

MACAE MOMENT

JUNE 2022

CELEBRATING SUCCESS!

MACAE Adopts New Name and Logo

In March 2022, the MACAE Board moved to change the name of MACAE to be the Michigan Adult, Community and Alternative Education (MACAE) Association. This name change underscores the diversity of our member programs and the array of services and educational and training opportunities they provide.

With the name change comes a new, bold logo! The complete name change and logo will go into effect July 1st.

www.macaе.org



Message from the MACAE President

Happy Summer ! I am reminded of my favorite meme: “Your mind is a garden. Your thoughts are the seeds. You can grow flowers, or you can grow weeds.” It has been a challenging couple of years, but we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel! Our new normal will never be the same as our old normal, but we will get back to having norms again. Don’t get caught up in the weeds, always look out for those positive moments – they are happening all around you if you take the time to look for them. There will always be trials to work through, but you can be a shining example just by working through those barriers with a positive attitude. Your staff, teams and students will follow your example!

I hope you each get a chance to catch your breath at some point this summer, whether it be on a wonderful vacation, or just coffee on your porch with a favorite book. Be sure to take some time for yourself through this summer. It is important to reenergize when given the chance.

(Story Continued on Page 2)

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MACAE ON THE MOVE:

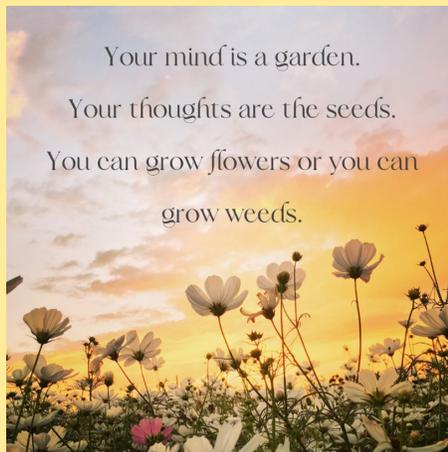
A Message from the President (Continued from Page 1)

As we reach the fourth quarter of the program year and summer, don't forget MACAE can help you with strategic planning for next year. We can review your data, staffing, and program schedules to find efficiencies and opportunities to increase performance and better support student and staff needs. Reach out to Patrick for more information. I took advantage of this in Troy last year and my staff was very grateful for the opportunity to take a deep dive into our programs.

I like to imagine that each of you are a flower MACAE is helping to cultivate (some more wild than others) and each of you are then spreading flowers into your local areas...I know it is very cheesy, but I am in a cheesy mood this Monday afternoon as I just submitted my final section 107 amendments and was deep in budgets for too long lol!

Thank you for all you do for our students and staff across Michigan and I hope to see you all next fall!

Tammy Brown
Troy Continuing Education
MACAE President



MACAE participates in several statewide conferences

In the spring of 2022 MACAE attended two important conferences including the Michigan Alternative Education Organization Conference (MAEO) and the Michigan Adult Education and Training Conference (MAETC).

These opportunities have expanded our knowledge and partnerships base to better support program administrators and instructional staff.



MACAE DELEGATION AND MEMBERS ATTEND COABE

A large representation of MACAE members traveled to the Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE) Conference in Seattle, WA in April 2022! This was the first in-person conference many of us were able to participate in for a number of years.



Members from the Literacy Center of West Michigan presented on improvements to their workplace literacy delivery model for adult learners. MACAE Vice President Karyn Goven and Director Patrick Brown presented on the growth and sustainability of the MACAE association and a joint effort by MACAE and the English

as a Second Language Committee on a tool for ESL Transitions for Highly Skilled Immigrants. Tammy Brown, MACAE President presented in partnership with MedCerts to discuss integrated education and training opportunities using WIOA resources. Additional MACAE Members attended the conference virtually.

MACAE Leadership participated in the National State Associations Leadership Session, a dialogue with other state association executive staff and even got to go on stage to participate in a Seattle tradition of fish catching!



What's the latest?

In each newsletter issue we take some time to highlight the work of many of our distinguished members and programs:

Siena Literacy Center hosted a Sip and See benefactor event.

Meredith Donahue of the **Family Literacy Center** was nominated as COABE Educator of the Year. She was awarded a certificate for her nomination.

Dominican Literacy Center partnered with Streetwise for a 13 week series on business mentorship for women.

Sounya Walker of **Mott Community College** was named the Academic Dean of Humanities. Gail Bowman succeeded Sounya as Adult Education Director.

In March, **Saline Community Education** hosted its Spring 2022 community Craft Show!

Oakland Literacy Center held a new tutor orientation in January 2022 with 21 newly educated volunteers!

Iosco RESA Staff had the opportunity to meet with Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist. They discussed opportunities and challenges for adult learners across Michigan.



Our **MACAE family** felt the impact of the hostage situation at the Congregation Beth Israel Synagogue in Texas in January 2022. Thankfully, a peaceful resolution was found.

MACAE partners at the **Michigan League for Public Policy (MLPP)** marked the 110th anniversary of the League as well as the formal retirement of longtime CEO Gilda Jacobs. MACAE Director Patrick Brown, MACAE President Tammy Brown and MACAE Past President Bob Steeh were in attendance.



Detroit Training Center was featured in an article on its Concrete Mixer Training Program. You can read about it [here](#).

Renaissance Adult and Alternative Education hosted a Family Literacy Event in March 2022 for participants and their families.

MACAE Director Patrick Brown served as moderator for the Michigan Kinship Care Coalition Relative Caregivers Dome Day in May 2022. The advocacy event raised conversation about formal and informal care providers of children.

MACAE IN THE NEWS:

Christian Young honored

In March of 2022, MACAE Member Christian Young was



awarded the Michigan Reading Association Adult Educator Award.

Christian is an expert in-

structor at the Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD) Adult Education Program. The award recognizes an educator's impact on the literacy lives of students, teachers, administrators, and parents in their community and is recognized by peers and colleagues who nominate and select the award winner.

Thank you for being a champion for literacy and access to learning for all, Christian. You make us proud, congratulations!

#MACAEproud

"Our members are making significant achievements in their communities across Michigan. Whether it is providing before/after school programming, enrichment and community offerings, high school diploma or equivalency, completion, career readiness, English, integrated education and training, what they are doing matters and is moving the needle."

-Patrick Brown, MACAE Director

MACAE IN THE NEWS CONTINUED:

What's the latest?

Nick Kunnen was welcomed in May 2022 as the next Adult Education Innovative Learning Center at **Orchard View Community Education**

Zeeland Adult Education hosted an important Career Fair in May 2022. The event was a collaborative effort between ZAE and the Ottawa Area ISD to help students find employment and local companies fill in-demand positions. Read about it [here](#).



The MACAE Board of Directors was joined by Superintendent Bryan Girbach to honor Connie Cox of **Milan Community Education's** service of 11 years to the MACAE Board.

The Literacy Center of West Michigan hosted a community family literacy night to support multigenerational learning!



Staff at **The Legacy Center for Community Success** gathered in May 2022 to assemble materials for a summer learning program called Read2Lead for families in the Midland area.



Gearing up for the summer 2022, the **Refugee Development Center** launched a 7 week long early literacy program for kids age 1-5. We look forward to the outcomes!

Oakland Literacy Council Executive Director Lisa Machesky was interviewed on the Civic Center TV show about adult literacy and volunteer tutoring. You can watch the interview and listen [here](#).

MACAE President and **Troy Continuing Education** Director Tammy Brown met with the board of the Oakland 80 initiative, a county-wide initiative to assist 80% of the residents to a postsecondary credential or degree by the year 2030.



Dominican Literacy Center hosted their annual Benefactor Appreciation Dinner in February. It was virtual this year but with a wonderful musical performance.

Iosco RESA Adult Education launched a new extension of its program at the Iosco County Jail

Wendy Falb, Executive Director of the **Literacy Center of West Michigan** was interviewed by Fox 17 news on strategies to help refugees and new immigrants.

MACAE joins Michigan Apprenticeship Advisory Board

In January 2022, MACAE was invited to join the Michigan Apprenticeship Advisory Board. The collaborative work of the body is to gather together key stakeholders across the education, workforce development, employer and talent development fields. Each month the MAAB discusses statewide and national trends relating to apprenticeship opportunities for Michiganders.

MACAE serves on the Michigan Apprenticeship Readiness Certificate (MARC) subcommittee and is vested in examining alignment of curriculum for adult education to pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship training needs.

We look forward to advocating for and expanding opportunities for this population!

PROGRAM SUCCESS STORIES :

Overcoming Obstacles

Sometimes a student's obstacles preventing their progress seem to be so insurmountable that they fall behind and lose sight of what they really began the struggle for. Other times, shining stars break through those road-blocks and show us all that the impossible really is possible! Jessica is one of those stars, who continues to show us all that records are made to be broken and battles made to be won. Congratulations on your graduation!!

-Story Submitted by MACAE Member Christina Quimby, Zeeland Adult Education



Class Teaches More than English Skills

English language skills are taught by caring teachers through the framework of other topics such as customs in the United States, finances, health, community resources, employment and government. Students learn about English through these topics, and they benefit by having a better understanding of U.S. customs and culture.

For instance, the subject of a recent ESL class was about retirement planning and how retirement accounts work in the United States. The teacher briefly mentioned that widows or widowers are able to collect from the retirement plans of deceased spouses. One of the students stayed after class to ask more about it. After some research done by the teacher and student together, it was determined that this student was indeed

eligible to receive payments from the retirement fund of her late spouse. This is a life-changing amount of money, and the student might have never known about it if it weren't for her ESL class. She is buying a home with the back-pay she has received.

Adult Educators make all the difference. It isn't always a large sum of money we can give our students (in fact, that is usually not the case), but it is always life-changing.

-Story Submitted by MACAE Member Joy Zug, Royal Oak Adult Education



MACAE partners with MRS

MACAE recently launched a joint partnership with the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity and the Michigan Rehabilitative Services (MRS) Agency to strengthen resources for adult learners with disabilities.

The first phase of the project has been to identify lead contacts to serve as liaisons with the MRS system. The next phases will involve increased professional development and examining data sharing for co-enrolled participants/clients.

Our thanks to Shelly Neal, a MRS District Manager for really being a great liaison and partner in this work.

"In Detroit, together with schools, non-profit agencies and the Mayor we are working to bring changes to families in Detroit. Through initiatives such as the Skills for Life and the People's Plan, we know that investing in adult education through financial education and work readiness transforms people and brings pride to their accomplishments and helps the economy in Detroit".

-Karyn Goven, MACAE Vice President and Workforce Development Chair and Workforce Dev. Dir. at Southwest Solutions

MACAE THE BEAT GOES ON:

In March 2022 MACAE held its annual Spring Institute, virtual this time, with nearly 250 attendees. The two day institute focused on alternative education and flexible learning options, adult education and integrated education and training. Presenters from across the nation presented on current and emerging trends related to these topics. At the center of the Institute was the emphasis on programming adjustments as the world comes out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Attendees honed in on the theme of “The Beat Goes On” a song by the band The Whispers which speaks about resiliency and perseverance. A timely theme in response to the changing landscape of education and the workplace.

Despite the physical distance apart, attendees also had fun at the Musical Trivia evening virtual event.

It was a wonderful networking and learning opportunity. The next Spring Institute will take place in the Spring of 2023.



Interesting Sessions

Here are some of our top rated sessions from the Spring Institute 2022

Preparation Inside Poverty: How to Effectively Instruct and Mentor Low-Income Adult Students: [Link here](#)

GED: All About Accommodations : [Link here](#)

Case Management: Barrier Removal and Supportive Services: [Link here](#)

Addressing the Needs of LGBTQ+ Students: [Link here](#)

Stackable Credentials: Expanding Pathways to Credentials: [Link here](#)

Helping Refugees: [Link here](#)

National Alternative Education Exemplary Practices: [Link here](#)

Engaging Opportunity Youth: A Pathway to Potential: [Link here](#)

KEYNOTES TARGET IMPORTANT INFORMATION

MACAE was delighted to host two important keynote sessions at the most recent Spring Institute.

On the first day, MACAE was joined by Dr. Sue Carnell, Chief Deputy Superintendent of the Michigan Department of Education. Dr. Carnell’s keynote address focused on Michigan’s Top Ten Strategic Education Plan for the state. Many of these initiatives are in alignment with state and national trends regarding education instruction, increases in postsecondary attainment and diversity, equity and inclusion.

**VIEW
DR. CARNELL'S
KEYNOTE
ADDRESS:
[WATCH HERE!](#)**

**VIEW ADULT
EDUCATION
ADDRESS:
[WATCH HERE!](#)**

On day two, MACAE Director Patrick Brown was joined by Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity Adult Education Services Manager Erica Luce to discuss the landscape of adult education. They reviewed the last five years of adult education data surrounding performance outcomes, learner demographics, program operations and administration and educational and employment transitions.

INTERESTING CONNECTIONS:

Isn't that something?

Here are a few articles we found interesting to share relevant and timely to our work:

- [The Great Resignation is becoming a "great midlife crisis"](#) (Vox, 2022)
- [The Four Steps to Becoming a Leadership Artist](#) (Education Week, 2022)
- [State of American Literacy Report Research Report](#) (Dollar General Literacy Foundation, 2022)
- [Employer offers unique work experience](#) (CNN, 2022)
- [Businesses searching for employees](#) (NBC, 2022)

Supporting Ukrainian Families

Kent ISD paraprofessional Angela Elenbaum is from Ukraine. Since the horrific invasion of her home country she has been finding ways to help and cope with the range of emotions connected to the war.

She has found a successful way to do that through her work by helping other refugees- from Ukraine and other countries- find successful transitions here in the United States. It is her way of giving back. She is part of a larger team helping refugees learn English, obtain a high school diploma or equivalency or career and technical education.

You can read her inspiring story [here](#).



MACAE Submits Policy Commentary:

MACAE has submitted Policy Commentary Recommendations to respective state departments regarding three important ongoing policy issues:

- ⇒ The ongoing implications of the implementation of the NexSys Grant system
- ⇒ Futures for Frontliners Pathway 2 Handbook for Program Administration
- ⇒ Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Proposed Performance Levels for Title II Services

Please contact the MACAE office if you would like to review these policy commentary recommendations.

MACAE Helps Programs with Strategic Planning

Introduced last year, the MACAE Strategic Planning Initiative helps adult, community, and alternative education providers conduct a strategic planning program-wide analysis.



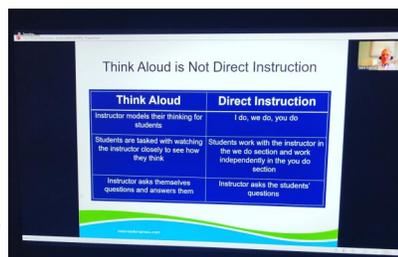
Over a series, our team will help you analyze data outcomes, examine and introduce new best practices for program improvement. And, we will help you and your team identify goals in strategic areas for growth and innovation. Virtual and in-person options available.

Please contact our office if you are interested in more information about this opportunity.

MACAE Partners with Vendors

Since January 2022, MACAE has been partnering with a number of vendor partners to provide ongoing professional development and learning opportunities for member organizations.

These partnerships have resulted in a number of pricing discounts and ongoing trainings. Most recently, we partnered with New Readers Press to deliver a webinar on high school equivalency teaching strategies, the Learning Upgrade App and EnGen.



In Fall of 2022 we plan to partner with Burlington English to offer an ongoing bootcamp training series. Additionally, we are making plans this summer for a partnership with Aztec Learning on a similar concept.

Graduates!

CELEBRATING SUCCESS:

All throughout the program year, alternative and adult education providers have been celebrating the many graduates!



IOSCO RESA ADULT ED.

Graduate Spotlight



Center for Work Ethic Training Certification

MACAE Director Patrick Brown and Board Vice President Karyn Goven participated in the Center for Work Ethic's Certification on Work Ethic training program in March 2022.

The day-long retreat took a deep dive into a newly developed curriculum by innovative leader Josh Davies. You'll remember that Josh was a keynote speaker at the fall 2022 Conference.

The new curriculum is in three parts for youth, adults and veterans and includes strategies, lessons and tools for the development of employability skills for learners. The curriculum has a work book component and leads participants to a certificate.



"Oh what a year! Schools were opening and closing (for adults and children), many adult education students working 60+ hours a week to fill in the employment gaps. Through the ups and downs our students and teachers have persevered and worked hard to finish strong. We are excited for the over 1000 graduations across the state this school year! We are incredibly proud of all the hard work this year!"

-Whitney Dettmer, MACAE HSE Chair and Assistant Director at Iosco RESA

IMPACT STORIES:

Kent ISD Adult Education Program fills high-need, in-demand job positions in education

Emine Gulbahar from Turkey was looking for a way to upskill and retool her talent in order to find success in Michigan. She found a successful education and training pathway to study English and complete credentials for a paraprofessional education position.

You can listen to her [story here](#) that was featured on WGVU radio.

-Story submitted by MACAE Member Oogie LaMar, Kent ISD Adult Education



Programs Share Resources with Local and Regional Communities

Orchard View Adult Education created this creative advertisement to include in community quarterly publications that is mailed to 6,500 homes in West Michigan.



-Story submitted by Brandy Carey, Orchard View Adult Education

(MACAE members across the state are looking at creative advertising efforts!)

MACAE Board Thanks Connie Cox for her service

At the June 2022 meeting, the MACAE Board of Directors thanked Connie Cox, Director of Milan Community Education who is stepping down from the MACAE board to focus on her program responsibilities.



Connie has been a steadfast member of our board for 11 years!

She has represented adult, alternative and community programs on the MACAE board from Hillsdale, Jackson, Lenawee, Livingston, Monroe and Washtenaw counties. Connie has a passion and dedication for community programming. She has been an active member of the Community Education committee and participated in multiple strategic planning sessions.

Thank you, Connie!

MACAE FOCUS GROUPS HIGHLIGHT IMPACTS OF COVID-19:

In February and April 2022, MACAE reconvened its Adult Education Program Focus Groups by Program Size. Large-Size Programs (500+ participants annually) articulated increased enrollments, emphasis on dedicated staff to deliver both in-person and virtual instruction, the need for specific marketing of program offerings and availability. Mid-Size Programs (100-500 participants annually) identified fluid enrollment increases and decreases, flexible and expanded hours for programming, increased data analysis with staff, and resources for learners with extraordinary needs. Small-Size Programs (1-100 participants annually) indicated significantly reduced enrollment, investment in virtual orientation opportunities for new learners, analysis and investment in data matching and online assessment administration.

Programs across all program sizes identified these key takeaways:

- Key trends and shifts in staffing shortages, personnel salaries and benefits to offer competitive compensation
- Large funding shifts to remote or new training for staff
- Possible reduction in the short term for physical program site offerings replaced by virtual offerings or hybrid offerings
- Creation of "drop in" learning centers as opposed to regular classes
- Sustained hybrid offerings and long-term programming changes to offer year-round programming

The Focus Groups were first convened in 2020 in response to ongoing implications from COVID-19.

MACAE RECOGNIZES MEMBERS:

We welcome the following new members that have joined us since January 2022:

Lacea Zevala, EDSI Solutions

Teni Franklin, Pontiac Adult Education

Julie Hyatt, The Legacy Center for Community Success

Lori VanDenBloom, Bay Arenac ISD

Jackson Greenstone, Washtenaw Community College

Tasha Evans, West Michigan Works!

Laura McCarthy, L'Anse-Creuse

Stephanie Paul, L'Anse-Creuse

Cliff Reh, L'Anse Creuse

Laura Roman, L'Anse Creuse

Patsy Tanzy, L'Anse Creuse

Lisa Tervonen, Ironwood Area Schools

Hend Hegab, Kalamazoo

Terry Mathis, Kalamazoo

Melissa Ottesen, Kalamazoo

Becky Pingston-Poling, Kalamazoo

Welcome to MACAE!

What do your MACAE Membership Benefits Include?

Professional Development

- Monthly Workshops and webinars on best practices information
- Annual Fall Conference

Professional Networking

- Statewide Collaborations and Partnerships
- Resource Sharing and access to statewide list serve for providers
- Participation in one of our Standing Committees
- Weekly Membership Updates

Resources

- Full time office staff for member troubleshooting
- Active resources on social media
- Access to professional job postings

Advocacy

- Membership to COABE
- Policy Recommendations to Michigan Department of Education, Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity for improved outcomes and delivery of services

**WANT TO
ADD A
MEMBER?
JOIN
TODAY!**

Congratulations and Good Journeys!

We extend our congratulations to longtime MACAE members who have announced their retirements effective at the end of the 21-22 Program Year. We thank you all for your tremendous dedication and commitment to our organization and to the fields of adult, alternative, community education and integrated education and training!

Sue Chappell, Allegan Online and Adult Education Supervisor. During her 28 years she was an instrumental member of the team who oversaw



many facets of programming, instruction and coordination.



During his time at Mt. Morris Al Peter was instrumental in helping the program grow and contributed to the district's vision of student achievement. Al has been in education since 1996 and with Mt. Morris Schools for the past 23 years.

Bob Speeter retired this spring from Iosco RESA Adult Education. He taught High School Equivalency and Diploma Courses. He was affectionately known as "Bill Nye" for his expertise in all things nature and science.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Debra Abdulhamid is the Literacy Coordinator and Lead Literacy Instructor for Zaman International, an organization that gives women the skills to become independent, break the cycle of poverty and care for their families. As the Literacy Coordinator, she develops curriculum, trains volunteers, and leads a team of teachers. Her literacy program emphasizes the importance of using trained volunteers, so students have more individualized attention. Debbie also collaborates with the vocational education that Zaman offers for students to enter the workforce, such as sewing and culinary classes.



Debbie began her career as a nurse, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Bowling Green State University. She worked as a Pediatric Nurse at the Medical College of Ohio before raising her own 5 children. As a child, Debbie always wanted to be a teacher, so after moving to Michigan she returned to school to earn a Master of Arts in Teaching from Wayne State University. She taught math, science and social studies.

Debbie went on to spend 10 years managing state and federal grants for a charter school in Hamtramck. All of these dots in Debbie's career connected at Zaman International, where she applied her experience as a teacher and her love for non-profit work. Throughout her time at Zaman, she has helped the program double in size and most recently navigated the difficulty of teaching ESL from home throughout the pandemic, a particularly challenging task as she serves students with low tech proficiency.

TICAS Partnership

In Spring 2022, MACAE met and joined with The Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS) College Access Alliance Group. TICAS is a national organization committed and dedicated to creating broader access to college access for marginalized populations. MACAE has been sharing with TICAS about statewide efforts to increase opportunities for youth and adults.

You can learn more about TICAS at their website [here](#).

MACAE-LEO Joint Meeting

In June 2022, the MACAE Board of Directors and LEO Adult Education Office team gathered for its annual convening to discuss pertinent and relevant issues relating to adult education. The dialogue included a snapshot of current adult education statewide trends and then conversation around statewide professional development services, the *Learn More, Earn More* campaign, adult education policy updates, statewide partnerships and communications. An update on this meeting was sent to all MACAE members.

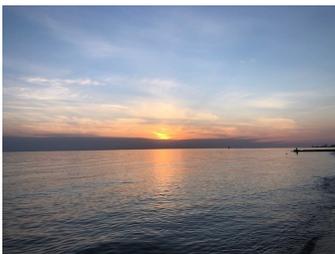
KIDS COUNT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MACAE serves on the Advisory Board for the statewide Kids Count Project through our partners at the Michigan League for Public Policy. Kids Count analyzes the impact of public policies on kids in many facets of life from education, economic investment, incarceration, poverty, health access, equity and social justice. MACAE Director Patrick Brown served as the Co-Facilitator of the Bi-Annual Meeting held in April 2022. You can learn more about the Kids Count Project [here](#).

Fall Conference 2022

Save the Date! Our fall conference dates are set for November 14-16, 2022 at the Van Dyk Mortgage Convention Center in Mukegon!

Registration will be open July 1st. We are very excited for our first in-person conference in three years!



Michigan Adult, Community and Alternative Education (MACAE) Association

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



Office Email: macaeoffice@gmail.com
Executive Email: macaeoutreach@gmail.com

Website: www.macae.org