

*Learning for life*

**CAACE**

The Connecticut Association for Adult & Continuing Education

# October 2023 Newsletter

## Upcoming Events

**October 27**

**Director/Program  
Leaders Roundtable  
Professional Learning,  
New Haven Adult  
Education**

**December 2 CAACE  
Board Meeting  
Virtual**

Register for the Oct  
27 Director/Program  
Leaders Roundtable

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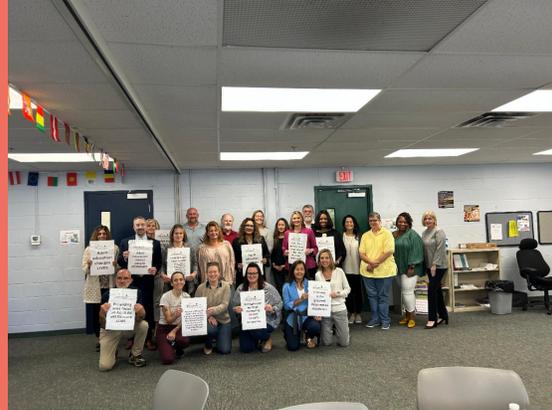
## September Updates

The month of September saw a significant number of events, highlighted by our celebration of National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week. Connecticut was recognized by COABE as a leader in promoting AEFLW via our Social Media accounts.

- On September 20 over 100 adult education supporters gathered at the State Capitol to celebrate and recognize Adult Education and Family Literacy Week and to honor Senator Osten for her work on funding our programs
- On September 21, New Haven Adult Education held their Open House. Director Michelle Bonara shared all of the great things happening in New Haven as well as plans to move to a new updated facility in early 2025
- On September 22 CAACE held it's first Board Meeting of the new school year. For more information on topics discussed visit our webpage: [caace.org](http://caace.org)
- Special thanks to our elected officials who signed AEFLW Proclamations in recognition of their local programs and to Governor Lamont for Connecticut's support
- On September 27 CAACE Leadership met with several



- new Directors to highlight all that CAACE does and to offer support for our new colleagues
- Our Website continues to grow. We have recently added updated Memberships, Resources and Social Media links. Please check it out!



Zoom links to all meetings will be coming out via email during the week of October 16, 2023

Our Board of Directors  
and  
CSDE Consultants

## CSDE Updates

Following the September Policy Forum, several adult education directors have reached out regarding the CSDE slide on Teacher Certifications. In a recent conversation with CSDE, CAACE received some clarifications. **The bottom line is that certification requirements have not changed.**

The slide was meant as a reminder to programs and was a result of a LACES review conducted over the summer. The review was done to ensure that programs are properly recording teacher information.

As in the past, all Adult Education teachers must be certified in Connecticut. They must have taken a course in Special Education, a CSDE requirement for **any** teaching certification, and they must hold a valid adult education certification: 106 (in addition to the 9-12 content area certification) for Credit Diploma, 107 for ABE/GED/NEDP, 088 for ESL and either a 106, 107 or 088 to teach Citizenship. Teachers applying for an 088 (ESL) certification, without a 111 certification, must take a CSDE-approved ESL Methods course. **This is not new.** If a teacher has a 111 TESOL Certification and wishes to teach in adult education, they need to apply for the 088 certification and pay the CSDE \$100. **This is not new.**

Teachers still have up to one year to apply for the certification and take the required course. We hope this helps clarify any misunderstandings.

## New Member Updates

CAACE is proud to welcome two new programs into our circle of friends and advocates on behalf of adult learners:

- **IRIS--Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services** with offices in New Haven and Hartford IRIS supports refugee families who arrive from overseas come to the U.S. with virtually no material possessions. They have lost homes, friends, family, country, culture, and jobs. Most do not speak any English. They have no income, and many are victims of trauma, with physical or mental health needs. As great as their initial needs are, their potential to enrich our community is even greater. Asylum seekers, asylees, and other immigrant families who seek assistance stabilizing their family situation often have many of the same needs as refugees coming from overseas. However, since they are already in the U.S., it is often the case that they have some limited resources or extended support network that can be built upon with the help of IRIS. IRIS provides targeted wrap-around services, **including learning English as a requirement for adults and enrollment in public school for children**, for all clients, using a strength-based assessment model, that offers long-term support for successful integration.
- **Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board** is one of five statewide workforce boards incorporated under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy. Congress passed the Act with a wide bipartisan majority; it is the first legislative reform of the public workforce system since 1998. The Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board's mission is developing and maintaining skilled workers in Northwest Connecticut.

**Celebrate and Honor National Hispanic Heritage Month**  
**Click the links provided at the CSDE Policy Forum to learn more**

[CSDE National Hispanic Heritage Month Resources](#)

[25 Fun Ways to Honor Hispanic Heritage Month 2023](#)

[Tips and Resources for Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month our Website](#)

Special Shout Out to West Hartford AE  
West Hartford's Advanced ESL class was recently visited by CT Attorney General William Tong and West Hartford Mayor Shari Cantor. Attorney General Tong spoke about his experiences growing up as the son of immigrant parents.

[Read the full article here](#)

## DUES REMINDER

Thank you to all the programs that have responded to our annual invoices for 2023-24 Association dues. We recognize that our dues have increased and several program leaders have reached out regarding this. Please note that dues are based on the number of employees working in your program. We based our 23-24 invoices off of the CSDE's FY22 Program Profiles. Also please note that CAACE has significantly increased the services provided to members. We hope you understand and support our efforts to increase our outreach and advocacy on behalf of all programs, big and small. If you have questions about an invoice, please contact Treasurer Lori Wyrebek at [wyrebekl@caace.org](mailto:wyrebekl@caace.org).

## COABE UPDATES

**This week we called attention to the Digital Inclusion Week.**

**Over 32 Million Adults lack Digital Literacy Skills In Connecticut, 321,000, 23% of our households don't have access to high-speed internet**

**COABE AEFLW Awards & Acknowledgements  
CAACE was recognized as one of three State Associations Social Media Amplifiers**

**&**

**Christine Valdez was named a top State Advocate**



### **COABE Digital Change Agent Updates**

Many of you may not know this, but Susan Domanico is Connecticut's COABE Digital Change Agent. Below is her update:

The CT Commission for Educational Technology. They are responsible for writing the Connecticut

State Digital Equity Plan.

- CT has about \$142 M for broadband (Internet access improvements). This funding is being managed by Dept of Energy & Environmental Protection
- CT has about \$41 M to purchase devices, provide training, support, and ongoing service for individuals in “targeted groups.” This money is being managed by the Commission for Ed Tech. They are seeking input on the best way to utilize these funds.
- Adult Education is deeply involved with these targeted groups:
- Ethnic and racial minorities
- Low income or impoverished
- Those with language barriers
- People in rural areas
- And to some extent: incarcerated, disabled

**Adult Ed needs to have a voice in the decisions being made around how the Digital Equity Plan funds will be used.** Our programs might be able to apply for the funds so we can offer more training or buy devices or hotspots for our students.

We also have contact with many of the local community agencies who provide services for our students and are trusted by them. One barrier to this money getting to the right audience is that our students are concerned about privacy, immigration status, government programs, and just cut off in general. They can't have their voice heard on a digital equity online survey if they do not have Internet service, a device, or the skills to use digital tools. Our adult ed programs and community partners need to give feedback about the real issues and apply to be community agents to help in the implementation of the Digital Equity Plan in the future.

Lauren Thompson [lauren.thompson@ct.gov](mailto:lauren.thompson@ct.gov) is really interested in your feedback! Use the feedback form to tell her what your students need, anything that your program is doing to promote digital equity (loaners, open computer labs, classes, distributing information (in multiple languages) about Affordable Connectivity , refurbished devices, etc. Use the link for the feedback form in the email that Sabrina Mancini forwarded: **Feedback Form**. Be sure to use the box for #4 to list other local agencies that you work with so that they can be brought into the conversation. Share this information with your Advisory Councils!

For more information, contact Sue Domanico at [domanico@edadvance.org](mailto:domanico@edadvance.org)

## SAVE THE DATES

The Annual CAACE Conference will be held on **Thursday and Friday, March 7 and 8, 2024** at the Mystic Marriott in Groton.

We are excited to announce that [Rachel Riggs from World Education](#) will be our Keynote Speaker. Rachael is a leader in the understanding of the positive uses for AI technology.

**Friday, October 27 Director's/Leaders Round Table Summit In-Person**

\$50 per person 9:30-2:30 New Haven Adult Education

**Register Below**

**Friday January 19, Directors/Leaders Summit Follow-up** **Virtual**  
10-12, no charge

**Friday, May 17 Continuing Ed Round Table** Farmington **In-Person**  
Cost \$25 10-12 noon  
**CSDE Policy Forums for FY24**  
**Friday's, January 12 & June 7**

**The COABE National Conference will be held in  
Nashville Tennessee  
March 18 - 20, 2024**

**Register for our Director/Program Leaders  
Roundtable**

## Volunteers Needed

If you'd like to get more involved in CAACE and adult education we have a place for you. We are currently looking for volunteers to support several of our Conference committees as well as other planning committees. To learn more reach out to **Larry Covino**

### Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

All Zoom Links will be sent with the Agenda  
**Friday, December 1: Virtual** Advocacy 9-10, Board Meeting 10:15-12:15 and Conference Committee 12:30-2 Virtual.

**Friday, February 9, 2024: Virtual** Advocacy 9-10, Board Meeting 10:15-12:15 and Conference Committee 12:30-2

**Friday, May 10, 2024: In-person** in New Haven, Advocacy 9-10, Board Meeting 10:15-12:15 and Conference Committee 12:30-2

### Old Learn 2 Earn Logo:

This logo is no longer being used by CAACE. If you wish to use it to represent your own program please do, but please delete it for all CAACE references. Thank you



### Conference Committee Meetings:

- **Oct 26 Virtual, 3:00-4:30** [Zoom Link](#)
- **Dec 1 Virtual (Following Board Meeting)** (An earlier email had a Nov Conference meeting, that was incorrect) **12:30-2:00**
- **Jan 18, 2024 In-person** for grid meeting in Naugatuck Adult Education, 543 Rubber Ave. Naugatuck **9:00-12**
- **February 9, 2024 Virtual** (Following Board Meeting) **12:30-2:00**
- **Friday May 10, 2024 : In-person** New Haven Adult Education Center, 12:30 - 2:00 (Follows our Board Meeting)

Zoom links to all meetings will be coming the week of October 16th

# WHAT IS HAPPENING AT YOUR PROGRAM?

Are you having a family literacy event, fabulous guest speaker, or job fair? Or perhaps you want to spotlight a dedicated and creative teacher or student? Email a photo and a short description to Larry, [covinol@caace.org](mailto:covinol@caace.org), and we will spotlight this in an upcoming newsletter and on the CAACE website.



We would love to highlight your local program in our next newsletter!



Reminder of 'low income' adult ed resources that are timely & relevant state wide. Please add these links to your programs website

[Energy Assistance](#) [VITA -Free Tax Filing](#) [Warming Centers](#) [Access Health Weatherization](#) [SNAP Free phone and/or tablet with unlimited data](#) [CONNTac-FAFSA asst.](#) [CIRI- refugee Asst.](#)

Please support our friends below, they help make much of what we do possible!!

Our Pink background is in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month

**[WWW.CAACE.ORG](http://WWW.CAACE.ORG)**

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