

OVAE Seeks Supervisory Education Program Specialist

OVAE has advertised for the position of Supervisory Education Program Specialist (GS-1720-14). The person in this position serves as the supervisor of the Division of Adult Education and Literacy's Accountability Team. This position has been held by Mike Dean, who is retiring from the Department. The vacancy announcements are currently posted on USAJOBS and are scheduled to **close on July 1, 2011**. OVAE is recruiting from all sources for the position. Prospective applicants are expected to possess knowledge of performance management systems; knowledge of Management Information System (MIS) design and implementation; knowledge of fiscal grant administration; and experience analyzing legislation and policy documents. For complete information on the position as well as guidelines for the application process, please access one of the following links: [all sources](#) (qualified U.S. citizens) or [status candidates](#) (federal agency employees).

Navy Renews Focus on STEM Education

Achieving President Obama's goal that the United States will be the best educated nation by 2020 requires collaboration across many groups. The Navy is one of these groups and [Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus recently announced a plan](#) for "doubling the Navy's investment in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education over the next five years." Mabus added that the Navy would do this "in a targeted and innovative way ... [to] reach the maximum number of people and have the maximum impact."

The Navy's initiative is designed to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers; engage students in STEM-related hands-on learning using Navy-centric content; educate students in the STEM disciplines so they are prepared for the Navy and Marine Corps' high-tech careers; employ, retain, and develop STEM professionals; and collaborate across the naval STEM enterprise with organizations around the country to maximize the benefit to the Navy and Marine Corps. The Navy's financial commitment to STEM education initiatives will increase from \$54 million in 2010 to more than \$100 million in 2015.

"The U.S. is a world technology leader and the goal of Navy STEM is to keep it that way," according to Rear Adm. Nevin Carr, who leads the Office of Naval Research. "Each of the member organizations across the naval research enterprise is deeply committed to actively supporting the secretary's plan."

The Navy's goal is to develop and promote common policies and tools to support STEM education, establish a "one-stop" information portal for public exchange of naval STEM programs, and develop partnerships with federal agencies, stakeholders, and other services.

OVAE Hosts Interagency Prisoner Reentry Research Meeting

OVAE's Office of Correctional Education hosted a first-of-its-kind meeting on prisoner reentry research. On June 16 Meeting attendees represented a variety of agencies and entities, including the departments of Labor, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, Health and Human Services, and Veterans Affairs, as well as the Social Security Administration, the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, the National Institute of Corrections, and the Urban Institute. The meeting was sponsored by the [Federal Interagency Reentry Council](#)—first convened in January 2011 by Attorney General Eric Holder. Council members include Cabinet-level officials, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan among them.

The council supports the administration's reentry agenda through several coordinated goals and activities. One of these goals is to identify research as well as evidence-based practices, policies, and programs to advance the council's mission for prisoner reentry and community safety. OVAE Assistant Secretary Brenda Dann-Messier was charged by Secretary Duncan to lead the Department of Education's participation in the Reentry Council.

Meeting participants heard a briefing on the [What Works in Reentry project](#), funded by the *Second Chance Act*, currently being developed by the [Urban Institute's Justice Policy Center](#). Center Director Nancy La Vigne explained the project's *What Works* model, including rating criteria for interventions. Following the project briefing, representatives shared their agencies' current and projected sponsored research, as well as opportunities to further coordinate these initiatives. Meeting participants repeatedly stressed the interdisciplinary nature of reentry work, and thus the need for interagency coordination and collaboration.

New Report Recommends Approaches to Increase the Number of Adults With Postsecondary Credentials

The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) recently released the report [Giving Credit Where Credit is Due: Creating a Competency-Based Qualifications Framework for Postsecondary Education and Training](#). It focuses on developing a structure that allows adult students to receive credit for the education and training they receive in the labor market. This approach would increase the likelihood of their earning postsecondary credentials. The report has three key recommendations for establishing a competency-based system for measuring learning and awarding postsecondary credit:

- Create a national, competency-based framework for U.S. postsecondary education that includes certificate-level workforce education and training.
- Reduce institutional barriers between credit-and noncredit-bearing education.
- Link data systems to provide a more comprehensive picture of student learning outcomes.