

MOVE UP!

A Partnership for
Adult Learning

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DECEMBER 2015

From the Director...



Sarah Dudzic, Director

I can't believe that 2016 is less than 2 weeks away! 2015 has been a busy year for **Move UP!**, and I am grateful to have this opportunity to work collaboratively with all of you. While our work together as stakeholders in adult literacy is incredibly meaningful and important, doing this work - helping individuals learn, get back to work, and meet the economic needs of their families - can also be difficult, daunting, and draining. I hope you all have some time off to rest, recharge, and visit with family and friends as we usher in the New Year!

But before you go, I hope you'll take a minute and look at our end of the year reflection:

The Top 10 Reasons that We Should Be Innovative (in the work we are doing), **Detailed** (in our review of the work we've done) and **Hopeful** (in our work going forward):

10. In January, 2015, **Move UP!** received funding from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to continue our collaborative work for two more years, allowing us to continue building pathways for adult learners, helping the community understand the issue of adult literacy, and increasing the capacity of adult literacy providers to integrate innovative best practices.

9. The **Move UP!** website has been updated and improved so it can be a resource for our stakeholders! Check it out at www.moveupct.org and let us know what you like and don't like!

8. We are entering the final stages of our strategic planning process, which has helped us better understand our role in the community, how we can be most useful to the programs we serve, and how we can plan for sustainability moving forward.

7. **Move UP!** partnered with CREC, the CT State Departments of Education and Public Health, and OSHA to provide training and curriculum for ESL teachers on integrating workplace health and safety concepts into their work with English Language Learners.

6. **Move UP!** continues to work closely with VOCAL (Voices of CT's Adult Learners), and was once again a sponsor for the 2015 VOCAL Stars event that honors our Region's adult learners. In 2016, we will be working together to add a conference for adult learners, so let us know if you would be interested in helping out!

5. We increased our own capacity this year by hiring Ren Brockmeyer as our Pathways Navigator. Ren is designing a local toolkit, building new relationships with the provider community, and has recently achieved her Career Pathways Leadership Certification. **Move UP!** will also be assisting programs funded by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving's Career Pathways Initiative, by providing coordination across sectors and the region, as well as technical assistance.

4. Congratulations to Matt Poland on his retirement from the Hartford Public Library! As we bid farewell to him at the end of this year, we can remember and reflect on his creative vision for what a 21st Century public library can be and do for the community, his innovative thinking about collective action, and his keen ability to change ideas into actions. Matt is also one of the founders of the Capital Region Adult Literacy Partnership (now known as Move UP!), and we will miss his presence and creative energy.

3. **Move UP!** has been coordinating and convening the Hartford Region's effort to implement two generational strategies for school and workforce readiness. The two generational approach goes beyond educating parent and child; it establishes a home environment in which parents and children learn together and leads to the family's economic success.

2. **Move UP!** continues to build relationships with the many community partners that touch the lives of adult learners. Through networking, professional development, and technology, our goal is to link together the multitude of providers necessary for adults in our programs to receive comprehensive, life-changing supports that lead to successful completion.

1. As the economy shows signs of improvement, our work is just as important as it ever has been. So "Cheers," to a happy, healthy 2016, and to having the patience, energy, and resources to continue our collective effort to improve outcomes for adult learners, increase the talent pool for our Region's businesses, and enhance the overall quality of life in our community!

Cheers to a peaceful, happy, healthy 2016! Have happy holidays and I look forward to seeing you in January!

Happy Holidays from Capital Workforce Partners!

The Board and staff of Capital Workforce Partners wish you all joy, peace and comfort this holiday season and look forward to partnering with many of you in 2016 to develop the region's workforce. For those wishing to help support families working their way out of poverty, job seekers, at-risk youth and individuals seeking self-sustainable career paths, and may benefit from an additional end-of-the-year tax deduction, please consider a contribution to our **holiday campaign**.



*At 2pm sharp, on December (29) twenty-nine,
every \$50 donation will be matched by \$50, and that is mighty fine.
So mark it on your calendars, if you dare,
and consider a contribution to show you care.*

United Way's Generation Work Initiative Receives Planning Grant from Annie E. Casey Foundation

Congratulations to the **United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut**, as they have been selected by the **Annie E. Casey Foundation** to receive a \$100,000 planning grant to increase job opportunities for young adults. Along with their core partners - Capital Workforce Partners, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Hartford Opportunity Youth Collaborative, Our Piece of the Pie and Workforce Solutions Collaborative of Metro Hartford - the United Way aims to link young adults with education, training and employment by improving coordination and collaboration among industry-specific approaches and youth initiatives, as well as expand successful approaches to additional organizations focused on youth, employment and training.

Through its Generation Work, the Annie E. Casey Foundation aims to weave together two sets of strategies to better prepare youth for work: (1) Demand-driven strategies, which involve building relationships with businesses and factoring in the needs of the local economy, and (2) youth development strategies such as mentoring and on-the-job learning. Locally, the Casey Foundation hopes to help establish a network of workforce development organizations that serve young job seekers from Hartford and have strong connections with businesses.

New Resources Available On-Line

CLASP recently published ***Two Generational Strategies to Improve Migrant Family and Child Outcomes*** (December, 2015). It is a summary and next steps from an April 2015 Roundtable discussion convened by CLASP and Annie E. Casey Foundation in Washington DC. The event brought together ..."senior-level policy makers, practitioners, researchers, advocates, and foundation leaders from worlds that too often don't have the opportunity connect: the world of policy and service delivery for low-income families (including experts in early childhood programs, in workforce development and postsecondary education, and in two-generational programs that serve both parents and children together) and the world of immigrant-serving organizations and immigration policy."

In November, Achieving the Dream and the Workforce Strategies Initiative published ***Working Together and Making a Difference*** (November, 2016), the story of how Virginia Western Community College and Goodwill Industries of the Valleys turned similar visions into "...the hub of a growing network of relationships connecting underserved neighbors, employers, social service referral organizations, and workforce agencies."

The Connecticut Policy Institute released the report: ***Higher Education Funding in Connecticut: What Policymakers Should Know and Do***, which proposes to change the way funding is distributed to CT's colleges and universities. The proposal would establish a new system that consists of "core funding," which would be "centered around a weighted student credit hour," and "performance funding," that would be distributed based on student progress, degrees awarded, and efficiency.

The Urban Institute released the report ***Balancing School, Work, and Family: Low-Income Parents' Participation in Education and Training*** in October 2014, and focuses on how to "...best help low-income individuals gain the skills and credentials they need to find a job that provides a family sustaining wage."



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Leadership Meeting
Wednesday, January 20, 2016
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM



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