AGENDA

Objectives:

This three-day meeting hosts State Directors from across the nation and aims to provide the following:

- An opportunity to interact with senior administration leaders, federal partners, and other stakeholders on policy related to adult education programs and implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).
- A forum to network with colleagues about the preparation and planning for Unified and Combined State Plans under WIOA.
- Learning opportunities related to implementing WIOA, programs and services to support career pathways, alignment of services through the one-stop delivery system, and performance accountability.

Tuesday, August 25

7:30 AM – 4:00 PM  
Registration and Information

8:30 AM – 8:45 AM  
Welcome and Roll Call of States

Room:  Edison Ballroom D

Presenter:  Cheryl L. Keenan, Director  
Division of Adult Education and Literacy  
Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education  
U.S. Department of Education

8:45 AM – 9:15 AM  
Conference Keynote

Room:  Edison Ballroom D

Presenter:  Johan E. Uvin, Acting Assistant Secretary  
Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education  
U.S. Department of Education
Vision for WIOA Implementation: A Conversation With Senior Leaders

Room: Edison Ballroom D

Facilitator: Lul Tesfai, Senior Policy Advisor
Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education U.S. Department of Education

Panelists: Susan Golonka, Deputy Director
Office of Family Assistance at Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Janet LaBreck, Commissioner
Rehabilitation Services Administration
Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services
U.S. Department of Education

Johan E. Uvin, Acting Assistant Secretary
Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education
U.S. Department of Education

Portia Wu, Assistant Secretary
Employment and Training Administration
U.S Department of Labor

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) encourages new opportunities for innovation and collaboration across the federal and state agencies. WIOA increases access to employment, education, training, and support services for individuals, particularly those with barriers to employment, and to the services they need to succeed in the labor market. Senior leaders from ED, HHS, and DOL have expanded efforts to implement WIOA and effect significant improvements in services at the local level. Panelists will discuss an interagency perspective on the vision for WIOA and provide an opportunity for participants to interact with senior leaders.

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM

Break

10:45 AM – 12:00 Noon

Moving Forward With State Planning for WIOA: Examples From States

Room: Edison Ballroom D

Facilitator: Karla Ver Bryck Block
Division of Adult Education and Literacy
Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education
U.S. Department of Education

Presenters: Aaron R. Fichtner, Deputy Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Susan Fish, State Director of Adult Education
Kansas Board of Regents

Jon Kerr, Director of Adult Basic Education
Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges

Gail Senese, State Director of Adult Education and
Family Literacy
Maine Department of Education

WIOA requires robust partnerships and supports innovative strategies that call for improved collaboration between adult education, vocational rehabilitation, workforce development agencies, and other necessary partners to successfully serve adult learners, job seekers, and workers. During this session, states will have the opportunity to hear from a variety of states on their experiences, challenges, and how states have incorporated strategic priorities, as well as essential requirements, to address partner engagement and the state plan development process. Participants will be encouraged to reflect on their own experiences and identify promising strategies as they continue their state implementation efforts.

12:00 Noon – 1:15 PM  Lunch

1:15 PM – 1:45 PM  “WIOA-Friendly” Community College Updates

Room:  Edison Ballroom D

Speakers:  Mark Mitsui, Assistant Secretary for Community Colleges
Division of Adult Education and Literacy
Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education
U.S. Department of Education

U.S. schools and classrooms ranked near the bottom among the countries studied in a first-ever report on education innovation by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, or OECD. The U.S. mean literacy score was below the international average, ranking 16th out of 24 countries, in the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC), which was also conducted by OECD. This session will provide updates on several ED initiatives that will help to improve the U.S. global education performance and education innovation ranking. Initiatives to be discussed will include America's College Promise, the partial restoration of Ability to Benefit, ED’s Community College work plan, and a new adult education national leadership activity, Supporting Student Success.
1:45 PM – 2:45 PM  **Preparing for Innovation and Opportunity in Adult Education**

Room:  Edison Ballroom D

Facilitator:  Chris Coro, Deputy Director  
Division of Adult Education and Literacy  
Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education  
U.S. Department of Education

This interactive state networking session will provide an opportunity to reflect on earlier conference discussions within the context of individual state’s experiences preparing for WIOA implementation. States will have the opportunity to share lessons learned and provide OCTAE with suggestions for future technical assistance needs to support smooth and successful WIOA implementation.

2:45 PM – 3:00 PM  **Break**

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM  **Marketplace of Ideas for Innovative Practice**

Room:  Edison CBA Foyer

Join us in the Marketplace of Ideas for Innovative Practice to see, touch, and experience digital resources (Open Education Resources, Hybrid training, online courses, distance learning repositories, etc.) to extend, enrich and accelerate your faculty and student learning experiences. Network with developers, innovators and contractors as well as other state directors and their staff.

4:00 PM – 4:30 PM  **Special Topic Session-Maintenance of Effort**

Room:  Edison Ballroom D

Presenters:  Jay LeMaster  
Division of Adult Education and Literacy  
Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education  
U.S. Department of Education

Josh Behsudi  
Division of Adult Education and Literacy  
Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education  
U.S. Department of Education

This optional session will provide participants with a description of the statutory maintenance of effort (MOE) and matching requirements. Participants will learn how to calculate MOE using both aggregate expenditure and cost-per-participant options. They will hear about a variety of possible scenarios resulting from reduced non-federal spending. This session also is an opportunity to receive technical assistance on specific state concerns with meeting the MOE requirement. Each state attending this session will receive an individualized state profile containing data on aggregate federal and non-federal expenditures and non-federal cost per student.

4:30 PM  **Close of Day 1**
One of the most significant changes in WIOA is the shift in focus from in-school youth to out-of-school youth. The new legislation requires a minimum of 75% of WIOA youth funds to be spent on out-of-school youth, a large increase from WIA’s 30% out-of-school minimum. This shift will mean a national refocusing of resources on the estimated six million 16- to 24-year-olds in the U.S. who are unemployed and not in school. As states and local areas are making this shift, DOL wants to share the latest research on what works, some best practices, and check in with you to see how this new requirement is going in your area. Please join the conversation so we can gear our mutual efforts towards best serving this very important shared customer!

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) provides a central role for career pathways in the workforce development system. State and local boards are responsible for developing strategies to support career pathways. Adult Education State agencies are required use state leadership funds to develop career pathways to provide access to employment and training for individuals enrolled in adult education. This session will showcase tools to help states form public-private partnerships, locate career pathway resources,
develop policies, collect and manage data, as well as find and share promising models to develop and scale high-quality, sustainable pathways.

_Update on Local One-Stop Implementation_

Room: Edison EF

Presenters: Robert Kight, Chief
Division of WIOA Adult Services and Workforce System
U.S. Department of Labor

Larry Burns, Acting Chief of the Adult Policy Unit
Employment and Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor

Heather Fleck, Chief of the Governance Unit
Employment and Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) presents an extraordinary opportunity to improve job and career options for our nation’s workers and jobseekers. The new law retains and improves the important nationwide system of one-stop centers. This concurrent session will explore upcoming strategies including guidance and technical assistance that will be used to fulfill the new WIOA regulations that now place greater emphasis on one-stops achieving results for jobseekers, workers, and businesses.

_Developing Next-Generation Assessments for Adult Education_

Room: Wright

Presenter: Larry Condelli, Managing Director
Workforce and Lifelong Learning Program
American Institutes for Research

Cheryl L. Keenan, Director
Division of Adult Education and Literacy
Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education
U.S. Department of Education

The College and Career Readiness Standards and WIOA’s requirement for states to adopt content standards are resulting in changes to teaching for adult education. With changes in teaching, adult education is challenged to develop appropriate new assessments that will take advantage of the latest technology and approaches to assessment. This session will review ideas on next generation assessment for adult education stemming from a meeting of assessment experts in fall of 2014. The audience will engage in discussion of the desired characteristics of new assessments, ways to promote their development and adoption, and the challenges facing the field in implementing them.
Reentry Education: Lessons Learned and Next Steps

Room: Edison C

Presenters: Wendy Erisman, Owner
Strix Research, LLC

Lul Tesfai, Senior Policy Advisor
Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education
U.S. Department of Education

Michelle C. Tolbert, Senior Program Director
Adult and Career Education
RTI International

In 2013, the U.S. Department of Education awarded grants to three demonstration sites to implement the Reentry Education Model, designed to bridge the gap between facility- and community-based education and training programs. This concurrent session will (1) provide an overview of the model’s strengths and limitations based on the findings from an implementation study; (2) share lessons learned from the three demonstration sites (Lancaster Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13 in PA, Barton Community College in KS, and Western Technical College in WI); and (3) clarify how this work is informing WIOA provisions for correctional education and future work under OCTAE’s Improved Reentry Education program and other federal reentry initiatives. Participants also will be invited to discuss their experiences with providing reentry education to adults involved with the criminal justice system.

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM Break
10:15 AM – 11:45 AM Concurrent Sessions (Repeat of Above Sessions)
11:45 AM – 12:00 Noon Break
12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM Lunch
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM Mini-Institutes (must be pre-registered)

Uniform Guidance: Transitioning from WIA to WIOA

Room: Edison EF

Session A: Sharon Harrington
Presenters: Division of Adult Education and Literacy
Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education
U.S. Department of Education

Zina Watkins
Division of Adult Education and Literacy
Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education
U.S. Department of Education
Uniform Guidance: Transitioning from WIA to WIOA

Room: Banneker

Session B

Teresa Bestor

Presenters:
Division of Adult Education and Literacy
Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education
U.S. Department of Education

Rebecca Moak
Division of Adult Education and Literacy
Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education
U.S. Department of Education

As state leaders transition adult education programs from WIA to WIOA, grant responsibilities are changing as well. These changes are driven not only by the new law, but also by the issuance of the Uniform Guidance by OMB and updates to EDGAR. The Monitoring and Administration Team in the Division of Adult Education and Literacy will cover activities involved in closing your WIA grant, identify key changes from WIA to WIOA that affect the adult education program, highlight program grant requirements that remain the same under the new law, and provide an opportunity to discuss how the issuance of the Uniform Guidance impacts the adult education program.

The Art and Science of Negotiation

Room: Edison C

Presenter: Amanda Duffy and Michelle Perry
Workforce and Lifelong Learning Program
American Institutes for Research

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act supports innovative strategies to keep pace with changing economic conditions and calls for improved collaboration between adult education, vocational rehabilitation, and workforce development agencies—not just at the state and local levels but at the federal level as well. Improved collaboration calls for strong negotiation skills. Through a combination of presentation, collaborative learning, and “hands on” application, this mini-institute will help participants sharpen their negotiation skills as leaders in WIOA implementation.

Transforming Adult Education for a Customer-Centered Workforce Development System

Room: Edison AB

Presenter: Richard D. Maher, President & CEO
Maher & Maher

Christy Montgomery, Senior Analyst
Maher & Maher
As state leaders strategize for WIOA implementation, conversations turn to “customer-centered” goals and approaches. What does this mean for adult education? In this mini-institute, participants will learn more about the underlying principles of what it means to build a more “customer-centered” workforce development system as well as explore the implications for adult education. The session will include presentations, collaborative learning, and “hands on” application. Participants will complete the workshop with concrete “next steps” for better positioning adult education in a customer-centered workforce development system.

4:00 PM

Close of Day Two
Thursday, August 27

8:30 AM – 10:30 AM State Regional Meeting Breakout Sessions

♦ **Region 1** Teresa Bestor (Northeast)
  Room: Banneker

♦ **Region 2** Sharon Harrington (South)
  Room: Wright

♦ **Region 3** Rebecca Moak (Midwest)
  Room: Edison B

♦ **Regions 4 & 5** Zina Watkins (West and outlying areas)
  Room: Edison F

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM Break

10:45 AM – 11:30 AM Director’s Update and Reflections

Room: Edison Ballroom D

Presenter: Cheryl L. Keenan, Director
Division of Adult Education and Literacy
Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education
U.S. Department of Education

11:30 AM Final Evaluation and Adjournment

Room: Edison Ballroom D