Knowledge Up

A CCC Adult Education Quarterly Update

Fall 2015 News and Updates

- Our Website in B version is up and running. Keep checking for updates to get your own union email. AFSCME3506.ORG
- Thanksgiving Celebration: Join us Saturday, November 28, 1-5 p.m. for food, music, and camaraderie at Arturo Velasquez Institute. Come celebrate our unity and honor recent retirees and deceased teachers. Please bring a dish (dessert or drink) to share. RSVP to Sonia Flores at sflores@ccc.edu or via e-vite.
- Bonus Pay will be partially distributed in a couple of pay periods. It is the distribution of $241,000 for hours taught. The rest of the much-deserved performance remuneration should be received sometime this fall. Please speak to your steward or our executive board members, or call our President, George Roumbanis, at 773-744-7603 for more details about how Governor Rauner is causing our pay to be held back.
- Upcoming meetings and events can be found on our calendar at http://afscme3506.org/events/

From the Editors:

10 years ago, institutions such as Harvard recognized the explosion of adult education seminars, courses, certificates, and degrees that have erupted around us, forever altering what education means in our society. People over 25 have been identified as being the largest and fastest-growing education sector in the country. According to Robert Kegan, PhD, a professor at the Graduate School of Education (GSE): “the number of formal adult-learning courses that go on within businesses and organizations is itself larger than the entire higher-education enterprise in the United States.”

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Within this context, we must examine and demonstrate the reality of adult education for the students in our programs. We might ask why it has taken more than a decade to just start tapping into the potential of well-built Adult Education programs within the CCC system, by the means of certificate and bridge programs, etc. Is it an accident that the most effective AE program is Truman College (and certainly the only one to receive above-average ratings as per the AFSCME 3506 support survey)? Truman is the only program that has focused on continuity, internal hiring, and commitment to many past effective practices. Please see a brief report on our Quality of Support Evaluation Survey.

No matter how we evaluate our programs at the end of the day, they have outperformed CPS and CCC Credit in functional performance, student satisfaction, and graduation outcomes. To put it simply: in a city abandoned by its own administration, with no police in the neighborhoods, ongoing school closings, diminished employment opportunities, and a shrinking population, we Adult Educators are one of the few reasons that regular working people are willing to come to our city every day.

Chicago is home to **588,000 immigrants**, and Suburban Cook County is home to **503,000 immigrants**. With about 40% of this foreign-born population not having been naturalized, there are approximately 440,000 potential participants in our adult education services and programs.\(^2\) At the same time, 15% of all 19- to 24-year-olds in Chicago don’t have a high school diploma or access to a process of acquiring a regular high school diploma. Approximately one-third of African Americans and Latinos in that age category are included in the previous number.\(^3\) Combined, both populations have a massive number of people who we have to count on to build our economy and secure our future. Many of them are our neighbors, will marry into our families, and at a minimum should become taxpayers to provide for our retirement and the future of our nation.

How can we explain the ongoing diminishing registrations in Adult Education classes? While a good answer would have to be multidimensional, a fair observer would have to consider the allergic reaction that CCC has in promoting AE on its own merit. One must consider the revision of Adult Education programs away from past successful educational and administrative practices to parasite-like methods that deprive and redirect the flow of nutrients of our program to the vampire-white elephant that CCC is.

Then it must be our duty to stand up as a union, as professionals and as neighbors, for our future and for our past. We must stand up because of the opportunity we’ve had to teach such wonderful students, and the appreciation and hope that they have brought to our lives, communities, and nation. We must stand up for our programs because it is the right thing to do. Because if we don’t make the crucial role we play clear to our society, we will become victims and powerless spectators to the slaughter party that Governor Rauner is preparing for anything
and anyone who sustains working people and the public. That this will happen (unless we stop them) under the premise and the subterfuge of controlling bureaucracy and waste (when our members have lived on a pittance) will be the icing on the cake.

**Call for action!** Join one of our committees now! Call, email, or write to find a way to lead, or at least be involved. Contributing writers are needed from each of our colleges. Please send submissions for inclusion in this newsletter to afscme3506@gmail.com

2. [icirr.org/sites/default/files/fact%20sheet-demography%202011.pdf](http://icirr.org/sites/default/files/fact%20sheet-demography%202011.pdf)

**A. Tech Tips for Teachers** is a blog for adult education teachers and tutors looking for straightforward help on integrating technology into instruction. The blog includes step-by-step lesson ideas that demonstrate ways to weave technology into lessons without losing sight of the original lesson plan. Some of the blog posts highlight interesting online resources, and others explore different uses of basic software such as the Microsoft Office suite. Most lessons can be adapted for use in classes of different levels for English language learners, basic skills students, or high school equivalency classes. They also include ideas for a range of tech skill levels for teachers who are still just getting started using technology in their classrooms, and for more sophisticated users looking for interesting new tools to try out. [http://techtipsforteachers.weebly.com/](http://techtipsforteachers.weebly.com/)

**B. A brief survey of what our colleagues are currently reading**

