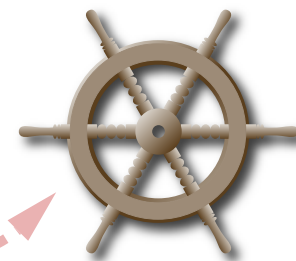


Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Celebrating a decade of enhancing PD for adult educators

by Betty-Jean Aucoin, Executive Staff Officer, Professional Development

On November 3, 2003 Faculty and Professional Support members of the Community College Local put forward a petition to organize a new professional association in support of adult educators. Within their petition they noted that an Association of Adult Educators would allow adult public educators, especially Community College Faculty and Professional Support, to explore and enhance their professional development and to participate in the Provincial Professional Development Day of the NSTU. This would also allow for the recognition of the andragogical model used in public education. Four months after receiving the final approval from the NSTU Provincial Executive, these members hosted their first Association of Adult Educators conference at NSCC Marconi Campus, in Sydney.

Ten years later, AAE participates as one of 22 NSTU's professional associations. The Association of Adult Educators (AAE) offers high quality conferences focused on its mandate articulated within the first opening speech in 2004. Debbie McVeigh, AAE president addressed the first group of AAE members and outlined its mandate in support of adult educators, "AAE exists to foster excellence in the practice of teaching adults by providing opportunities to adult educators, to explore and to enhance professional development by sharing best practices, reviewing evidence-based literature and promoting gold standards within adult education." It continues to do this ten years later.

Over the past ten years, the Executive of AAE and conference committee have put forward excellent learning opportunities for their members and partners in education. A review of the conferences showcases a wide variety of themes supporting the needs of educators from all levels. Following are conference themes over the past



Debbie McVeigh, founding member and past president of AAE, now AAE treasurer, addresses delegates of the AAE conference on October 26, 2012 at NSCC's Marconi Campus.

decade: 2004 *Embracing Change*; 2005 *Always Learning*; 2006 *Who What When Where – the Y Generation Hits Post-Secondary*; 2007 *Meeting the Future Head-On*; 2008 *Healthy Educators and Healthy Students*; 2009 *The World in Our Classroom; When Learners are Our Teachers* (this was cancelled due to an impending strike); 2010 *Harvesting Educational Innovations*; 2011 *The World in Our Classrooms*; 2012 *Looking Forward as Educators* and most recent 2013 *Teaching...Learning...Caring*.

This year over 150 faculty, professional support, public school teachers and many partners returned to Marconi Campus participating in sessions on teaching, learning and caring. Don Fraser, former professor at Durham College presented a keynote and follow-up session on *The Eight Cornerstones of Great Teaching, Learning, and Careers*. Other topics were *Lessons in Sustainable Happiness, Meta Cognition, Cyber bullying, Sexting, Texting and Media Now*.

We are fortunate within the NSTU to have over 900 community college members representing 13 Community College campuses. As one of the largest Locals in our union representing faculty

and professional support staff, we are fortunate to have AAE volunteers who support the professional development of adult educators. Having the opportunity to present at and attend sessions at an AAE Conference, I note they provide excellent professional development for educators of children, youth and adults.

Congratulations and best wishes to AAE's Conference Planning Committee in their venture to plan the 10th Annual Conference this year. We look forward to seeing AAE put forward another great



Dave Royal provided the keynote address at the inaugural AAE conference on October 22, 2004. The theme of the conference was Embracing Change.

learning opportunity for our members enhancing the learning of Nova Scotia students.



Above are members of the first AAE conference planning team in 2004. Front row: Louis Robitaille, Pat Twast, Larry Johnston and Debbie McVeigh. Back row: Kevin Wilson, Paul Goyette, Goretta Kibyuk and Robert Scott. Missing: Barb Burke.

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