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NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SPOTLIGHT on Adult Education

Superintendent's Message

Each new year presents opportunities for us to learn and grow in both our personal and professional lives. Indeed, we are faced with the challenge of implementing the Common Core State Standards and preparing students for the new high school equivalency assessment, TASC. Nonetheless, I am optimistic that our organization is up to the task and we will celebrate our success in their accomplishments.

As always, we will work collaboratively and embrace all of our challenges, thereby continuing to improve the lives of our learners.

As aptly stated by Nelson Mandela, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Educationally yours,

Rose-Marie Mills,
Superintendent



TASC Summit a Success!

Over two hundred participants attended the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) Summit held at the Marriott in Brooklyn: a joint effort of the NYC Department of Education, the New York State Department of Education (NYSED), The City University of New York, and the Literacy Assistance Center.

The day began with remarks by Deputy Chancellor for Equity and Access, Dr. Dorita Gibson and Chancellor Dennis M. Walcott, NYSED Deputy Commissioner for Adult Career and Continuing Services Kevin G. Smith, and NYSED Supervisor of Adult Education Robert Purga.

Mike Johnson, National Adult Education Manager for CTB/McGraw-Hill, gave participants an overview of the expectations of the TASC.

The question-and-answer panel discussion, moderated by Senior Superintendent Dr. Laura Feijoo, included Superintendent of the Office of Adult and Continuing Education Rose-Marie Mills, Superintendent of Alternative Schools and Programs Tim Lisante, as well as Kevin Smith, Robert Purga, and Mike Johnson. Smith urged guests to use the correct term, "high school equivalency," to keep us brand-free.



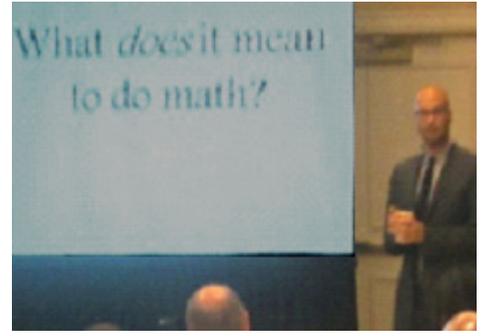
New York City Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott



Cynthia Bell from the LAC makes a point.

TASC Summit Breakout Session a Hit!

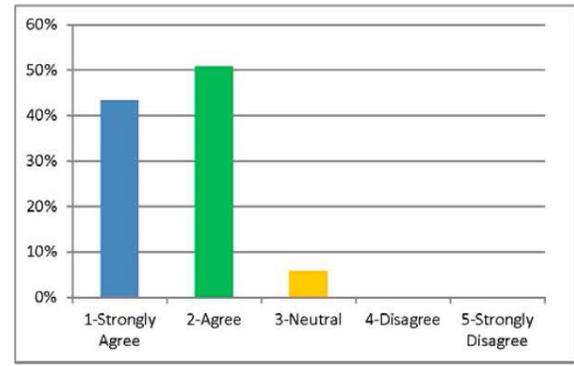
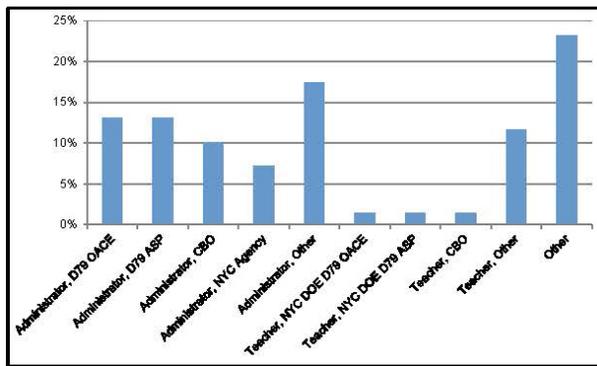
Breakout sessions, held after the panel discussion, included CUNY's *Redefining What It Means to Do Math in the Common Core Era*, D79 Alternative Schools & Programs' *Data Driven Decision-Making*, The Literacy Assistance Center's *Navigating the Mathematics CCSS*, and OACE's *Unpacking the Standards*.



Mark Trushowsky from CUNY engages his audience.

Analysis of TASC Summit Feedback

After the summit, a link to an online evaluation as well as all the presentations was shared with all 244 participants. Participants included administrators, teachers, and other stakeholders from the NYC DOE, CBOs, and NYC Agencies, with the percentages of each shown below. In terms of feedback on the summit, 95% agreed or strongly agreed that the Summit was well-structured (see results below). These results, as well as the narrative responses, will help us in planning future summits.



More Scenes from the Summit



Kevin Smith, NYSED Deputy Commissioner



Dr. Laura Feijoo, Senior Superintendent, Deputy Chancellor Dorita Gibson, and Superintendent Rose-Marie Mills after the morning session.

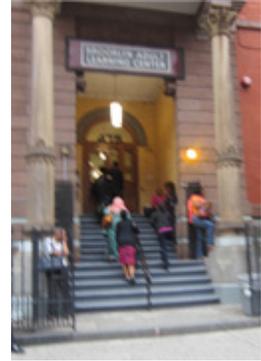


Panel members respond to questions from the audience. From left: Tim Lisante, Rose Marie Mills, Kevin Smith, Bob Purga, and Michael Johnson.

Students and Educators Race to the Finish!

The OACE assessment team has been hard at work trying to ensure that all eligible candidates have a chance at securing their high school equivalency diploma before the January 2014 transition to the College and Career Readiness Standard-aligned exam. Approximately 2,000 candidates, previously waitlisted, have already been seated. Between June and December, the number of seats

was increased by 10,000. New applications, as of September 1, are currently being processed. Lydia Sullivan, OACE assistant principal and liaison for *GED to the Finish*, attributes the increase in applications and enrollment in classes to increased regional recruitment efforts and the work of the Fund for Public Advocacy.



BALC, Brooklyn Adult Learning Center, is one of seven NYSED-approved testing sites.

A Brighter BALC

This summer, staff at the Brooklyn Adult Learning Center (BALC) spent some time away at Boys and Girls High School (and our thanks to Principal Gassaway and the staff at Boys & Girls for making us feel so welcome.)

The temporary move was due to much-needed renovations at the landmarked building, built in 1885. Lighting fixtures were replaced with modern, motion sensor, energy-efficient ones, brightening the rooms and hallways for students and reducing energy consumption.



OACE Receives US Citizenship and Immigration Services Grant

Kudos to the OACE Grant Writing team for winning yet another award! OACE, in partnership with Queens Legal Services, was one of four New York City applicants to receive this Federal grant. Twenty-four agencies

were selected to receive the grant nationwide. Approximately 200 permanent residents will receive citizenship instruction. Funding will service students in Jamaica and Northern Queens neighborhoods.

Building Internal Capacity for TABE Training

More than twenty OACE staff members are now Tests of Adult Basic Education (TABE) trainers. Regional administrators and key intake staff worked with Rosemary Matt, NYSED Director of Accountability,

during this session to learn how to guide administrators in identifying appropriate test levels, scoring, and differentiating instruction.

OACE now has the capacity to train and re-train our staff!



Jolanta Olechowski and Robert Fiul, Citizenship Preparation Teachers and Yvonne Neal, Principal Region 2

Is your dream to be a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)?

Program applications are now available online though the Center for Nursing Education and Testing at <http://www.cnetnurse.com>

Register by February 14, 2014

We're on the Web:

<http://www.oaceny.org/>

CONTACT US AT:

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ADULT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

**475 NOSTRAND AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11216**

PHONE: 718-638-2635

FAX: 718-623-2080

**E-MAIL:
OACE@SCHOOLS.NYC.GOV**

Step into the Spotlight!

If you would like to contribute articles or photos to the OACE *Spotlight on Adult Education*, please contact:

Luckisha Amankwah
LAmankw@schools.nyc.gov

or
Tom Trocco
TTrocco@schools.nyc.gov



Nursing on the Move

Visit the third floor at Brooklyn Adult Learning Center or the Mid-Manhattan Adult Learning Center and you will find scores of students scurrying to get to class on time. The recent consolidation of the nursing program—still accommodating the same number of students across these two campuses—has created healthy hubs for students eager to complete the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certification.



Janel Chester, Michelle Colbert, Tamara Epps, and Matthew Bennett

Jacqueline Dummet, nursing teacher with close to twenty years of experience, still enjoys the excitement of witnessing new students balance work and family life while earning their nursing credentials. Students learned about OACE in various ways. For example, Matthew Bennett came to the program with prior experience in the healthcare field, Michelle Colbert and “Mara” Epps learned about the program online, and Janel Chester was encouraged to sign up by a family member.

For the application to the nursing program, please go to <http://www.cnetnurse.com>.

Welcome Valena Welch-Woodley

In August 2013, OACE welcomed Valena Welch-Woodley as Deputy Superintendent. Welch-Woodley has more than twenty-four years of experience working as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal. Ms. Woodley will focus on improving pedagogical practices and the implementation of the Common Core Learning Standards.

