



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**

May 15, 2009

Terry Thomas, Associate Vice Chancellor, Announces Retirement

Terry Thomas, Associate Vice Chancellor of Adult Workforce, announced his retirement earlier this month. Terry has supported the State ABLÉ Program and the Ohio Skills Bank Initiative during his tenure with the Ohio Board of Regents. Before coming to OBR, Terry was instrumental in the transfer of ABLÉ and Adult Workforce Education to the University System of Ohio. Terry has been a strong advocate for adult education and especially for the work we do in ABLÉ. We will miss Terry's energy and support. Below is his letter to the Chancellor, and one he has asked that I share with the field:

"I have enjoyed the important work that I have been engaged in at the Ohio Board of Regents. As you know, I have been implementing two Turnaround Ohio initiatives that I co-designed, the Ohio Skills Bank and "Stackable Certificates," as well as bringing another gubernatorial priority, Registered Apprenticeship, fully into the realm of postsecondary education. I have also ensured a successful transition of Adult Basic and Literacy Education and Adult Career-Technical Education to the University System of Ohio. The opportunity to implement projects that I helped initiate has made my work here among the most satisfying of my 31-year professional career.

I will retire from government service on June 30, 2009. I do plan to stay active in higher education, working perhaps at a reduced pace, and to increase my commitments to church-related activities and other pursuits.

Thank you for your leadership on behalf of Governor Strickland in transforming Ohio's higher education system and for the opportunity to contribute to that transformation."

Thank you, Terry. We hope our paths will continue to cross. We wish you the very best in your retirement!

Shifting Gears Initiative – A New Paradigm for Adult Education

Jobs requiring some postsecondary education are expected to grow faster than average between 2006 and 2016, yet too many workers lack the skills and credentials essential for these 21st Century jobs. For workers, employers, and the Midwest as a whole, addressing this mismatch is becoming an economic imperative. The Joyce Foundation launched the Shifting Gears initiative in 2006 to help five Midwest states address this problem. These states - Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin - are re-engineering adult education, workforce development and postsecondary education policies to support economic growth and expand job opportunities for low-skilled workers in the Midwest.

Ohio has identified three main priority objectives including:

1. Broaden access to a greater number and wider range of working adults
2. Shorten paths to marketable skills and meaningful credentials
3. Speed student progress with fewer interruptions

The Shifting Gears initiative is targeting ABLE, Adult Career Centers and Community Colleges, specifically developmental education, as the primary delivery systems for policy change. Specific areas being addressed are:

- Career Exploration and Planning
- Assessment
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Systems Integration

Two documents attached give more detail to these areas. As you will see, Shifting Gears is building on initiatives already in place including Stackable Certificates, the Ohio Skills Bank and the work ABLE is doing within the ABLE Collaborative project.

Representing ABLE are:

Shifting Gears Policy Panel:

Denise Pottmeyer, State ABLE Director
Robbie Thomas, ABLE Coordinator, Cincinnati City Schools

Curriculum and Instruction Sub-committee

Karen Scheid, State ABLE Consultant
Robbie Thomas

Career Exploration and Assessment Sub-committee

Donna Albanese, State ABLE Consultant
Holly Pletcher, ABLE Coordinator, C-TEC

ABLE and EL/Civics Grants Review Schedule

Friday, May 15 is the due date for both the FY 2010 ABLE Instructional and EL/Civics grants. Review teams will be meeting at the State Library of Ohio in Columbus the last week of May to review the submitted proposals. EL/Civics grants will be reviewed on May 26 and ABLE Instructional grants will be reviewed on May 28 and May 29. After the rating process, reviewers' information will be compiled and applicants will be notified of funding decisions around the second week of June.

Grammy Winner, Gretchen Wilson, Testifies for Adult Education

The National Council of State Directors of Adult Education (NCSDAE) assisted Congress with a request for testimony on the state of adult education. Gretchen Wilson, a GED graduate from Tennessee, spoke about the importance of adult education and the impact it has had on her life. With 10,000 letters from adult students in Tennessee in hand, Gretchen told her story about going back to school.

The testimony lineup included:

- 18:18—Gretchen Wilson » Grammy winning recording artist and GED graduate Nashville, TN
- 20:50—Martin Finsterbusch » Executive Director VALUE, Inc. (Voice of Adult Learners United to Educate) Media, PA
- 25:20—David Beré » president and chief strategy officer Dollar General Corporation Goodlettsville, TN
- 30:28—Kathy Cooper » Policy Associate, Office of Adult Basic Education Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges Olympia, WA
- 35:42—Stephen Reder, Ph.D. » University Professor and Chair Department of Applied Linguistics Portland State University Portland, OR
- 41:25—Donna Kinerney, Ph.D. » Instructional Dean Adult ESOL & Literacy Programs Montgomery College Wheaton, MD
- 47:00—Roberta Lanterman » Program Director Long Beach Family Literacy Long Beach, CA

The testimony webcast is archived at <http://edlabor.house.gov/hearings/2009/05/new-innovations-and-best-pract-2.shtml>. When playing the webcast, go to full screen and you will see a counter to indicate how many minutes have passed. You can slide the bar to the time indicated in front of the above names to find specific witnesses or Member's questions. You can access Gretchen Wilson's site where you can read her testimony and news about taking 10,000 student letters to Tennessee's Members of Congress. <http://www.gretchenwilson.com/>

This is the first hearing devoted solely to adult education in a number of years. There were so many attendees an overflow room was set up for the extras.

On May 19, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) committee is planning a WIA hearing. It will cover all WIA titles and we are submitting recommendations for witnesses.

ABLE Collaborative Evaluation Begins

On April 14, you received a letter from me regarding the evaluation of the ABLE Collaborative initiative. To assist the Collaboratives in meeting the goal of strengthening efforts to prepare students to transition to postsecondary education and/or employment, **members of the Voinovich School are now contacting each of the 16 Collaboratives coordinators to arrange a site visit.** The purpose of the site visits is for the evaluators to learn from Collaboratives' stakeholders how each group's practices, processes, and products are building capacity for implementing the ABLE Transitions Framework in their unique context. A survey is also being planned to gather information from all participants. We expect your feedback in this process as we begin to plan for the second year of the Collaborative. Thank you in advance for your assistance with the evaluation team.

Welcome Back to Barb Nicol

After an extended medical leave, Barb Nicol, Assistant Director of Adult Workforce Education, is back to work here at the Ohio Board of Regents. It is nice to see her looking (and walking) so well! Welcome back, Barb!

State Travel Restrictions

State agencies have received new guidelines that restrict spending for the remainder of this year as well as the next two fiscal years. These restrictions require agencies to reduce travel expenditures and restrict reimbursable travel. Only essential travel will be reimbursed. While state staff may travel in-state to functions, they will not be reimbursed for non-essential activities.

These restrictions will limit our travel to local ABLE events, including many upcoming ABLE/GED graduation ceremonies. Please continue to invite us to your events; we will evaluate these in light of other essential travel in the region. We will also be looking at options for face-to-face meetings, including using technology such as videoconferences and conference calls in order to continue to meet your needs.

Quote of the Week

“Change has a considerable psychological impact on the human mind. To the fearful it is threatening because it means that things may get worse. To the hopeful it is encouraging because things may get better. To the confident it is inspiring because the challenge exists to make things better.”

- King Whitney Jr.