E-BAES March 2020 Update

As the Evidence-Based Adult Education System (E-BAES) initiative approaches its first anniversary, Open Door Collective (http://www.opendoorcollective.org/), a program of Literacy Minnesota (https://www.literacymn.org/), is sharing this update on E-BAES' progress. Since the first E-BAES update in September 2019, Eric Nesheim and Margaret Patterson, Co-leaders of E-BAES, met with stakeholders at the ProLiteracy Conference in San Diego and at the AAACE conference in St Louis. At these meetings they shared and took comments on the E-BAES framework. In November 2019, Margaret Patterson participated in a research panel at the National Summit on Adult Literacy in DC, sponsored by Barbara Bush Foundation, and presented the E-BAES framework as part of the panel.

In January 2020 the E-BAES taskforce considered and adopted a plan of action to guide E-BAES' next steps. The plan of action includes initial planning efforts to launch E-BAES, from January 2020 through May 2020, and implementation steps, planned for May through August 2020. Initial planning steps included: deciding on two initial projects that E-BAES could implement, identifying a non-profit organization that could fiscally sponsor E-BAES to move its work forward, and submitting initial funding proposals. A first proposal was developed in January 2020, then finalized and submitted to a potential funder in February 2020. Planning to develop additional funding proposals is underway.

The next step for E-BAES is implementation. Several members of the E-BAES taskforce have volunteered to serve on an advisory group for E-BAES once funding is in place and a project director can be recruited. The project director and advisory group will guide the work of E-BAES and create a clear vision. They will conduct strategic planning to build E-BAES, develop its initial research agenda, and ensure that E-BAES work is kept “on the front burner" in adult education. On the taskforce’s recommendation, the initiative will “start small and build" so that E-BAES' national network model has time to grow, complete its initial projects, and conduct research that has a positive impact on practice and adult learner outcomes.

Open Door Collective and the E-BAES Co-leaders had planned to host or participate in meetings at COABE Conference in Baltimore and at AERA Conference in San Francisco. However, with the postponement/cancellation of conferences because of Coronavirus health concerns, those meetings will not occur as originally scheduled. Once they can be rescheduled, future meeting dates will be announced. In the meantime, the E-BAES taskforce will continue to meet virtually throughout the spring and continue working toward its launch and implementation in summer 2020.

E-BAES Co-leaders will continue to provide updates as future plans emerge. Contacts for E-BAES are: Eric Nesheim (enesheim@literacymn.org) or Margaret Patterson (margaret@researchallies.org). For more information, visit the Open Door Collective website (http://www.opendoorcollective.org/). To register for ongoing E-BAES updates, visit: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ebs-for-abe.