

Contact:

Jennifer K. Foster

NAEPDC/NCSDAE Chair

[Jennifer.Foster@illinois.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Foster@illinois.gov)

**National Adult Education Professional Development Consortium (NAEPDC)  
and the National Council of State Director of Adult Education (NCSDAE)  
Names Jeff Carter New Executive Director**

**Washington, D.C.** --- The National Adult Education Professional Development Consortium (NAEPDC) and the National Council of State Directors of Adult Education (NCSDAE) is pleased to announce that **Jeff Carter** has been named the new executive director for both organizations, replacing **Lennox McLendon**, who is retiring June 30, 2015. Carter brings more than 17 years of experience in adult education, association leadership, and nonprofit management to NAEPDC/NCSDAE, having most recently served as the Director of Adult Education Initiatives at Digital Promise, an independent, bipartisan organization authorized by Congress to spur innovation in education. Prior to this position, Carter was the Director of Policy and Government Affairs for ProLiteracy, and served as NAEPDC's policy and government affairs consultant in 2013-14. Carter is also the current President of the National Coalition for Literacy and a member of the Committee for Education Funding's (CEF) board of directors.

"Jeff has exceptional leadership skills and has a great passion for adult education," said Jennifer K. Foster NAEPDC/NCSDAE Chair. "We are proud to name Jeff as our next executive director. His leadership and expertise in advocacy will be tremendous assets to NAEPDC/NCSDAE and our membership, partners and sponsors as we work together to support underskilled, underserved adult learners nationwide."

Carter will join NAEPDC/NCSDAE on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. His appointment comes at an important moment in time for the U.S. adult education system. The Survey of Adult Skills by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, released in 2013, showed that despite having higher than average levels of educational attainment, adults in the U.S. have below-average basic literacy and numeracy skills. The U.S. ranked 16th out of 23 countries in literacy proficiency, 21st in numeracy proficiency, and 14th in problem solving in technology-rich environments, according to the OECD survey.

Last year, Congress passed an update to the legislation that provides the bulk of federal funding support for adult education program, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). States are currently in the process of drafting new unified state plans for their state workforce systems. WIOA was designed to streamline programs and improves services to job seekers and employers and a common performance accountability system for the core programs, including adult education.

"I'm excited about joining NAEPDC/NCSDAE at this important moment in time," said Carter. "NAEPDC/NCSDAE's leadership is needed more than ever to ensure that adult education has

strong representation in WIOA state plans. In addition, I hope to strengthen and build new alliances across other sectors—K-12 education, higher education, health, immigration, criminal justice, and others—to build greater awareness and support for the millions adults who are ready to work on improving their skills but lack the opportunity and resources to do so. I look forward to working with the membership, the Board of Directors, staff, and my colleagues here in Washington to build on NAEPDC/NCSDAE’s past success toward a more expansive and robust adult education system in the U.S.”

Carter received his B.A. from Providence College and earned a law degree from Suffolk University Law School in Boston.

At Digital Promise, Carter conceived and implemented the Beacon Project, a network of communities across the country committed to expanding adult learning opportunities through the use of digital learning tools. The initiative chronicled what it takes to develop a “digital ready” adult learning community, while identifying critical challenges and topics for further research or evaluation.

#### **About the NAEPDC and the NCSDAE**

Since its inception, **NAEPDC** has established itself as a major force in the adult education community. More than 50 states and territories are members. **NAEPDC** works with the Department of Education (Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education), and other national adult education organizations in planning for programs and activities to support adult learning initiatives.

NAEPDC responds to the needs of its member states through a variety of activities, such as:

- Training activities for state adult education staff;
- Publications which provide promising practices and strategies for fostering effective state leadership;
- Dissemination of online resources that provide state policy and procedure models and options; and
- Specialized services for new state directors to support their leadership and management skills.

The purpose of the **NCSDAE** is to:

- Attend to legislative needs and concerns;
- Work with organizations on adult education policy issues;
- Exchange ideas and solve common problems, and
- Establish and maintain a nationwide communication network regarding national policy and legislative issues.