

Ohio

Ted Strickland, Governor
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor

Board of Regents

University System of Ohio

ADULT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

FRIDAY FACTS

FROM DENISE L. POTTMEYER, STATE DIRECTOR
ADULT BASIC AND LITERACY EDUCATION

August 21, 2009

ABLE Administrators Recognized by Chancellor Fingerhut



Figure 1 First Cohort of CMPIs with Chancellor Eric Fingerhut, Vice Chancellor Barbara Gellman-Danley, and State ABLE Director Denise Pottmeyer.

Ohio is one of only ten states that have adult educators who have achieved this certification status. We applaud our new CMPI's commitment to continuous improvement and high

Figure 2 Sharon Halter, CMPI graduate and event speaker receiving her certificate from Chancellor Fingerhut

On August 14th, the Ohio Board of Regents, ABLE State Program honored 13 individuals who have completed a two-year, intensive program for Certified Managers for Program Improvement. The honorees were given certificates acknowledging this accomplishment along with the well deserved title of Certified Manager for Program Improvement (CMPI). This national certification is the first of its kind in the adult education and literacy field and signifies the participants as a member of an elite group of professional managers. Ohio's certified managers completed an intensive 187 hours of workshops, online courses, webcasts, interim activities, and learning projects during the *Leadership Excellence Academies* to earn this prestigious distinction.



quality educational services for adult learners. We are fortunate to have such a high-quality professional staff working in our state. Chancellor Fingerhut commended the honorees for working beyond the expectations in support of Ohio's educational success.

Congratulations to Ohio's Newly *Certified Managers in Program Improvement!*

Lynne Alexander, Laura Ball, Candy Bettinger, LeRoy Boikai, Sherry Childers, Sharon Halter, Mary Lou Jacklin, Gail Jacobs, Peg Morelli, Kathleen Petrek, Peter J. Prichard, Christine Rosebaugh, and Kathleen Stammen.

An Opportunity to Join the Elite in Adult Education

We are again recruiting for a group of ABLE professionals who want to participate in the **Ohio's Leadership Excellence Academy**. Local program managers are a key player in the delivery of quality adult education services, and professional development of local program managers is critical to program improvement and quality services. The trainers for this second cohort include two of Ohio's recently certified managers, Jandi Adams and Peg Morelli.

The Leadership Excellence Academy is an intensive, **two-year** professional learning opportunity that will allow ABLE program leaders to explore, adapt, and apply leadership concepts and skills to help improve adult education programs. Several of the newly certified managers are already using the results of their work from the academy to set improvements in their programs.

The participants from the first cohort have been where you are today, trying to decide about the training. After completing the two-years, Peg Morelli, from the Upper Valley Joint Vocational School District has said, "Was it hard work? Of course. Were there times I was scrambling to find time to meet job, academy and home demands? Oh, yes! Was it worth it? You bet!!"

Sharon Halter from Ohio Hi-Point Joint Vocational Schools District also said, "If someone would have described this two-year course in great detail, I may not have stuck my toe in the deep water. Now I'm glad I did." Sharon went on further to say, "...this project called for me to do research of my own through the pilot project. It was a great experience that offered affirmation of what we "knew" and confirmation of the direction we need to take. When our local research results were shared with staff, they were "on board" with FY 2010's direction (closed enrollment with syllabi-driven classes at all sites). Retention increased 26% and average hours per student increased 35%."

These results are from only two of the graduates. The others have reported similar results for their programs. The process works because you are using your program's data and addressing one of your program's needs. For more information from the graduates, refer to the *ABLE Resource Center Network Perspectives*, Summer 2009 edition.

To be eligible, you must be a director, coordinator, or lead teacher of any state-funded ABLE program and interested in exploring leadership issues pertinent to adult education and literacy programs across the state. We will be accepting up to 20 participants for the second cohort. We hope you seriously consider this exciting opportunity.

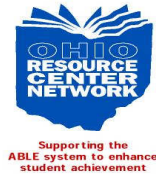
The deadline for registering for the Leadership Academy is **September 8, 2009**. Sign up today. It will benefit both yourself and your program. The application materials are attached. For more information, contact Cindy Zengler at czengler@regents.state.oh.us or 614-466-4186.

GED Connection DVDs Now Available Through the RCN Bodega!

GED Connection, produced by Kentucky Educational TV, prepares students for the GED exam. GED Connection covers five areas of the GED test: social studies, science, math, reading, and writing. ABE programs across Ohio previously received sets of GED Connection videos for use in their classrooms. Those videos are now available on DVD through the Northeast ABE Resource Center's *Bodega*. Visit the *Bodega*-the online **free** "store" for ABE programs and order your sets today at <http://www.neable.org/resources/Bodega/bodega2>

GED Connection Online activities are available free to learners at www.pbs.org/literacy. Discounted *GED Connection* workbooks to accompany the series are available through the Ohio Literacy Network. The cost is \$34 for a set of three workbooks. Ordering information is available here at http://www.ketadultlearning.org/orders/ohio/oh_store.htm#ged

Visit the *Bodega* often. New resources are being added weekly. This is a service of your Resource Center Network (RCN).



Last Friday Facts From State Director

Since this is my last Friday Facts as Ohio's State Director of ABE, I am taking the liberty to get in a few last words. Please humor me.

When I started in ABE (then called ABE), I like all of you, worked very hard to promote my program through advertisements, brochures, meetings with agencies, etc. I really felt that I was spreading the word every chance I could get. It was often very surprising to me when I would hear that someone had never heard of the program or had misconceptions about the program and services, for instance, that it was "night school." It was especially frustrating when my own school district gave out incorrect information. I decided that part of the issue had to be the fault of the "State" because they were not communicating, marketing enough to the local districts and communities. I thought they should be doing a better job.

When I was hired by the Ohio Department of Education in ABE, I made it my cause to make sure people were aware of ABE, which I worked hard to do. But the potential stakeholder group that I had to "educate" became much larger and in some ways, harder to reach. Our work with other state agencies, legislators and the Governor had higher stakes, because there were greater implications for

policies and funding. I started looking to the federal government to see what they were doing to better support our cause.

After taking more interest and becoming more involved in leadership roles at the national level, I have finally learned some important lessons. It only took me 33 years! All of us - local programs, state governments and national government - must take active roles in advocacy for adult education. It is not enough to make one contact to a legislator, one presentation to the rotary, one letter to a stakeholder on an important issue. It takes all of us working on a regular basis, as part of our job description, so to speak, to reach out and make ongoing connections to those that need to understand the critical work being done in adult education. Our adult students, who need to learn how to voice their opinions, have the most essential roles in communicating the messages. You are instrumental in helping them with the skills to get the voice and as a result, showcase the exceptional outcomes your programs achieve.

My last request to you is that you take this part of your job description seriously and incorporate regular activities – just like entering ABLELink data – into your work. I know that many of you do, and it is greatly appreciated.

It has been a pleasure working with you and for you. I wish you all continued success.

Denise

Quote of the Week

“The trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off.” ~Abe Lemons