine Miller, Plainwell

Jan VanDyke, Zeeland

Roi Gibson, Zeeland

Courtney Slucter, Jewish Family Services

Rachel DesJardins, Huron Valley

Beth Ginsbach, Huron Valley

Emily Mienkwic, Huron Valley

Teri Wertman, Huron Valley

Alison Burns, Kent ISD

MaCayla Huisman, Kent ISD

Cat Willey, Kent ISD

Kim Tran, Kent ISD

Angel Wallace, Kent ISD

Nora Feinberg, West Bloomfield

Kimberly Liddell-Love, West Bloomfield

Melissa McDonald, West Bloomfield

Laurie Weeks, Oakland Literacy

Rebecca Moll, Oakland Literacy

Souad Sarabi, Oakland Literacy

Patti Shayne, Oakland Literacy

Christun Maxwell, Rockford

Nicole Hatch, Iosco RESA

Robin Armstrong, Rochester

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

### MACAE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: ELIZABETH ALIA

Each month, MACAE recognizes the hard work and achievements of its members. This month we highlight Elizabeth Alia, Plainwell Adult Education. Thank you Elizabeth for all that you do for your students. You are a great representative of MACAE!

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

I teach ESL at Plainwell Renaissance Adult Education. Previously, I worked with Portage Public Schools, Kalamazoo Public Schools and Voces, a non-profit in Battle Creek. I've always had a great team of administrators behind me and that counts for a lot. As far as my students go, I am fortunate to work with people who not only have an eagerness to learn, but they often express gratefulness. They are gifted and talented in many areas, but they present to me in a humble state because they don't have a grasp on the language. So I work everyday with people who exhibit humility, gratefulness and tenacity. Those are extremely attractive qualities and I feel blessed to interact with them. I sense their frustrations at not being better equipped and I want to do everything I can to help them. It's extremely motivating. This is a place where I can bring my small offering to the world.



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

Teaching English as a Secondary Language to adult learners is a particularly fluid endeavor, as students have varying degrees of exposure to not only the language, the culture, but even our alphabet. I can't imagine (as an adult) learning another language that does not use the Latin alphabet! That has to be particularly frustrating. And though I staunchly support education in the classical sense, I've learned that making people feel valued and a part of community is just as vital. There are so many natural opportunities in teaching ESL that allow for advocacy and guidance far beyond just learning the language.

*What resources would be helpful from MACAE to continue to offer support to you in your role?*

Recent webinar topics have really piqued my interest! Workforce development and digital literacy are areas I continue to explore. MACAE has kept me abreast of the status of adult education in our state. It's reduced the regulatory noise from becoming clamour in my head, so I can concentrate on my classroom, where my head should be. MACAE has also guided me in developing thoughtful responses to the unique challenges of teaching adult learners. I count on the advocacy of MACAE and also the many professional development opportunities and collaborations with other educators. Professional development is so refreshing as I am constantly considering new ideas and strategies to enhance competencies.

## MACAE VIRTUAL FALL CONFERENCE: IN IT TOGETHER: NOVEMBER 5-6

*Join us for this worthwhile event!*

MACAE is excited and looking forward to its annual fall conference scheduled for November 5-6, 2020: MACAE: In It Together!

This will be our first-ever virtual conference and we are excited at being able to offer the conference on our virtual app, Whova.

Conference attendees can expect the same high-quality sessions around community education, workforce development, instructional best practices, leadership, and social emotional tools for learners that MACAE is known for.

And, attendees can expect new twists including two evening virtual networking events, Family Feud and a MACAE Spelling Bee!

[Click here to register today and take advantage of our group rate!](#)

Please contact our office with any questions or concerns.

### Keynote Speakers

**David Rowell** is a national author and facilitator on parity discussion!

We are excited that David will be with us to share insights on how to build systems of change and inclusivity.

Ms. **Meghan McBride** is the Vice President for Adult Education at Georgia Piedmont Technical College. She will share her inspiring story of pain, challenges, triumph and success from a GED student to postsecondary secondary education professional!

### Engaging Presentations

MACAE State Update

Leadership and Resiliency

Teaching Cognitively Impaired One-to-One

The Powerless of Parenting While Black

Remote CASAS Testing

Teaching in the 21st Century

*MACAE concentrates on work in the following areas:*

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

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

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### Michigan Association of Community and Adult Education

\*Please note that we are working remotely during this time\*

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