

OVAE CONNECTION

Dann-Messier to Represent the U.S. at Shanghai Forum on Lifelong Learning

OVAE Assistant Secretary [Brenda Dann-Messier](#) will represent the United States at the Shanghai International [Forum on Lifelong Learning](#) to be held from May 19 to 21, 2010, in Shanghai, the People's Republic of China. This meeting will be a continuation of a policy dialogue among UNESCO member states that started at the 2009 CONFINTEA VI (Sixth International Conference on Adult Education) meeting in Belém, Brazil. Participants will discuss practical guidelines for building lifelong learning systems, including: (1) reviewing progress and challenges in developing national strategies for promoting lifelong learning; (2) sharing experiences and best practices in establishing lifelong learning systems; and (3) developing capacities for policy-making and research in lifelong learning in UNESCO member states.

Texas NRS Data Helps Turn Around Low-Performing Adult Education Programs

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) and [Texas LEARNS](#) use performance data collected for OVAE's National Reporting System (NRS) to help turn around low-performing adult education programs. Texas LEARNS is a division of the Harris County Department of Education that is under contract with TEA. A new statewide system combines data analysis and technical assistance. TEA's state-of-the-art data management system generates information for local programs about their performance compared to the performance targets agreed to by the state under the *Workforce Investment Act (WIA)*. Programs not meeting their targets must prepare a program improvement plan (PIP) to achieve target levels within three years. They receive continuous support and technical assistance from Texas LEARNS. Twenty-nine of the state's adult education programs were placed on a PIP based on their 2006–07 performance. All 29 met the required 50 percent of their targets by the end of program year 2008–09. TEA policy requires programs to meet the targets within three years to maintain funding.

10 States Eligible for Incentive Grants

The U.S. departments of Labor and Education recently announced that 10 states are eligible to apply for *Workforce Investment Act (WIA)* incentive grant awards totaling \$9,760,450. These funds reward states that met or exceeded their 2008 performance targets for both *WIA* Title I B workforce programs and *Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA)* education programs.

	State	Amount available
1.	Colorado	\$870,920
2.	Connecticut	\$844,169
3.	Illinois	\$1,238,005
4.	Iowa	\$806,297
5.	Kentucky	\$964,785
6.	Minnesota	\$881,593
7.	Missouri	\$988,456
8.	Nebraska	\$784,251
9.	New York	\$1,405,909
10.	Tennessee	\$976,065

States may use the funds for any costs that can be supported under *WIA* Title I B or *AEFLA* and thus will have flexibility in deciding how much of the grant to use for adult education services. Past projects have used incentive funds, for example, to establish accelerated learning programs, create innovative job-readiness programs, support student transitions, and pilot curriculum in career planning and work readiness.

IES Adult and Postsecondary Education Research Grants Competition

The Institute of Education Sciences (IES) has established research grant competitions in [postsecondary and adult education research](#) (see items 15 and 16). The topics include: (1) factors related to better student outcomes; (2) developing innovative interventions, programs, practices, and policies; (3) evaluating interventions, programs, practices, and policies; (4) evaluating impact of interventions, programs, practices, and policies when employed at scale; and (5) developing and validating relevant assessments. Competitions are being held in each area with common application deadlines of June 24 and Sept. 16, 2010.

FFA Going Global

FFA's Global Outreach: Africa ([FFA GO: Africa](#)) is a new opportunity for college agriculture students to learn firsthand about global issues and challenges related to agriculture, food, hunger, poverty, and human suffering. The objective of the program is to engage students in making a positive humanitarian contribution in the world while participating in agriculture projects that also prepare students for careers and leadership. Students may also arrange for college credit.

The college-enrolled students will begin their experience with a two-day orientation in Washington, D.C., before departing for Mfuwe, Zambia. Students will study the serious challenges facing that country while living and working for two weeks with the staff of Community Markets for Conservation ([COMACO](#)). COMACO is a model for rural development that supports natural resource management. Following their study in Zambia, the students will return to Washington, D.C., for debriefing and making post-trip presentations based on their experiences in the program.

This program is being made possible through a gift from the Howard G. Buffet Foundation and will run from July 28 through Aug. 20, 2010. Buffet is a United Nations Ambassador against Hunger and a celebrated agriculturalist and humanitarian.

Promise Neighborhood Program Will Fund Planning in FY 2010. Implementation in 2011

The [Promise Neighborhood Program](#) is a recently announced federal initiative to put K-12 education at the center of comprehensive efforts to fight poverty in urban, rural, and tribal communities. The program offers \$10 million in fiscal year 2010. The funds will support up to 20 organizations with one year of funding to plan for the implementation of cradle-through-college-to-career services designed to improve educational and developmental outcomes for students in the most distressed U.S. neighborhoods. Applications are due on June 25.

The Promise Neighborhoods program is based on the experience of programs such as the [Harlem Children's Zone](#), which serves a nearly 100-block area in New York City with parenting classes, early learning centers, and health and social service programs and has boosted students' academic outcomes dramatically. Under the Promise Neighborhood program, nonprofits and institutions of higher education will be eligible for one-year grants supporting the design of comprehensive community programs. The programs must have the specific goal of preparing students for success in college and careers. As part of the planning process, applicants must focus their efforts on schools in the neighborhood and build services for students in those schools from birth through college to career.

The funding of planning grants to develop Promise Neighborhoods is the first step in a multiyear process. President Obama's fiscal year 2011 budget includes \$210 million to support five-year grants to implement plans to offer comprehensive services and to support planning grants in additional communities.