



Message from the Director

By Gary Schwartzwald



Welcome back from what I hope was a restful and joyful winter break and holiday season. On January 10, 2015 Governor Brown released his January Budget Proposal. Although it is not all great news, much of what the State budget proposes is aligned with our expectations, and most of our hopes. Unfortunately, and as expected, the budget proposal does not provide relief for our Lifelong Education classes. Although we all hoped these programs and classes would be included in future funding, they have not been included. We will continue to offer as many of the classes as possible and make them as attractive to students as possible. To the teachers of these programs I understand the difficult financial constraints your classes are under and we will work with you on the calendar and the fee structure to the best of our ability.

For the programs that fall under the AB86 guidelines, overall we have good news. This is thanks to all the staff, students, and community members that made the time and effort to send letters to the Governor and our local legislators.

As I understand through my first reading, the key points for Adult Ed are:

- The budget provides the \$500 million we expected
- For 2015-16 we will be directly funded (outside of LCFF) at our Maintenance of Effort level

- An allocation committee will be developed to allocate the dollars above the MOE level, and beginning in 2016-17 the seven person allocation committee will allocate all Adult Ed. funds.

At the end of this newsletter I have attached the section of the Governor’s Budget that discusses Adult Education and I have also included the most recent perspective from our CCAE Legislative Advocate, Dawn Koepke. I urge you to read these excerpts and to stay informed. If and when you have questions, please feel free to ask your site administrators and/or me. I would rather you have the facts than speculate.

We are clearly in a time of extreme transition for Adult Education throughout the state of California. A few years ago the budget proposal was to phase us out and move Adult Ed completely under the Community Colleges. We are currently in a much stronger position than that. Though the details are not perfect we are still here, still strong, and it appears we have increased stability and the potential over the next few years to expand and strengthen our programs while working in conjunction with the local Community Colleges.

We need to continue to meet the needs of our East County adults and we have the opportunity to be creative and add focus to our class offerings. I have tremendous respect for all of you and I am so glad we are still in this together. Take care and stick together.



Steele Canyon Adult Center
By Tim Lindley



It is past the halfway point in another school year. The students and staff from Steele Canyon Adult Center were very active in their classes and the community this past summer and fall.

Patsy Roeder (Calligraphy class at La Mesa Enrichment Center) had a top level student, **Rose Smutko**, featured in a Calligraphy Art Show last fall. The proceeds from the auction of Rose's art pieces went to Promises2Kids which provides financial support for the Polinsky Center.

Linda Smith's Writing class at La Mesa Enrichment Center had her students display their work at a public showing in November. Sixteen students displayed their published books at the Santee Library while interacting with the public and sharing about the writing of their books. The authors' stories were very interesting. It is always amazing how diverse and fascinating our students are.

Drew Bandish's painting classes at La Mesa Enrichment Center are doing good things in the community again. Thirteen of his students had were featured at the Rancho San Diego Library displaying their original paintings this past November.

Drew Bandish and his Watercolor class students from La Mesa Enrichment Center were in an art show last November at Balboa Park. Several of the students won awards at the showing. In fact, Drew was a special presenter at the show as he performed a demonstration at the event.



ECCC
By Steve Niemeyer



In the 2014-15 school year, the East County Career Center implemented an "Employee of the Quarter". The recipients of the award receive two movie passes and \$65 in gift cards.

The first quarter the winner was **Carol Quijano**. Carol is an excellent employee who is always at her post ready to go. She always takes the initiative to step in and assist whenever she sees a need. Carol has taken on some new responsibilities this year, and always does so with a willing attitude.



The second quarter winner was **Rae Woolrich**. Rae is another one of our stellar employees. You can always count on Rae to give her full effort. She is our senior Employment Advisor, and is a great role model for the other employees.



On January 20th, we will be sponsoring a hiring event for Smart & Final. They are opening a new store in Spring Valley, and are looking to hire 40-50 people. We will be at the Spring Valley Library from 9:30 - 2:00 to help the recruiting event. Pass the word to those who may be interested in this opportunity.



Blood Drive at Health Occupations Center

By Carol Otjens



The Health Occupations Center had a very successful Blood Drive in November; sponsored by the American Red Cross. Students from programs all around the campus signed



up to donate throughout the day. We had students from Dental Assisting, EMT, Medical Assisting, Pharmacy Tech, Nursing, and many more. Because their programs focus on the healthcare field, the teachers were able to integrate the importance of blood donations into their curriculum. Students learned about the components of blood, how they work to heal the body, and the need for donors to sustain a plentiful blood supply for patients in need in our community. By the end of the day, HOC had donated 28 units of blood. That is equivalent to saving 84 lives!! The Health Occupations Center sponsors two blood drives each year. If you would like to donate at our next event, please call us for details. 619-956-4300.



The Health Occupations Center (a part of Adult Education in GUHSD) offers tours to a variety of interested parties. Recently, Santana High School and Valhalla High School brought Medical Pathway students to the HOC campus. The Medical Pathways



offered at several GUHSD sites have honors level science curriculum designed for students

interested in careers in the health/medical field. These very motivated students were introduced to many allied health and nursing programs available to them right in their own district. Students viewed clinical labs, two nursing labs, a veterinary lab, and an independent student computer lab. The high school students then spent time with the Medical Assisting students learning how to take vital signs, patient history, and worked one-on-one with the Adult Ed students. This type of hands-on training is what these high school students have to look forward to as they explore their educational options in the healthcare field. HOC welcomes tours; please visit our website (hoc.guhsd.net) or call for details (619-956-4300).

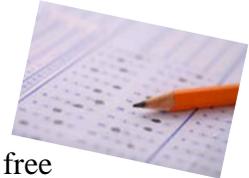


Foothills Update

By Jeff Meredith



Foothills Adult Center is pleased to announce that we are now offering another high school equivalency test, the HiSET. The HiSET test is administered by Educational Testing Services out of New Jersey; it is a five part test (Social Science, Science, Writing, Math and Reading) and costs \$140.



This cost includes one free retake on any individual section that the student did not pass. The HiSET is what is referred to now as a "paper based test", so like the previous GED test, this new test will be taken the old fashioned way, with pencil and paper. Testing days at Foothills will be Thursday and Friday, we hope to handle registration for the test on Tuesdays. We will continue to offer computer based high school equivalency testing (GED) in room 15 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

We have a new Administrative Clerk that has started with us, **Patty Tencza**. Patty comes to us from the East County Career Center. She has been with the District for a total of 8 years working with both the youth and adult programs. We are excited to have her with us.



The Spirit of Giving

By Sheila Davis



On Nov. 18, 2014, people stood in line waiting for food at an El Cajon church. Someone backing up hit an unoccupied car, which propelled forward and pinned three women against a wall. One of the victims was a Grossmont Adult School student named **Soaad Ablahad**, who had been a dedicated ESL student attending Foothills Adult Center.

After the accident, Soaad was rushed to surgery. She underwent a total of nine hip and leg surgeries. Her loving husband and strongest advocate, Saad, only left her side to take their four children (ages 17, 16, 8, and 16 months) to school.

The story could end there, but it didn't. Hearing that this student suffered a trauma, a suggestion was made that staff and students give donations to help this family. **Toni Gagliardi**, Student Council Organizer, sprang into action. She placed plastic bins in the ECAC staff lounge and donations of toys, books, clothes, money, and more came pouring in.

At Foothills Adult, two classmates and Principal **Jeff Meredith**, visited classrooms and shared Soaad's story. More donations including clothes, a huge box of food from Parent Ed., \$55 in gift cards, and cash totaling \$605.50 were donated from Foothills to the family. One anonymous donor gave \$100 and another high school student gave everything she had in her pocket, \$1.

I am in awe of our students' big hearts, but not surprised. We've come together before to raise funds for Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, an annual Food Drive, and campus clean up. This is just another example of how Grossmont Adult School is a community that pulls together when a need comes to light.

Soaad's family is grateful for all the help and support they've received. Saad, her husband,

said, "Thanks for everything you're doing to my family, I really appreciate it."

At a rehabilitation facility, Soaad quickly learned to get around in a wheelchair. On January 8, she went home to recuperate. We wish Soaad a speedy recovery.



Accreditation Update

By Jennifer Owens



As you know, there are five components to our Action Plan (Data, PLCs, AB86, Language, and Student Support Services). In the spirit of collaboration and to ensure a broad representation of site, staffing, and program areas, the committees have been adding additional committee members. The ever expanding committees met during the fall trimester. I am pleased to inform you that they are moving forward to implement the items we identified during the self-study as areas that needed improvement. I appreciate the committee members' willingness to take on the extra work and to put in the extra time and energy to uphold Grossmont Adult School's stellar reputation as an accredited institution. I have met with the committees and the committee leaders and feel confident informing you that they are committed to serving the needs of the students of Grossmont Adult School. The idea of helping students succeed is the very core of their objectives regardless of the title of the committee. Everything we do is for student learning and student success. From gathering data, to organizing PLCs, to attending numerous AB86 meetings, to translating parts of the class schedule, to informing students of services we

offer, our main focus and goal are helping (and seeing) our students achieve their personal, academic, and workplace goals. WASC is the platform that allows our school to have clearly defined objectives as we move forward in the years to come.

As always, if you would like to participate in our ongoing WASC process, feel free to contact me at jlowens@guhsd.net It's never too late to participate.

Thank you for all that you do.



CCAIE Update
By Jeff Meredith



I hope that you were able to attend the CCAIE Winter Social this year. We had a Chinese themed holiday party at the Panda Valley Restaurant on Main St. in El Cajon. Everyone had a good time playing games, opening gifts, and eating good food. To top the evening off we even had a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus.



Gladys Uri is getting her order together for a Valentine's Week candy sale that could be our best ever. Look for Gladys or some of her helpers at other sites for the CCAIE candy fundraiser coming in early February. This is our main fundraiser and we want to make it a record-breaking year. Keep your eyes open for the candy cart!

The Los Angeles metro section is putting on this year's CCAIE 2015 State Conference in Universal City, California April 30th to May 2nd. With all the changes in Adult Ed this is a conference that you will not want to miss. Registration is now open at CCAIEstate.org.

Grossmont Adult School Important Dates	
Date	Event
January 14	Term 3/Spring registration
January 19	Martin Luther King holiday
January 24	Super Saturday
January 30	Term 2 classes end
February 2	Term 3 classes begin
Feb 13	Lincoln's birthday (NOTE: This is different than the high schools!)
Feb 16	President's holiday
March 14	Super Saturday
March 20	Winter classes end
Mar 23-Apr 3	Spring break
April 6	Spring classes begin
April 8	Registration for Term 4 begins
April 17	Term 3 classes end
April 20	Term 4 classes begin
May 16	Super Saturday
May 25	Labor Day
June 12	Term 4 and Spring classes end
June 16	Graduation

EXCERPT FROM THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET

Adult Education

Historically, K-12 school districts and community colleges have provided adult education instruction. However, there was not effective coordination in all jurisdictions and regional workforce needs were not a focus. As a result, the state has an inefficient and in some places redundant system that is not always structured to best meet the needs of adult learners. Strengthening the link between the state's education and workforce systems is crucial to California's growing economy. The 2013 Budget Act provided \$25 million Proposition 98 General Fund for two-year planning grants to consortia of community college districts and school districts in 70 regions. The planning builds upon the adult education infrastructure in schools and community colleges. In 2013-14 and 2014-15, K-12 districts also have been required to maintain the 2012-13 level of spending for adult education and career technical education (CTE) programs from funds received through the Local Control Funding Formula.

The Budget provides \$500 million Proposition 98 General Fund for the Adult Education Block Grant, which is an integral component of the state's workforce development strategy, as discussed in the Investing in California's Workforce Chapter. The block grant will fund programs in elementary and secondary basic skills, classes and courses in citizenship and English as a second language for immigrants, education programs for adults with disabilities, short-term CTE programs linked to occupations with high employment potential, and programs for apprentices. To be successful, it is imperative that these programs be well aligned with the economic needs of each region, and that they provide clear pathways to in-demand jobs, as determined by regional labor market information. The program will promote ongoing collaboration amongst different providers and with entities that serve the populations that benefit from adult education;

namely, workforce investment boards, social services departments, and correctional rehabilitation agencies.

In order for adult education programs to be well coordinated and linked with the economic needs of their region, the Administration proposes that each consortium designate an allocation board responsible for planning and allocating block grant funds. Each consortium will form an allocation committee consisting of seven members who represent community colleges, K-12 districts, other adult education providers, local workforce investment boards, county social services departments, correctional rehabilitation programs, and one public member with relevant expertise. Each allocation committee will coordinate with regional partners to ensure various adult education funding streams are integrated, such as block grant funds, other K-12 and community college resources, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act allocations, and other federal funds. Each allocation committee will determine how to allocate block grant funds for direct instruction, support services, and administration of its consortium (which will be capped at 5 percent). Each consortium will report annually to the Chancellor and Superintendent on progress towards fulfilling its adult education plan using all resources available. These reports will inform distribution of block grant funds in the future.

The Chancellor of the Community Colleges and the Superintendent of Public Instruction will jointly approve allocations of funds, with an emphasis on providing funding to those regions with the greatest adult education needs. Funding allocations approved by the Chancellor and Superintendent will be distributed to providers as determined by their allocation committees. **In the initial year, to ease the transition, funding will be provided directly to K-12 school districts in the amount of the K-12 districts' maintenance of effort for adult education—as jointly determined by the Chancellor and the Superintendent.**

Further allocations will be distributed according to the local allocation committees.

A final report from the two-year planning process will be provided by March 1, 2015. This report will inform the accountability framework for delivery of adult education and remaining policy decisions, such as how fees are charged for similar programs delivered by different providers.

PERSPECTIVE FROM CCAE'S LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE, DAWN KOEPKE

We've been anxiously awaiting news, having worked so hard to make meaningful headway with the Administration and Department of Finance (DOF) on the future of adult education. All of that hard work culminated in the Governor releasing his FY 15-16 budget plan this morning that is workable and provides stability for K12 adult education when we need it most.

All-in-all, the proposal provides \$500 million Proposition 98 General Fund for a newly created Adult Education Block Grant, which the Administration is characterizing as an "integral component of the state's workforce development strategy." The Block Grant will fund adult education programs in elementary and secondary basic skills; classes and courses in citizenship and English as a second language for immigrants; education programs for adults with disabilities; short-term CTE programs linked to occupations with high employment potential; and programs for apprentices. These programs align with the AB 86 parameters and are intended to be aligned with the economic needs of each region, providing clear and accessibly pathways to in-demand jobs. The program is intended to promote ongoing collaboration between different providers - K12 adult schools/school districts, community colleges, and other adult education providers in a region - and with organizations such as workforce investment boards, social services departments, and correctional rehabilitation agencies.

Of greatest importance to help ease the transition to an AB 86 regional approach, the proposal provides dedicated funding directly to K12 school districts in the amount of the districts' maintenance of effort for adult education to maintain current capacity. While the proposal isn't perfect, this component was critically important and one of the key items we advocated heavily for to preserve current capacity as we make the transition. Other details of the proposal were also pulled directly from our advocacy, including the Chancellor of the Community Colleges and the Superintendent of Public Instruction being required to jointly approve allocations of funds to each region based on those regions with the greatest adult education needs.

In terms of the decision making related to funding, the Administration has been adamant about decisions being made at the local level within the consortia. In this regard and in an attempt to ensure adult education programs are well coordinated and linked with the economic needs of their region, the Administration has proposed that each consortium designate an allocation board responsible for planning and allocating block grant funds. More specifically, they envision each consortium forming an allocation committee consisting of seven members who represent community colleges, K-12 districts, other adult education providers, local workforce investment boards, county social services departments, correctional rehabilitation programs, and one public member with relevant expertise. Each allocation committee would then coordinate with its regional partners to ensure the various funding streams are integrated - block grant funds, other K12 and community college resources, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act allocations, and other federal funds. Each allocation committee will then determine how to allocate block grant funds for direct instruction, support services, and administration of its consortium (capped at 5%). Future allocations will be distributed according to these allocation committees.

While this allocation board/committee approach is different than what we had advocated for, its intent is to help level the playing field in the decision making process - another key issue we advocated for with DOF. We recognize, however, that not all regions are created equal but believe strongly this is a good start from which to work from that recognizes K12 adult education as an equal partner in the future of adult education. We'll clearly need to spend some time thinking about the board/committee, how it should operate, decision making processes, criteria, etc. This will take some time, but is doable and the fact that we've worked so well with the DOF thus far provides great opportunity to lock the details of the proposal down in the coming months.

All-in-all, I feel like we've made tremendous progress. Keep in mind that just two years ago the Governor's January budget proposal proposed to shift all of adult education to the Community College system essentially eliminating K12 adult education. Today, however, we are recognized as an important partner in the future of adult education and will retain our own standing. This turn around did not happen by chance - with your help we've worked hard to ensure stability and a bright future for K12 adult schools. And while I know that \$500 million will not get us back to square one fiscally, it is certainly a good start for year one - especially with the dedicated maintenance of capacity funding to provide stability. As we work with DOF to fill in the details (not yet available), we urge you to continue to work in earnest with your consortium and keep us informed of that progress. We'll certainly have more to say in the coming weeks and will be holding a webinar at the end of January to provide further detail. Stay tuned for the formal announcement.