I hope your year is going well! First, I want to acknowledge the diligence and patience that college providers have demonstrated during the reprogramming of the data management system for reporting new NRS requirements. A special thanks goes to the beta colleges.

The CCR team’s priorities so far this year have been on preparing for the release of the Title II RFP, reframing our organizational structure to meet new Title II requirements, and working with the system office to program Colleague for the new NRS data requirements. On the horizon, our priorities include: working with IT to complete the programming, evaluating our Professional Development system, completing the RFP application process, and focusing on working with WIOA partners.

System Office Power Outage — Although we’ve been out of our offices, business has been kept open with teleworking. We are back in the office as of February 12, 2018.

Reframing CCR – Dr. Trudie Hughes and Jannai Johnson

We will miss our colleague Dr. Amy Cooke, former Professional Development Director, and congratulate her on her new position at AB Tech Community College. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Trudie Hughes will assume the role of Associate Director, Professional Development and Serving Students with Disabilities. Effective March 1, Dr. Hughes will not have responsibilities as a regional representative. Her providers will be temporarily assigned to Gilda and Nancye. Dr. Hughes will contact the affected providers with more information.

We are happy to have Jannai Johnson as our new newsletter editor! She has a lot of relevant experience with information dissemination. She will also be organizing our quarterly webinars. You will hear more from her as she establishes more tools to enhance our communication with providers.

Data Tools

I hope you have had a chance to visit the new data tool, North Carolina Title II Adult Education Provider Comprehensive Report on Measurable Skill Gains, developed by the NCCCS Research and Performance Management team.

Did you know that for PY 2017-17, we served 80,336 adults?

Although, we did not meet our state-negotiated Multiple Skills Gain target of 36%, we were certainly close at 35.5%. This data tool gives providers multiple ways to analyze program data. You can find it on the NCCCS website http://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/sites/default/files/data-warehouse/2017_measurable_skill_gains_report.pdf.

Gilda Rubio-Festa
From the State Director’s Desk

National Reporting System for Adult Education (NRS)

The NRS has an updated website. It provides easy-to-access training on the new reporting measures a new Technical Assistance Manual. 

https://www.nrsweb.org/

New tests have been approved by OCTAE to measure Multiple Skills Gain. However, all the NC NRS approved tests in our NC CCR Assessment Manual are approved to February 2, 2019. OCTAE announced in the Federal Register the approval of an additional test and test forms and delivery formats that are determined to be suitable for use in the National Reporting System for Adult Education for a seven-year period. OCTAE approved:

- The Tests of Adult Basic Education (TABE), Forms 11 & 12 (82 FR 42339)
- Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) Reading GOALS Series, Form 901, 903, 902, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908 (83 FR 5087)

These tests have been aligned to the CCR Adult Education federal and state standards.

At this time, continue to use the approved tests listed in NC CCR Assessment Manual 2017-18. However, to ensure we have the least disruption in transitioning to the new tests, we will be doing research and forming a committee to recommend the best approach to adopting the new tests. This team will be led by Rena Ferraro and include staff from CCR, NCCCS IT, Research and Performance Management, and current providers.

Gilda Rubio-Festa

Workforce Development Board Partnership

On February 5th, as Director of Compliance and Partnerships, I made a presentation to the executive directors of the 23 local workforce boards. The purpose was to familiarize them with their very specific role in the AEFLA RFP review process. They were reminded to make their local plans accessible to Title II providers via their websites. A timeline and rubric for their review of the plans was discussed. There were numerous questions and a high degree of interest.

Nancye Gaj

Workforce Partnerships and Career Pathways

Happy New Year!!

Integrated Education and Training engagement programs are well underway in the state. Find out more about the NC Certified Career Pathways that are operating in the eight NC Property Zones.

- What is the state Prosperity Zone for your college or community-based organization?
- How many certified career pathways have been approved in your Prosperity Zone?
- What are Basic Skills Plus or other career pathways does your college offer that link to the NC Certified Career Pathways?

Find out answers to these questions by visiting http://nccertifiedcareerpathways.com/

Employers have identified employability skills training as a high need area. The State Board approved Nash Community College as the lead Resource College for the Employability Skills Alignment Project in January. As the lead college, Nash CC will help colleges develop curricula and employer partnership models for delivering employability skills education and training collaboratively.

Cassandra Atkinson
Professional Development

The training calendar for the core ASE & ESOL credentials is available on the website, and registration is open. Please take advantage of these opportunities, keeping in mind that the face-to-face options will be extremely limited in the future due to the implementation of hybrid options.

State Leadership Self-Assessment Tool—The NCCCS CCR staff are currently involved in completing the State Leadership Self-Assessment Tool developed by LINCS. The purpose is to help states gauge priorities and implementation readiness for meeting the state leadership activity requirements in Section 223 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Trudie Hughes

Adult High School

Please review your AHS Agreements of Affiliation (AA) to make sure that they have not expired. They are to be renewed every 3 years or whenever there is a change in institutional leadership.

Be on the look out for the upcoming AHS Placement FAQ! Updated 2018 AHS Implementation Guide coming soon!

High School Equivalency Office

A big thank you to all HSE Chief Examiners for providing transcripts and verifications to our high school equivalency students!

Your dedication and professionalism are to be commended. HSE Paper-based Testing, Receiving, & Secure Storage and Emergency Plans are due February 28, 2018.

Thanks for the prompt submissions! Keep them coming in!

Diane Steinbeiser