

Agents of Change



By Jeff Clutter,
Adult Education Director
Vigo County

The Indiana Association for Adult and Continuing Education just hosted its annual state conference on April 27th, 28th and 29th in beautiful French Lick, Indiana. This year's conference theme was "Agents of Change," which was meant to represent the impact that all those involved in adult education have on the lives of those in our community and throughout the Hoosier State. Adult education administrators, teachers, and support staff as well as post-secondary and workforce development staff from all over the state were able to meet and collaborate as we all work together to serve Indiana's adult education population. During the three days, attendees from throughout Indiana were able to participate in top-notch professional development workshops over a variety of topics related to the field of adult education presented by their colleagues, as well as our keynote speaker. The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Adult

Education Team presented updates and best practices regarding adult education policy and administration. On the last day, Marie Mackintosh, Associate Chief Operating Officer for Education & Training presented about DWD updates.

We heard from two excellent keynote speakers. Dr. Allison Barber from Western Governors University spoke about how we offer something that our students need that will change their lives for the rest of their lives. Craig Boykin shared his story of how he overcame the obstacles in his life to eventually earn his GED and is now working on earning his PhD. Every attendee also received one of four books which will be used in a statewide book discussion this summer. If you didn't attend and still want to participate, check out the IAACE website (www.iaace.com) in the coming weeks to join in the conversation.

It wasn't all work at the conference, as we had two excellent social events including pizza and bowling one evening and trivia and a photo booth on the second. We also were pleased to recognize eight individuals at our annual awards ceremony who represent the best in adult education throughout the state

(see photo below). We encourage everyone involved in adult education to come to next year's conference which will be held again at French Lick on April 26th, 27th, and 28th. It is a great opportunity to learn and grow professionally and make connections with others throughout the state that share the same goal of providing quality adult education services for all of Indiana's adult learners. See you next year!

Quotes from those in attendance:

"Yesterday was a great day of training! Best I can remember! You did an awesome job!" - Mandi Logsdon

"This year's IAACE CONFERENCE has been well worth the time away from the classroom. The continued level of program sessions ranks with the best of conferences regionally, statewide, or nationally. We are fortunate to be associated with such a passionate group of people who work tirelessly to support and strengthen the AE programs in the State of Indiana. Great work IAACE." - Dennis Thomas

"So proud of my fellow AEC (DWD Adult Education Coordinator) Dan Devers! Great job!" - Marva Essick



2016 Award Winners pictured left to right: Dan DeVers, Teachers Credit Union Meritorious Service Award, Colleen Shook, Outstanding Tutor/Volunteer, Penny Wolf, Outstanding Paraprofessional, Craig Boykin, Keynote speaker, Patsy Kaiser, Outstanding Adult Learner, Danny Wood, Dr. John Craddock Award for Lifetime Service to Adult Education in Indiana, Sandy Bowlus, McGraw-Hill Contemporary Outstanding Teacher, Clausell Harding, Outstanding Administrator, and Amy Stewart, Outstanding New Teacher