



Newsletter Issue #5, August 5, 2015

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XPRIZE INVITES YOUR INPUT

NCAL's July 4th Blog presenting leaders' suggestions and concerns about the Barbara Bush Foundation's XPRIZE Adult Literacy Award competition drew an enthusiastic response from XPRIZE. Through their own posting at the NCAL Blog (<http://ncalamerica.org/blog>), the group invites Adult Education leaders to engage in direct communication with them at this important developmental stage of the program. Input can be given either at the Blog site or by joining a new public communications forum set up by XPRIZE for the purpose.



OTHER NEWS



From the Migration Policy Institute. The Institute will hold a webinar on Tuesday, August 11th at 2pm EST titled ***DACA at Three: New Data on Potential Applicants and Analysis of the Renewal Process.*** (Note: DACA = Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.) Leaders of the webinar will be Margie McHugh (Director of MPI's National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy), Randy Capps (Director of MPI's U.S. Programs Research), and Angelo Mathay (MPI Associate Policy Analyst). To register for the session, [Click Here](#).



From Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA). Senator Kaine has introduced new legislation that would expand Pell Grant eligibility to students enrolled in short-term job-training programs of at least 150 clock hours of instruction over at least 8 weeks and that lead to industry-recognized credentials and certificates. [The Jumpstart our Businesses by Supporting Students \(JOBS\) Act](#) would authorize Pell Grants for job training programs at community college and other postsecondary institutions. It aims to increase access to Pell students that seek skills training and credentials and to do so in a way that meets regional workforce needs. The bill would also encourage eligible institutions to connect short-term credential programs to career pathways and provide basic skills instruction to support student success. The new Act is endorsed by the Association of Career and Technical Education, CLASP, the National Skills Coalition, and others.



From The New York Times. The July 25th issue carried a long article about the growing income inequality among workers, titled "[Gap Widening As Top Workers Reap the Raises](#)". There is one highly important message for those in Adult Education working to improve the employment prospects of low-skilled adults through emphasis on Bachelor-level college completion programs: In terms of wage growth, these college graduates will not

automatically do better in many popular industries (e.g., arts, entertainment, media, finance, real estate, healthcare) than those with solid basic skills, certification, or an associate's degree. Matt Ferguson of CareerBuilder notes that "If you want wage growth, you're going to need a specific set of skills. The B.A. gets you in the door....but it doesn't allow you the wage growth you'd expect." Depending on the industry, earning patterns show that top wage earners (\$75,000 and above) have gained from 3.4 to 6 percent in most employment areas of employment since 2007. But workers at the \$50,000 or lower level have lost ground. Anthony Carnevale says that "If you have an associate's degree or a certificate in a technical field like heating and ventilation, machine repair, carpentry or plumbing, you'll do better than the average B.A. holder, both at the beginning and 10 years out of school."



From the National Skills Coalition. America's College Promise Act of 2015 (www.thomas.gov, HR2962, S1716), which is strongly supported by the [American Association of Community Colleges](#), proposes to provide up to two tuition free years for eligible community college attendees. For a recent National Skills Coalition's analysis of this new Act, [Click Here](#). For an NSC Fact Sheet on WIOA & SNAP E&T, [Click Here](#). You can help advance this legislation by urging your senators to support it.



From the National Institute of Health. [Mortality Attributable to Low Levels of Education in the United States](#) is a new research article published July 8th in the NIH journal, PLOS One. In their research, the authors (Patrick Krueger, Melanie Tran, Robert Hummer, and Virginia Chang) looked at adults having less than a high school diploma, those having some college, and those having less than a baccalaureate degree. The study included "all-cause" mortality, cardiovascular mortality, and mortality from cancer, with the 2010 cohort compared to 1925 and 1945 cohorts. Among the findings is that "mortality [currently] attributable to low education is comparable in magnitude to mortality attributable to individuals being current rather than former smokers." The team finds that there is a substantial causal association between education and mortality and concludes that "policies that increase education [Ed. Note: adult basic skills] could significantly reduce adult mortality."



[California's AB86 Website](#) for Adult Education planning and

implementation in the state makes a wide variety of resources available to planners and professionals both within the state and to interested outsiders. In-depth information is provided on AB86's webinars and summits, archived materials related thereto, the 70 adult education regional consortia groups, governance plans, funding and application instructions, and other areas of activity. Since significant funding was restored for Adult Education in the state, the Community College Chancellor's Office and State Department are partners in implementing regional plans for adult education. Some elements of the new California Adult Education program may be of general use to other states planning for complex service needs. To sign up for the AB86 Newsletter, [Click Here](#).



From the [Health Literacy Listserv](#). The [Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality](#) of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services hosted a webinar on July 28 to help local projects and partnerships translate medical information into messages and materials that are scientifically sound, relevant locally, and engaging to community members. An archived recording of the session along with slides will be available from the PBRN Playlist on [AHRQ's Primary Care You Tube Channel](#) later this summer. In a few months, a *Boot Camp Translation Guidebook* will also be published by AHRQ.



From Jobs for the Future. [Opening the Door: How Community Organizations Address the Youth Unemployment Crisis](#) was issued last month by JFF. The work looks at how four community-based organizations (CBOs) in California are addressing youth unemployment and the details of programming to help young adults develop skills and credentials needed for entry and progress in growth sectors of the economy. "At this moment, the role of CBOs has never been more important," the project report begins. The work has been carried out with funding from the James Irvine Foundation with technical support provided by JFF. Other important resources for Adult Education and Workforce Skills development are also available from [Jobs for the Future](#).



From the Center for Applied Linguistics. The July 23rd issue of the Center's e-newsletter, [CALnews](#), lists the organization's coming professional development institutes and announces a new CAL Institute on September 29 in Washington, D.C. The theme for the fall session is *Strategies to Strengthen*

Refugee Orientation and ESL Provision. To get monthly updates from CAL about its research and other activities, [Sign Up Here](#).



From [Adult Learning Partners, LLC](#). Randy Whitfield, recently retired State Director of Adult Education for the North Carolina Community College System, has joined ALP as a Principal Associate. ALP is an affiliation of like-minded professionals who want to work independently and together to advance a common agenda in adult education and workforce skills development, including the area of professional development. Its purposes and specific services are explained at the ALP website. Other Principals are Mary Ann Corley, Brenda Dann-Messier, James Parker, and Gail Spangenberg.

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