



## December 2019 Newsletter

Hello,

*For the record I have no idea where November went, but it's December and before we know it the new year will be upon us. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our members for their dedication and commitment to helping our adult learners improve their lives. The work we do is some of the most important and least understood, but to us it is what we love to do. No one got into this for the money, fame or perks, we do what we do because we realize the impact our actions have on the lives of our students and their families.*

*As we close out the year and prepare to welcome a new one, I just want to remind everyone that our work is never done. There are still over 200,000 adults in Connecticut without a high school diploma and over 100,000 adults for whom English is not their first language. It is our responsibility to continue to advocate on their behalf. As we enter a Census year it is even more important that we support our English Learners and that we work to ensure that every voice is heard and everyone is counted. Our programs rely on this, so please make it your program's priority for early 2020! Larry & Heather*

### CAACE CONFERENCE 2020 UPDATE

Preparations are under-way for the 39th CAACE Conference on **March 26th and 27th at the Mystic Marriott Resort and Spa**. It is shaping up to be another great conference!

The committee is still looking for presenters. Please consider sharing your time and talent and join our fantastic team of presenters! **To submit a workshop proposal, [click here](#).**

This year, in lieu of the Scholarship dinner, we are hosting a President's Meet & Greet Reception immediately following the last breakout session of

Thursday's conference. The reception will be held from 3:30-5:00 p.m. At a reduced price of \$29, why not join us and enjoy:

- A sneak peek session with our keynote speaker
- Hot off the press President's update
- Appetizers and drinks with your colleagues
- A chance to win admission to the 2021 COABE Conference in Nashville, TN
- Support our Scholarship Fund
- and much more.....

**Early bird registrations are now available for the conference and President's Meet & Greet Reception on our website. Don't delay, register today! The early bird rate will be in effect until 01/17/2020.**

**Head to our website after to register. [www.caace.org](http://www.caace.org)**

## Advocacy

### Governor Launches his Workforce Council

On November 21 Governor Lamont held the first meeting of his new Workforce Council to oversee the planning and development of efforts to better meet the demands of the state's economy. Whereas the previous advisory council (CETC) was focused more on the labor supply side of the issue, the new council will take its direction from the "demand" side of employers and the jobs that they need to have filled. **A key statistic is that by 2025, 70% of the jobs in the state will require education beyond a high school diploma.** Meeting that demand will, in turn, require more than just what current high school and college populations can produce; that level of demand will require adults without diplomas and those already in the workforce (incumbent workers) to improve academic skills as they train for the jobs that will pay a sustaining wage. **Adult education is an important piece in satisfying that employment demand.**

To have a workforce development plan developed and ready by this coming July, the Council will appoint six committees. Three committees will focus on three job growth sectors - manufacturing, health services and the general "white collar" area of finance, IT and business management. Three other committees will focus on education, data and general council support. The Office of Policy and Management will oversee the committee work. A Council website is still being developed.

CAACE will be keeping its members informed as the Council's work develops. In the meantime, it's critical that adult education providers stay connected to their area American Job Centers and also take a look at the "employers" section of the [www.cthires.com](http://www.cthires.com) website to learn about the job demands and training opportunities in their local and regional areas.

## CAACE Strategic Survey Summary

This fall, CAACE broadly distributed a strategic planning survey to its membership to determine the priorities for its activities and development going forward. The responses to the survey represented a wide range of constituents and reflected an overall positive assessment of CAACE's engagement with and representation of the field of adult education in CT. Survey responses indicate that new initiatives (such as marketing and the newsletter) have been embraced by the field and long-standing efforts (such as the conference and quarterly PD) continue to be valued as important elements of CAACE's activities. The responses indicate that CAACE should continue to focus on the conference and professional development connected to core program content while offering increased opportunities for networking. Additionally, respondents supported intentional expansion and diversification of CAACE's membership, leadership and conference presentations

**COABE** has extended the deadline for its awards nominations from December 15 to December 31. Nomination information and applications can be found at <https://coabe.org/awardsandgrants/>.

**Congratulations to Frank May from New London on receiving one of the COABE National Conference mini grant awards! You were one of only two from New England to receive an award**

**On behalf of the CAACE Board we wish everyone a happy Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year**