



## **Happy New Year!**

My Dear Colleagues in Adult Education....

As we begin NAEPDC/NCSDAE's new fiscal year, there are some usual New Year's traditions it is fitting we observe... that is: saying good bye, reminiscing and honoring what has passed as well as welcoming the new.

Although we've feted him on several occasions, I would be remiss if I did not send one more "shout-out," thanks and farewell to Lennox McClendon who served as our Executive Director for so long. As you all are very aware, the many changes in the landscape of Adult Education have kept Lennox and our association very busy in the past few years. He did yeoman's duty in keeping us all current on pending changes in the law, managing our D.C. office, coordinating our successful Leadership Excellence Academy (LEA) and National Training Institute (NTI) programs, preparing materials for our Executive Committee meetings, coordinating essential correspondence with our stakeholders/influencers, tracking the progress on our Plan of Work and keeping your leadership team on track, among other activities.

That brings me to the other critical person to thank (but not really say farewell...) Jennifer Foster, Illinois's State Director and Immediate Past Chair of NAEPDC/NCSDAE. During Jennifer's term of office, she led the association as we attempted to remain neutral in the HSE-wars, fended off a loss of funding during many congressional budget crises and helped us navigate through the "wonderful world of WIOA." In addition, she did a great job of representing us on the COABE board and being our spokeswoman with OCTAE. Jennifer has also been very open and considerate in spending time with me as I transitioned to the Chair position. **MANY** thanks to Jennifer for her diligence and dedication to duty!

Having honored the past, I want to take a minute to welcome and bring in the "new", that is, Jeff Carter J.D., who became our new NAEPDC/NCSDAE Executive Director on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Jeff came to us from his role as Director of Adult Education Initiatives at Digital Promise. Jeff has strong track record in management, strategic planning, fiscal administration, fundraising, coalition building, adult education policy/advocacy, and government relations. He will manage our office operations, be our "voice" in D.C. and lead our part-time staff team comprised of Mr. Gene Sofer (Government Relations Consultant), Dr. Debra Hargrove (Web Master) and Mrs. Frances Crowthers (Accountant).

Many thanks to Jeff for the hours he spent in the office during June preparing for this role and time with Lennox to ensure a smooth transition. I didn't realize the complexity of the work until I spent time in Washington with Lennox and Jeff a few weeks ago to make sure I understood the scope of what we do as an organization. Just so ya know.... Jeff and I have already met, emailed several times and are full of ideas!

We're off and running to start the New Year. While we are all well aware of the tough year ahead, the NAEPDC/NCSDAE team is committed to ensuring that your association does its best to represent, serve and support you.

Sincerely,

*Beverly*

Beverly E. Smith, Chair - NAEPDC/NCSDAE