

## Advocacy Approaches for 2016-17

Given that the trend at the Capitol this year will be to try to save money and look for accountability and efficiency, CAACE should emphasize: 1) what we have been able to do with flat-funding in both our mandated and PIP programs; 2) how the "pilot" college remediation programs served as models for several other programs to partner with colleges and work for better higher ed productivity and accountability, and 3) how we have been helping CT's neediest to advance in the workplace. We should also push for implementation of Public Act 16-44, An Act Concerning Higher Education Certificate Programs, which mandated Office of Higher Education to collect and publish key data on all certificate programs in Connecticut to help our adult learners make better decision about postsecondary education. Finally, we should support our friends at CAHS, CABHN, CWEALF and other human services organizations to the extent that they push for the accountability and efficiency that will catch the ear of those in charge. This is not the year to just cry and bang on the table for money that isn't going to be there. Here are some thoughts on these areas:

In 2009, the State provided adult education programs \$19.5 million in state aid and \$5.6 million in federal aid, for a total of \$25.1 million. Six years later in 2015 adult ed programs received \$20.2 million (3.5% increase from 6 years ago) in state aid and \$4.2 million in federal aid, a total of \$24.6 million. When you compare the total dollars available via the SDE, that's a half million dollars less than six years earlier. And this year's state funding for adult education is essentially flat funded for 2016-17.

In the past two years we have:

- Developed curriculum to meet guidelines of the College and Career Readiness Standards
- Revised teacher evaluation procedures according to state guidelines
- Updated technology and instruction for the new online GED and NEDP diploma programs
- Partnered with community colleges through revisions of remedial programs under PA 12-40 and subsequent legislation. Pilot programs

have demonstrated that adult education programs can reduce remediation time for students seeking improved educational and occupational outcomes.

- Contributed to the drafting of the State Unified Plan under the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act so that our federally funded program improvement projects can demonstrate quantifiable workforce gains
- Continued and built upon our partnerships with Workforce Development Boards, nonprofits, Chambers of Commerce and local employers to provide both in-house and workplace courses at low cost so that employees can improve their academic skills and improve their wages and job satisfaction.

What needs to be done:

- Maintain our funding for adult education programs that provide the means for our state economy to move forward.
- Improve our ability to advertise the benefits of adult education to a wider population who need high school diplomas and English language skills.
- Work to translate the mandates of WIOA into quality program improvement project grants that meet the needs of adult learners in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.