

2014 Mentor Roster

Below are the peer mentors and a brief bio on each. Look them over and contact the office to request a mentor.

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|  | <p>Margaret Bowles:</p> <p>I am the state director from Montana. I taught elementary school for 25 years and transitioned to the Montana Office of Public Instruction ten years ago. I have been the state director for adult basic education for seven years. I have one administrative assistant and 18 local programs.</p> |
|  | <p>Jennifer K. Foster is the Associate Vice President for Adult Education and Workforce Development/State GED Administrator at the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB). She serves as the State Director for Adult Education and Family Literacy and GED Testing in IL. Jennifer has been with the ICCB for almost 14 years and in adult education for more than 24 years.</p> <p>The adult education program in IL is governed by the community college board which consists of 48 community colleges in 39 districts. There is approximately 10 adult education staff in state office that oversees the various initiatives and the provision technical assistance to the local programs. The adult education system has approximately 90 state and federally funded Adult Education and Family Literacy programs as well as 78 GED Testing Centers in Illinois. The ICCB funds a diverse provider system including, community colleges, community based organizations, school districts, and Regional Offices of Education.</p> <p>The IL adult education program provides a range of services to low-skilled adults including: English as a Second Language, Adult Basic and Secondary Education, High School Credit, Bridge Programs, Integrated Basic/Technical Skills Programs, Vocational Training and Foreign Language GED. In addition, programs provide an array of supportive and transition services in partnership with other agencies at the local level. To assist the programs, the ICCB funds three Service Centers, in the state, to provide training and professional development in the areas listed above. IL Adult Education has been very active in developing a strategic plan titled, "Creating Pathways for Adult Learners" that has provided direction in the future direction in adult education.</p> |



Welcome to your new role! I'm Jeff Gove, State Director for Ohio's Adult Basic and Literacy Education (ABLE) system. I have worked in adult education for over 20 years at the state level and was part of the non-profit community-based world before that, working in adult education, community development and welfare reform.

I've been the State ABLE Director for four years now. Our office is part of the Ohio Board of Regents, the state agency that oversees all public postsecondary education in the state. We're a good fit here, representing foundation skills needed by youth and adults as they move along career pathways leading to better credentials/certificates/degrees, living wage jobs and improved qualities of life for themselves, their families and communities. Before moving to our current agency (2008) we were part of the Ohio Department of Education going back to 1966.

My team is comprised of myself, an Administrative Assistant, a State Leadership Manager (manages all State Leadership-funded contracts for PD), and four regional Program Managers each assigned to a geographic region of Ohio and responsible for those ABLE programs in them. Their diversity of backgrounds and insights bring value to the team.

For more information about our program and the rich resources we have that support our local programs, please visit our website at www.ohiohighered.org/able/

I look forward to meeting you and sharing my enthusiasm for adult education and the many benefits you now have in your position. Be well.



I am James H. Smith, Jr. the Arkansas state director for adult education. I have worked in adult education for 13 years and have been state director for 7 years. Our office is located in the Arkansas Department of Career Education (ACE). We have 15 state staff members and 46 Local adult education programs and 14 Literacy Councils. Our programs are housed in Local Education Agencies, such as public schools, 2year Colleges, 4 year Colleges, and Community Based Organizations



Reecie Stagnolia has served as Vice President for Kentucky Adult Education (KYAE) with the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) since July 2009, having served as Associate Vice President since July 2003. He was with the Department for Adult Education and Literacy from its creation in July 1993, serving in several capacities including a three-year stint as deputy commissioner, a 14-month stint as Interim Commissioner, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner and Director of the Division of Management Services.

Mr. Stagnolia provides statewide leadership for the adult education system of 120 county programs, nearly 800 adult educators and a central office staff of 20 and is responsible for an annual budget of \$27 million in state and federal funding. The program serves approximately 38,000 students annually. Over the past ten years, nearly 100,000 Kentuckians have earned a GED and 20,000 of those graduates have transitioned to postsecondary education.

Kentucky Adult Education's performance has contributed to Kentucky receiving Workforce Investment Act (WIA) incentive funds for ten of 15 years, totaling over \$12 million; and Kentucky was selected as one of four states to receive an Accelerating Opportunity Grant, a Jobs for the Future (JFF) initiative funded by the Gates Foundation along with other foundations.

Mr. Stagnolia has been elected to three two-year terms on the executive committee of the National Adult Education Professional Development Consortium (NAEPDC) and the National Council of State Directors of Adult Education (NCSDAE). He has served as Chair of these organizations for the past two years, currently serves as the Past Chair, and has served on their policy committee since 2002.

Mr. Stagnolia serves as a member of the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board and the Cabinet for Economic Development's, Bluegrass State Skills Corporation (BSSC) Board of Directors, both as proxy for the president of the Council on Postsecondary Education. He serves on the Executive Committee of the Governor's Reentry Task Force to reduce recidivism in Kentucky's correctional system. He is a member of the Office of Career Technical and Adult Education (OCTAE's) Technical Work Group (TWG) for the National Reporting Systems (NRS), and recently served on OCTAE's TWG for Employability Standards in Career and Technical and Adult Education.



My name is David B. Stout. I am the State Director of Adult Education and the GED Administrator for the South Carolina State Department of Education. I have a Doctor of Education Degree from the University of South Carolina. I began my work in adult education as a local school district director in 1982. I came to the State Office of Adult Education in 1987 as a Curriculum Specialist. I became the Budget Manager in 1990 and the GED Administrator in 1993. I still handle both of those duties. I became the State Director in August 2007. Prior to my life in adult education, I worked in the proprietary school business for nine years. The South Carolina State Department of Education funds 55 adult education providers. This includes 47 public school districts, two technical colleges, five community-based organizations, and the Department of Corrections. South Carolina's adult education providers serve between 43,000-45,000 students per year. Approximately 9,500 adults pass the GED exam per year. My staff, including the GED Testing Section, has seven Education Associates, four Program Assistants, one Data Coordinator, one Administrative Assistant, and four temporary Employees.