



# National Coalition For Literacy

## NCL Update April 2009

### NCL 2009 Literacy Leadership Awards – Call for Nominations

The National Coalition for Literacy is currently seeking nominations for its annual Literacy Leadership Awards. The NCL Literacy Leadership Awards recognize individuals and organizations that have made extraordinary contributions to improving literacy in the United States. Recipients of the award have demonstrated their commitment by supporting literacy on the state and national level. NCL members are not eligible for this award.



*Dr. John Comings*

Nomination letters must include a one page summary of the nominee's qualifications and contributions to the field, biographical information, and complete contact information. **Please submit nominations to Heidi Silver-Pacuilla at [HSilver-Pacuilla@air.org](mailto:HSilver-Pacuilla@air.org) by April 30, 2009.**

Award recipients will be announced in May. The 2009 Literacy

Leadership Awards will be presented on Wednesday, September 16, 2009, at the James Madison Building of the Library of Congress. 2008 award recipients included The Honorable Rubén Hinojosa (Texas), Dr. John Comings, Better World Books, and the National Council of La Raza. The President's Award was presented to Infinity Business Group, Inc.



*Sherrie Claiborne, The Honorable Rubén Hinojosa, and The Honorable William F. Goodling*

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### Save the Date!

The next NCL member meeting is on **Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>** at the Hall of States, 9 AM to 3 PM, with a continental breakfast at 8:30 am and lunch. The fee is \$30.

Pang Houa Moua, Director of Community Education and Outreach, of the Asian American Justice Center, and Andy Van Kleunen, Executive Director of The Workforce Alliance, will join the members at the meeting to talk about their organizations' work. The Asian American Justice Center works to advance the human and civil rights for Asian Americans, and build and promote a fair and equitable society for all. They are the leading

publisher of public policy information and analysis serving the Asian American community. The Workforce Alliance is a national coalition of community-based organizations, community colleges, unions, business leaders and local officials advocating for policies that invest in the skills of America's workers. The Alliance supports expanding federal support for adult basic education and better integrating ABE instruction with occupational training that leads to careers.



### **NCL Advocacy Clearinghouse and Toolkit Resources for Letter Campaign**

The National Council of State Directors of Adult Education (NCSDAE) launched a letter writing campaign in March; adult literacy advocates are asking legislators to increase funding for Adult Education in FY10 to \$750 million. The NCL Advocacy Clearinghouse and Toolkit has resources to help you write and to mobilize your community:

- Letter Guidelines and Sample Letters:  
[http://www.ncladvocacy.org/tkcontact\\_write.html](http://www.ncladvocacy.org/tkcontact_write.html)
- "Cut and paste" Facts and Talking Points:  
<http://www.ncladvocacy.org/factfinder.html>
- District and State Fact Sheets:  
<http://www.ncladvocacy.org/ffdiststate.html>
- NCL Adult Education and Family Literacy Act Appropriations Fact Sheet:  
[http://www.ncladvocacy.org/MajorIssues\\_WIAApprops\\_Final/MajorIssues\\_WIAApprops\\_Final.pdf](http://www.ncladvocacy.org/MajorIssues_WIAApprops_Final/MajorIssues_WIAApprops_Final.pdf)
- Organize Local Networks to Write  
[http://www.ncladvocacy.org/tkcontact\\_write.html#organize](http://www.ncladvocacy.org/tkcontact_write.html#organize)

Staff, students, and community members are writing one page, original letters (no form letters) to each of their three federal legislators (U.S. Representative and Senators). The bulk of the letters should be sent by April 21; the goal for large states is to send 500 letters per Representative and 5,000 per Senator. These communications are to be delivered by fax, hand delivery, email, or phone (Do not send via U.S. Postal Service).

### **NCL Policy Strand at the COABE Conference**

NCL is again sponsoring a policy strand at the COABE Conference in Louisville, KY, at the Galt House Hotel. Policy sessions will run from Sunday, April 19, through Wednesday, April 22. Please see the attached flyer for the specific titles and times of the sessions. The policy strand has been well received in the past and is especially important this year as funding becomes even more competitive. COABE conference information may be found at <http://www.coabe.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=conferencesH>.

### **Coalition Calendar**

May 7: Membership Meeting, DC  
May 19: Dollar General Presentation Series, Jackson, MS  
Sept. 16: Literacy Leadership Awards, DC  
Sept. 17: Membership Meeting, DC  
Dec. 2. Policy Forum, DC  
Dec. 3: Membership Meeting, DC

### **Next Dollar General/NCL Meeting is May 19 in Jackson, MS**

Jackson, Mississippi, will be the site of the eighth meeting in the Dollar General Series on May 19. A featured speaker will be Dr. Phil Pepper, State Economist and IHL Assistant Commission for Planning and Research. Eloise Richardson, Adult Education Director from the State Board for Community and

Junior Colleges, is providing the local coordination. Since 2006, meetings have been held in: Nashville, TN; Phoenix, AZ; Baltimore, MD; Spartanburg, SC; Houston, TX; Columbia, MO; and Atlanta, GA. NCL has developed these regional, one-day conferences in collaboration with the Dollar General Literacy Foundation and local literacy organizations. The format includes presentations on: national policy and the importance of advocacy; representatives from the field discussing their advocacy successes; and an overview of community – business partnerships. NCL and local partners work together to identify issues, invite business partners, and recruit experts.

***Member Events***

Apr. 18-22: COABE Annual Conference, Louisville, KY  
 May 3-5: VALUE, 2009 Leadership Institute, New Carrollton, MD  
 May 3-7: IRA Annual Convention North Central, Minneapolis, MN  
 July 9-15: ALA, Annual Conference, Chicago, IL  
 July 19-22: CEA, Annual Conference, Madison, WI  
 Nov. 1-6: AAACE, Annual Conference, Cleveland, OH

*Members, to list your events, please send announcements to Jennifer Maloney at [Hjennifer.maloney@ncldc.net](mailto:Hjennifer.maloney@ncldc.net) by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month.*

***Public Policy Corner***

It appears this new Congress is not going to waste any time moving legislation. Legislation authorizing and reforming our nation’s national service laws has cleared its final hurdle and will soon be on its way to the White House. H.R. 1388, The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act was approved by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 275 to 149. This legislation moved through Congress very quickly. It passed the House on March 18. On March 26, the Senate amended the House bill and its title and sent it back to the House for further consideration. The revised legislation passed the House on March 31. For further information on this legislation, please check the Education and Labor Committee’s website at <http://edlabor.house.gov/newsroom/2009/03/house-sends-landmark-national.shtml>

Both the House and Senate are also continuing their consideration of changes to the Workforce Investment Act. This past week the Senate held the first of four WIA Listening Sessions. Each session allows attendees to comment on specific questions posed by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. The question for April 7 was how to modernize the system to ensure that all adults who are interested in and need training can obtain access to training and related services and how such training serves as an on ramp to a career pathway which includes a postsecondary credential that leads to a family-supporting job. The session was well attended, with several representatives from the adult education community, including ProLiteracy, the state directors, VALUE, TESOL, and the NCL in attendance and contributing to the discussion.

There will be additional sessions April 14, 15 and 16, to address topics related to dislocated workers, youth, and accountability. On May 19, the Committee will hold a hearing on WIA Reauthorization.

On the House side of the Capitol, it is almost a certainty that the Education and Labor Committee's Subcommittee on Higher Education, Lifelong Learning, and Competitiveness will hold a hearing focusing on adult education on May 5, 2009. The Coalition has been working with committee staff to help identify strong witnesses for the hearing.

We can only hope that all of this activity indicates that we will finally get the reauthorization bill we have been seeking.

Finally, the House and Senate have now passed their own versions of a Budget for 2010. As you will recall, the budget sets the overall funding levels for the next fiscal year. Actual funding levels for individual programs are established through the appropriations process. However, the funding levels for various budget functions are important because they impact the amount of funding available to be divided among the various programs.

The House-passed budget resolution includes \$88.7 billion in discretionary funding for Function 500 for FY 2010 for Education, Training, Employment and Social Services, including adult education and family literacy programs and Even Start. This is a \$4.4 billion increase above the FY 2009 levels. The Senate budget resolution provides \$89.4 billion for Function 500, which is approximately \$700 million more than the House version. Both would increase the function levels significantly in the out years beyond 2010. The House and Senate are expected to begin conference negotiations when Congress reconvenes the week of April 20.

As you can see, things are moving along and early predictions that this would be a busy year are right on target.

Lynn Selmsner

## **Glenn Cummings Appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Vocational & Adult Education**

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced the appointment of Glenn Cummings as Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Vocational & Adult Education, coordinating programs related to adult education and literacy, career and technical education, and community colleges.

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## **Job Opening at the Maryland Dept. of Labor**

The Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) is currently seeking an individual to function as a **Deputy Assistant Secretary, Correctional Education Program within the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning** based in Baltimore City. The position serves as a member of the Department's Leadership Team. (See attached flyer for the details.)

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## Some Useful Information on ARRA

Below are listed some resources for accessing funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. You can link to <http://www.ed.gov/index.jhtml> to hear the archived webcast briefing for associations in which Secretary Arne Duncan and senior advisors discussed Recovery Act guidance and answered questions. You can also see an expanded version of the [slideshow presentation](#) that was used at the briefing.

You can get ongoing information on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: Get ED ARRA news by visiting [www.ed.gov/recovery/](http://www.ed.gov/recovery/) or by subscribing to the ED ARRA RSS feed at <http://www.ed.gov/rss/arracomms.xml>. Also visit the NCL Advocacy Clearinghouse and Toolkit at [http://www.ncladvocacy.org/act\\_president.html](http://www.ncladvocacy.org/act_president.html).

The Department of Education's webpage now includes the timetable for funding available under ARRA: <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/index.html>. It is the first item listed on the recovery page as you scroll down, in Excel and PDF versions. The Department of Education has released initial guidance on the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/factsheet/stabilization-fund.html>

More information is at <http://www.learningpt.org/recovery/>, Education Recovery and Reinvestment Center, a one-stop for educators and policymakers to help them track developments and find current information on the ARRA.

State policy leaders also cannot allow the current economic crisis to deter investment in higher education. The Advisory to State Fiscal Policymakers, published by three key higher education policy organizations, suggests how states can best use the one-time infusion of federal funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to protect college access and quality, while improving cost effectiveness and increasing degree productivity.

### **Keeping track of federal stimulus funds**

The creation of new agencies, commissions and Web sites are some of the ways that states intend to track and oversee forthcoming federal funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The National Conference of State Legislatures provides a summary of state actions related to ARRA.

### **Stimulus package analyzed by ECS**

The Education Commission of the States offers an analysis of the Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, including how much new education funding states can expect to receive.

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## Research News

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) will be unveiling a new version of the NAEP Data Explorer (NDE) in the coming weeks. The current version is still

available until the transition at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata/>

The new tool will take advantage of the latest internet technology to present users with a friendlier interface, enhanced analysis selections, and improved reporting options to aid researchers, policy-makers, and others interested in investigating the results from NAEP assessments. Watch for another NewsFlash next week with the new URL and a more detailed description of the tool enhancements. Several training courses will be offered at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association this month. For more information or to register for these courses, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/aera.asp>

NAEP, the National Assessment of Educational Progress, is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics within the Institute of Education Sciences.

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## **From the Lumina Foundation**

### **New ideas to boost access, attainment**

A college fund for every student, social insurance for college costs and an open-university concept model are among the higher education ideas proposed by the [New America Foundation](#) in [10 New Higher Education Ideas for a New Congress](#).

### **Educating the 'forgotten middle'**

Demand for "middle-skill" jobs-positions that require education and training but not necessarily a four-year college degree-is expected to remain robust over the next decade, according to the [Brookings Institution](#). To meet this demand, [The Future of Middle-Skill Jobs](#) advocates additional investments in workforce education and training programs for traditional-age students and adults, greater involvement from local industry and more apprenticeship training.

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Visit the National Coalition for Literacy's website for more information.  
<http://www.national-coalition-literacy.org/>