

Patricia Terry, Administrator of the California Department of Education's (CDE) Adult Education Office

As the newly appointed administrator of the California Department of Education's (CDE) Adult Education Office (AEO), I am pleased to announce that the AEO is now a part of the Coordinated Student Support and Adult Education Division in the Student Support and Special Services Branch. Gordon Jackson is Division Director and Dr. William Ellerbee is branch Deputy Superintendent.

We are looking forward to enhanced adult education outcomes in large part due to the development of an adult education strategic plan. [Linking Adults to Opportunity: Transformation of the California Department of Education Adult Education Program](#) is the result of the efforts and perspectives of over two hundred stakeholders and practitioners who participated in work groups, meetings, and committees. This plan reflects revisions made after careful consideration of extensive commentary from the field and various stakeholders.

It is important to note that the strategic plan and the California State Plan are two distinctly different documents. The strategic plan is, however, aligned with the federal priorities in the Workforce Investment, Title II Adult Education and Family Literacy Act as outlined in the California State Plan 2003–2012. The strategic plan is not subject to the same approval process as the California State Plan. However, we are offering the period from November 28, 2011, through December 16, 2011, for submission of comments relative to the currently posted strategic plan.

It has been gratifying to learn that many leaders of adult education programs in the state have already embraced the themes of the strategic plan and are actively implementing parts of it. Next steps include a presentation of the strategic plan to the State Board of Education as an information item and the development of processes to facilitate broader implementation.

As the new AEO administrator, I support ongoing communication to the field about aspects of the plan and its implementation. I look forward to working with the adult education community in implementing the recommendations of this plan so that the state can more effectively support the largest possible number of persons seeking to enhance their lives through the programs in adult education.

Legislative Advocacy Changes for CAEAA

Over the past few years, dramatic changes have occurred in California's Adult Education system with the most impact of the implementation of flexibility of adult education funding for K-12 purposes. The CAEAA Board decided that it was time to take a second look at how we approach legislative advocacy. We determined that it was in our best interests to combine resources with the California Council for Adult Education (CCAЕ) and hire a new firm for legislative advocacy for adult education that will take us in a new direction. CAEAA owes tremendous thanks to our former legislative advocate, Jeff Frost for his many years of service to the field of adult education and generosity in time committed to CAEAA specifically as well as the development of various initiatives which he was instrumental in getting passed.



The CAEAA Board along with the CCAЕ Board voted unanimously to hire [McHugh and Associates](#) to develop and support legislation that ultimately protects adult education funding.

Dawn Koepke will be our legislative liaison and joined McHugh & Associates in December 2003 lobbying in the areas of public safety, health and human services, environmental issues, and now will focus her attention on adult education.

Prior to joining the McHugh team, Dawn served as Special Assistant to Governor Gray Davis managing the Governor and assisting the Legislative Affairs and Communications teams.

Dawn graduated from San Francisco State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations and studied abroad at the Universidad de Salamanca in Spain. Dawn also completed her Masters Degree in Public Policy & Administration from California State University, Sacramento.

CAEAA welcomes McHugh and Associates and Dawn Koepke to the work ahead of us to ultimately protect adult education funding.