



Michigan Association
of Community and
Adult Education

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 2

MACAE MONTHLY

FEBRUARY 2021

DETERMINATION AND DEDICATION

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

WELCOME	1
A GROWING ORGANIZATION	2
MACAE IN THE NEWS/ HIGHLIGHTS	3
RESOURCES	4
PRIORITIES FOR 2021/ INFORMATION	5
SUCCESS STORIES	6
OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT	7
NEW MEMBERS AND MEMBER SPOTLIGHT	8
SPRING INSTITUTE AND CONTACT INFORMATION	9

Renew your MACAE
Membership Today!

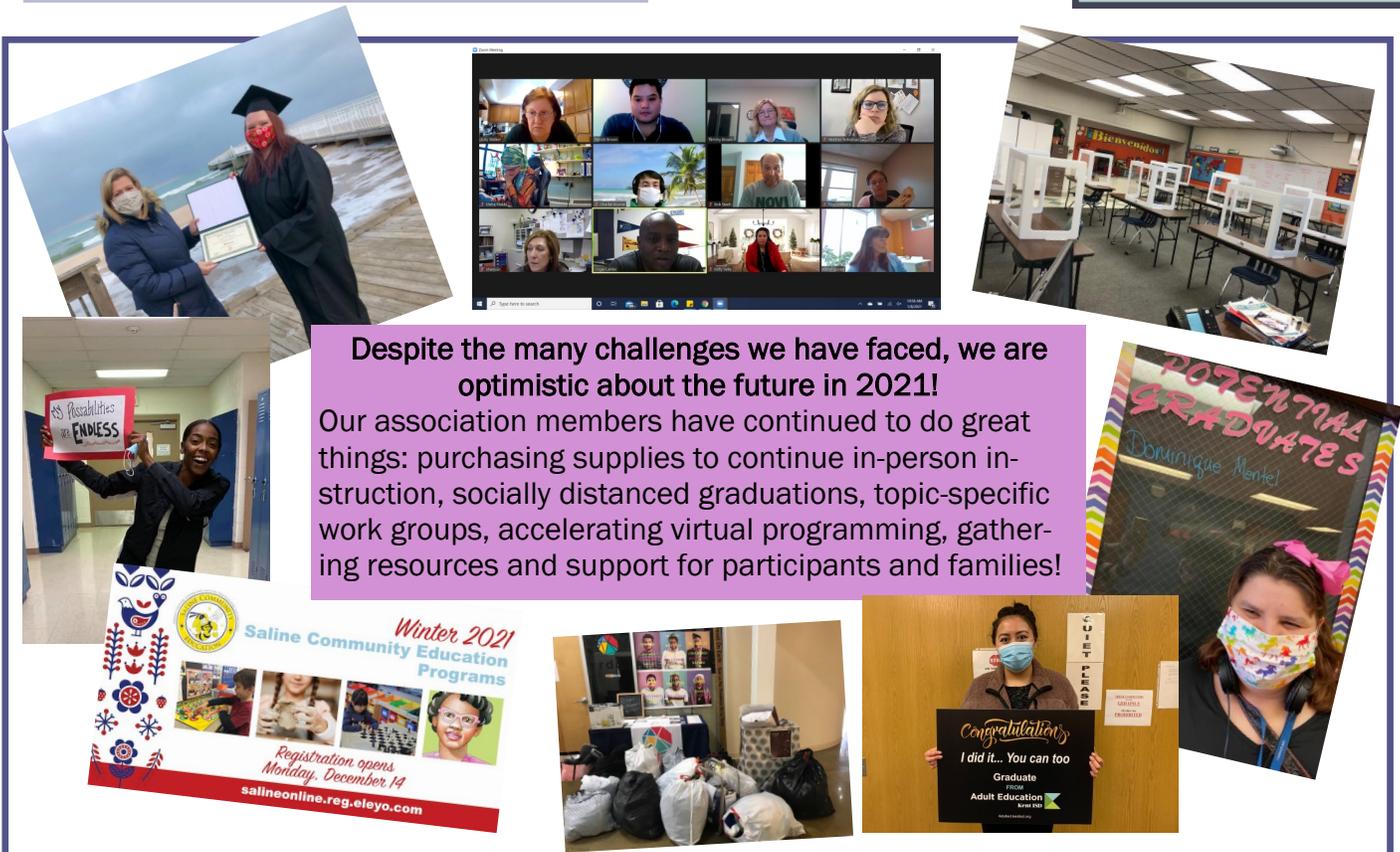
[Click here](#)

Sign up today for our
upcoming professional
development:

[Click here](#)

Follow us on social
media:

@macaetoday



MACAE Launches Adult Education Focus Groups

Join us for our next discussion dates/times:

- Large Size Focus Group: (500+ participants): Tuesday, March 2nd
- Mid Size Focus Group: (250-500 participants): Wednesday, March 3rd
- Lower Mid-Size Focus Group: (100-250 participants): Thursday, March 4th
- Small Size Focus Group: (0-100 participants): Tuesday, March 9th

This winter, MACAE launched focus groups to help adult education providers transition once more to in-person learning with COVID-19, but also to make future preparations for adult education programming in Michigan.

The first focus groups met in the early part of February to discuss the immediate challenges facing participants and programs. Focus group attendees used the Padlet tool to source out these challenges. They also shared some of the opportunity areas they would like to see invested in.

Next steps include the focus groups continuing to meet by program size in early March. Our hope is to share strategies for long term investment and to generate tools, policies, or templates that will enhance our programming. Exciting work!

MACAE Continues to Grow

Over the last year despite the challenges we are facing, MACAE has continued to grow and develop. **As of the writing of this newsletter we were close to having 400 members.** That is the largest membership size for the association in over a decade!

The expansion of our membership has only enhanced the richness and value of our community of practitioners beyond adult education and community education to include flexible learning partners, workforce development and training partners, community organizations and support agencies.

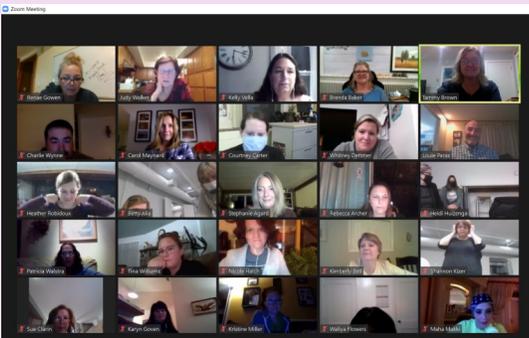
This increase has seen almost 150 new individual members and over 20 new organizations over the last three years. Additionally, increased membership has allowed us to maintain continued financial stability, giving back to our members through professional development, staff support and networking and outreach.

As MACAE continues to grow and outreach, we will continue to honor our rich history and also prepare for the future with innovative ideas and practices, useful tools and strategies.

Our goal is to continue to support our individual member programs and to gain new partners along the way. As

we look to 2021, we will focus our priorities on expanding our association and finding new strategic partners that support our mission. (See pg. 5 for how our Board of Directors is working to support this initiative).

Thank you to our many dedicated members. We hope you know how important your work is and the impact you have!



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?

Tyra Thompson, Program Coordinator at **Dominican Literacy Center** received her Bachelor of Arts in Community and Human Services with a concentration in Family Services from Siena Heights University this past fall. Congratulations, Tyra!



Steven Taillard joined the team at the **International Institute of Metro Detroit**. He will serve as the ESL Coordinator and Lead Instructor. Welcome, Steven!

Michael Schulte, **Director of Warren Consolidated Adult Education** retired at the end of January. We thank him for his years of service in education! Happy retirement!

Members from all across the **MACAE** association advocated and helped pass the Teacher Hazard Pay Grant in December.

Staff from **Kent ISD**, Oogie LaMar, Hollin De La Cruz and Courtney Carter served as equity roundtable facilitators for the ISD's recent equity discussion.

Dominican Literacy Center was the recipient of 250 face shields

from the Ford Moto Co. The face shields will be utilized to help volunteers and students who are learning in pairs.

Sr. Janice Brown was named the Director of **Siena Literacy Center**. She previously served as Director of Operations for Reading Works.

The final numbers are in! Over 250 people participated in the **MACAE Virtual Conference: In It Together** held November 2020. Thank you to all that joined us!

Our partners at **Michigan's Children** announced the launch of a new Lunch and Learn series! Informative updates and panel discussions on advocacy issues each month.

At the end of 2020, the **Refugee Development Center** announced they served 162 English Students, 77 Family Literacy Participants, and helped 195 families with fresh food delivery. Well done!

Robin Greymountain assumed responsibilities of Director of **Kalamazoo Adult Education** upon the retirement of longtime MACAE member Kim Bell. Welcome, Robin and thank you, Kim!

MACAE hosted its first ever Virtual Membership Mixer in January!

Friend of MACAE and **Saline** Superintendent Scot Graden announced his retirement in January 2021.

Honoring Hugh Rohrer

MACAE recently learned of the passing of past member and lifelong educator K. Hugh Rohrer in August 2020.

Born in Detroit, Hugh served in the Korean War, becoming an elementary school teacher, then Community School Director for the Flint Schools and eventually the Vice Principal of Garfield Elementary School. He became a Fellow for Community Education at the Mott Foundation and spent ten years as Director of the Center for Community Education based at Alma College, the dawn of a long career developing and promoting the concept of community education throughout the state of Michigan and beyond.



Hugh was also Professor/Advisor in the Department of Education at Central Michigan University. He published several articles and received numerous accolades, which included induction into both the National Community Education Association Hall of Fame and the Michigan Education Hall of Fame.

Hugh attended a number of our MACAE Conferences and gave several keynote addresses. He was awarded the MACAE Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions in the field of education and lifetime commitment to MACAE and community education.

Our thoughts go out to Hugh's family, especially his son Jeff who was also a member of MACAE and worked in adult and community education.

MACAE works with Michigan Governor and Legislature to secure Michigan Teacher Hazard Pay Grant

In December 2020, MACAE members helped to push across the finish line a Teacher Hazard Pay Grant for certified teachers in adult education, Great Start Readiness and Special Education.

Our full time eligible teacher members can receive up to \$500 and part time can receive up to \$250.

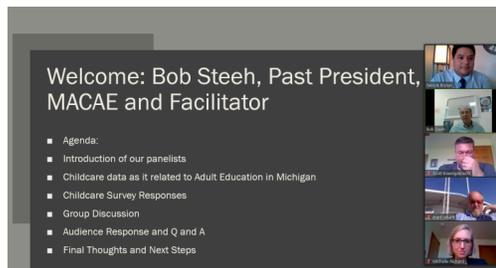
We will continue to advocate for the inclusion of administrators and program support staff in future COVID relief.

As soon as the application period opens, we will reach out to members.

Childcare Access for Youth and Adult Parents

MACAE is gathering stories on childcare access to help articulate the barrier and need for families. This conversation

was built off the fantastic panel presentation we had at our fall conference with representatives from the Governor's Office, the Michigan Legislature, MACAE, Michigan's Children and the Department of Education. If you operate a childcare facility on site to your programming, we are looking for you! Please reach out to our office.



U.S. Citizenship Test Updated

At our November and December 2020 MACAE Membership Updates, we updated members on the change to the U.S. Naturalization and Citizenship test.

Effective December 1, 2020, the new test increases the number of questions available by 28 and also increases the number that someone must get correct on the test.

To learn more, [click here](#).

MACAE will be offering a professional development opportunity to dive into the changes in March. Stay tuned for more information.

Alternative Education and Flexible Learning:

- ◆ [2021 Michigan Notable Book Awards](#)
- ◆ [Youth Engagement Discussion Guide \(America's Promise Alliance\)](#)
- ◆ [Revised Model Anti-Bullying Policy](#)
- ◆ [Spring 2021 State Assessments](#)
- ◆ [Michigan School Accounting Manual Function Code Changes for 2021-2022](#)

We hope our alternative education members will join us on Friday, February 26th for our HSE/HSD Flexible Learning Options Workshop. In addition, join us on Thursday, May 13th at the MACAE Spring Institute dedicated to Alternative Education.

Updated Michigan Hot Jobs Resources

Many members often reach out for data and information on upcoming trends or economic forecasts. We recommend the following resources. These tools incorporate economic and demographic data for each prosperity region and the hot job trends and industries across Michigan.

[Michigan Hot 50 through 2028](#)

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

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

We hope you find these resources helpful!!

MACAE 2021 PRIORITIES

MACAE Strategic Plan: 2020-2022

During 2021, we will be highlighting different areas of our Strategic Plan and how we are aligning resources and services to deliver the best programming we can for our members.

Each of the 6 Strategic Focuses of the Association Strategic Plan outline our priorities going forward. This month we focus on the first Strategic Focus.: **Positioning MACAE as the recognized Association in the State for Adult, Alternative, Community and Workforce Education.**

MACAE Board Members Tina Williams, Heather Robidoux and Karyn Goven have been meeting strategically to help outline the goals underneath that Focus Area:

- A. Identifying Strategic Partnerships *This goal includes surveying the membership to determine needs and gaps, participation and activities individual members are involved with. It also involves researching and identifying 2-3 partners that meet the strategic needs of MACAE.*

Our mission is to engage in partnerships, provide member support and advocate for lifelong learning, leading to employment and self-sufficient families.

- B. Identify marketing and communication needs to promote MACAE *This goal includes revamping and reviewing the association website. It also includes creating a new MACAE flyer for new contacts and study of a new MACAE logo.*

- C. Join organizations both at the state and national level that align with our mission and vision *This goal involves analyzing membership survey results to explore partnership associations that might strengthen our work.*

- D. Create processes and procedures to support state and national initiatives

Our board of directors will be meeting each month to identify and work on one area of the Strategic Plan. Our most recent Strategic Plan was implemented in the summer of 2020 and runs through June 2022. If you have questions about the MACAE Strategic Plan please contact Karyn Goven, MACAE Vice President at kgoven@swsol.org.



Additional Information and Interesting Articles

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

- [U.S. DOL Evaluation Toolkit: Key Elements for State Workforce Agencies](#)
- [Georgetown University: The Overlooked Value of Certificates and Associate Degrees](#)
- [Workforce GPS: Partner Discussion on the Exploration of a WIOA Holistic Case Management System](#)
- [Michigan Coronavirus Racial Disparities Taskforce Interim Report](#)
- [NASDAE Adult Education Profile](#)
- [ProLiteracy Mobile Learning Fund](#)
- [The Chronicle of Higher Education: Big Changes in the Federal Student-Aid System](#)
- [MACAE Members can also keep track of our monthly updates on our website. We always post a recording and Power Point of our Monthly Check-Ins.](#)



With Hard Work and Determination, Anyone Can Succeed

The story comes from our member partner, the Legacy Center for Community Success, in Midland.

Helen wasn't sure she could get a job as anything but a custodian. "But I want to do more than scrub toilets," she said.

Since 2018, Helen has been quietly and steadily working toward her Microsoft Office certifications to enable her to get a job in an office or computer lab. With one-on-one meetings with a tutor at the Legacy Center for Community Success, Helen has been making amazing progress. She earned the Specialist Level in Microsoft Word last Fall and the Specialist Level in Microsoft PowerPoint just before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. This month, she earned her third certification at the Expert Level in Microsoft Word.



Helen was forced to leave the workforce some time ago to take care of her ailing parents. She missed the opportunity to learn about how to use computers as the digital age dawned. But when both parents passed away, she knew she would need to be comfortable with computers to find a job. One of the first things she did with her tutor was learn how to check her email, including logging in, reading and sending messages, and opening attachments. She also learned how to find music on YouTube that she could listen to while studying. Helen spends 8 to 12 hours per week at her computer, pouring over her copious notes and practicing Microsoft Office Skills.

Although she could not meet with her tutor during the COVID-19 pandemic because the Legacy Center was closed, she and her tutor talked several times over the phone and Helen spent the extra time studying even harder.

After passing her first certification, she asked her tutor for three copies of her certificate and said she was going to visit her parents' graves to tell them what she had accomplished. Today, she can barely believe how much she's learned—but her tutor can! Helen's story shows that with hard work and determination, anyone can succeed. Helen's goal is to pass certification tests in Microsoft Excel and Outlook before searching for a job where she can apply her new skills.

The Legacy Center for Community Success is located in Midland, MI, and offers one-on-one tutoring in reading, math, and English as a second language. The Legacy Center works with Michigan Works! and other partner agencies to identify individuals who would benefit from one-on-one attention to reach their goals. Helen is just one of the many successful students that has accomplished amazing things with the help of a tutor from the Legacy Center!



WBSD Summer Camps in a Box a success with help from local businesses

West Bloomfield Community Education launched innovative ways to conduct summer and fall 2020 programming. Since the department was unable to offer summer camp in June and July due to COVID-19, an alternative, **Camp in a Box** was created to keep kids engaged and motivated to learn.

Andrea Foglietta, Coordinator of Enrichment and Recreation at WBSD Community Education said that the programming was in response to not being able to see people in person: "We miss[ed] seeing everyone's smiling faces, splashing in Willow Beach and making memories."

That's why she worked with local businesses to create a fun interactive program. **Camp in a Box** includes: Science, Writing/Language and History Lesson Packets, printed as well as a coupon for pizza and for an ice cream cone. She partnered with Marco's Pizze and Kego Harbor Dairy Queen to add in the free pizza and ice cream coupons.

What a fun way to learn and create a greater sense of connection for the West Bloomfield community!

(Photo: Cars enter the parking lot and pop their trunk for a Camp in a Box distribution at Roosevelt Elementary School.)

Opportunities for Engagement:

MACAE Launches Retired Professionals Committee:

MACAE is launching a new committee to tap into the knowledge and experience of retired MACAE members and past adult education professionals. We'd like to stay in contact with folks to be able to share important association updates, advocacy updates and sharing good news including our annual report and possible networking opportunities like a reunion! Do you have a friend or colleague who is a retired MACAE member or past adult education professional?

Please encourage them to complete our survey: [Complete this short survey by clicking here and passing along to others. Thanks for connecting!](#)

MACAE Community Education Survey

Our Community Education Committee is looking to better support and learn about community education programming across the state. Please complete this survey if you do this programming or pass along to others who do. [Complete this short survey to support Community Education!](#)

MACAE Members are finalists in U.S. Department of Education Competition

On January 13th, the U.S. Department of Education announced [95 finalists](#) in the Rethink Adult Ed Challenge, a \$750,000 competition to advance pre-apprenticeships. There were 5 programs from Michigan who were named as finalists, including 4 MACAE members: The Literacy Center of West Michigan, Southwest Solutions, Troy Continuing Education and Zaman International.

The finalists advance to join Stage 2 and compete for \$750,000 in prizes. The finalists hail from 32 states and two territories, and include higher education institutions, local educational agencies, community and faith-based organizations, and correctional facilities. Congratulations to our member programs!

Expand, Grow,
Share the
strengths of your
program!



Connect with us and share your stories!

Share your program success and stories on social media. Tag @macaetoday on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram and we'll promote your story!



Bonnie and Laurie at Washtenaw hand out packets to learners!



Dearborn adult learners take part in virtual instruction!



Potterville student Alivia obtains her High School Equivalency. Congrats!

MACAE WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS:

We are happy to welcome these new members as of the beginning of January 2021.

Sergio Keck, Lansing Schools	Rosanne Plasky, Mercy Education Project	Linda Brennan, Adrian Schools Community District
Deborah Farris, Lansing Schools	Wendy Falb, Literacy Center of West Michigan	Laurie Isley, Adrian Schools Community District
Amy Gruber, Lansing Schools	Jendayi Gardner, Detroit Public Schools Community District	Leigh Ann Link, Plainwell Renaissance
Karyn Smith, Lansing Schools	Jackie Azar, Southwest Solutions	Baljit Kaur, Plymouth-Canton Schools
Mary Brandimore, Plainwell Renaissance	Ashley Haney, Southwest Solutions	Christian Young, Detroit Public Schools Community District
Naomi Norman, Washtenaw ISD	Trevor Metzger, Southwest Solutions	Debra Smith-Dawson, Detroit Public Schools Community District
Kevin Upton, Washtenaw ISD	Rosetta Kincaid, Southwest Solutions	Elizabeth Roman, Detroit Public Schools Community District
Elette Collins, Washtenaw ISD	Mary Landgraf, Niles Schools	Janae James, Detroit Public Schools Community District
Kim Gluski, Romulus Schools	Tami Murphy, Niles Schools	Jimere Barnes, Detroit Public Schools Community District
	Jeff Sauser, Tuscola ISD	John Fuerstnau, Detroit Public Schools Community District
	Joy Sauser, Tuscola ISD	Mark Catani, Detroit Public Schools Community District
	Jonathan Clark, Detroit Training Center	

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

Welcome to all! We hope you find a rich network of professionals and colleagues.

MACAE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: KIMBERLY WILLIAMS

Each month we spotlight MACAE members and the exciting work they do. This month, meet Kimberly Williams, Executive Director of the Dominican Literacy Center.

Kimberly is a true Literacy Champion and Advocate, beginning her career with DLC as Program Coordinator in 2006. At the time she had no idea that the need for a Literacy program was so great. Her interest in the field of Adult Education and Literacy led her to enter a Reading Specialist program at Marygrove College where she earned her M.Ed. in Reading Instruction.

Kimberly took over as Executive Director of Dominican Literacy Center in 2017. "I thank God for a career and a job that I love. The work that we do literally changes lives, and I am so happy to be a part of that change."



Kimberly began working in community service in 1999 and never looked back. She enjoys helping people and considers her work with DLC (an Adrian Dominican Sister sponsored institution) full circle from her work with the Sisters in her early adult life at C.O.T.S. and with the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse in Farmington Hills. Williams is an avid gardener, enjoys making things from scratch because "anything you can buy in a store you can make." Williams lives in Detroit with her husband Mario who is a really good sport. Their daughter, Kayla, is a sophomore at Wayne State University.

Thank you Kimberly for all that you do!

*Join us for the MACAE Virtual
Spring Institute: May 13-14, 2021!*

Our Spring Institute is also going virtual this year so mark your calendars for Thursday and Friday, May 13-14th!

Sessions will run from 9:00am-3:00pm each day. Thursday is dedicated to ESL, Youth Populations and Alternative Education. Friday is dedicated to Adult Education and Workforce Development.

Conference Registration costs are as follows: MACAE Member One Day: \$75; MACAE Member Two Day: \$125; Non Member One Day: \$125; Non Member Two Day: \$175.

A preliminary schedule will be released soon. We will be utilizing Zoom for conference sessions.

Registration will be open on our website beginning March 1st.

February MACAE Virtual Mixer! Join us!

Save the date for our next MACAE Membership Mixer on Thursday, February 25th at 7pm via zoom.

MACAE has decided to start some virtual networking opportunities during the cold winter months. Grab an adult beverage, join us, and get to know fellow MACAE members in some virtual after hours fun.

During this month's event we will be playing trivia! You can come and join a team or just watch and play along by yourself.



Congratulations to Ann Van Dusen (Belding), Schumé Harrison (All Saints) and Sara Brooks (Southgate)- winners from our January mixer!

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 with questions or concerns!

**MACAE OFFICE
CONTACT:**



Michigan Association of Community and Adult Education

Please note, we continue to work remotely during this time

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

Office Administrative Assistant Email (Judy Walker):
macaeoffice@gmail.com

Director Email (Patrick Brown):
macaeoutreach@gmail.com

Website: www.macae.org