

### New AEO Administrator



Patricia S. Terry, Ph.D., took over as administrator of the Adult Education

Office at the California Department of Education (CDE) in September. Dr. Terry has been an educator since 1970. She taught K-12 science for more than 27 years, occasionally teaching General Biology at the college level. Her district level work included curriculum development and providing professional development and technical assistance to teachers of science and mathematics under the Memphis Urban Systemic Program.

During her nine-year tenure at CDE, she has served as an Education Programs Consultant in several divisions. Prior to her appointment as administrator of the Adult Education Office, she served as administrator of the Educational Options Office. Welcome, Dr. Terry! 🌟

### Inside This Issue:

- ★ Resources to Help Adult Students Transition to Work or School
- ★ Fun Online Game for Students
- ★ ALLIES: A Unique Partnership
- ★ ePortfolios for Empowered Learners
- ★ Upcoming Webinars

### Students Succeed Nominees Recognized

The Students Succeed program recognized three deserving nominees at this year's Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) conference. Video presentations about their stories were produced by OTAN and can be viewed at [www.adultedlearners.org](http://www.adultedlearners.org).

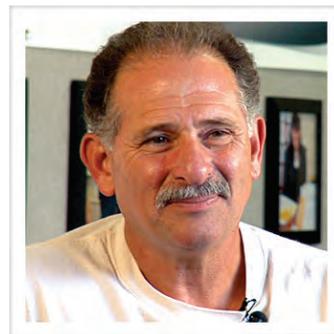
#### Ken Nguyen and Myhau Phan

Ken Nguyen and his wife, Myhau Phan, epitomize why adult schools are a necessary part of California's public education system. Their journey began in Vietnam with Ken's refusal to join the Communist Army. They narrowly escaped Vietnam in a small, overcrowded boat, and upon their arrival in the U.S. in December 1985, they enrolled in an ESL program at Santa Clara Adult School. Both will tell you that adult education played a critical role in their current success. Ken and Myhau are very thankful to now be U.S. citizens and appreciate the investment the U.S. made in their future. They are now repaying their community by employing many people in their Sacramento business, Furniture USA. Patty, their daughter, is a high school ELA/ELD teacher in West Sacramento and Nam, their son, lives and works in New York City as the Director of Marketing for a software company.



#### Joe Grinnell

Joe Grinnell's story is a familiar one of gangs, questionable friends, a bad attitude, and tough schools, ultimately leading to drug abuse and expulsion from high school. Eventually, Joe was incarcerated. During his recovery, Joe realized he had a calling to help others. He became clean and sober and began volunteering in community programs which led him to classes to become a pastor. After successfully completing the necessary courses, Joe's only hurdle was earning the required GED.



Joe enrolled at Marysville Adult School where he found phenomenal support from the staff. Even though, due to life circumstances, he was in and out of school, the adult school staff never gave up on him. While attending school, Joe continued working full-time as a plasterer. On June 6, 2011, after five years of hard work, he walked across the stage as a graduate. Joe is now the executive director of the Twin Cities Rescue Mission in addition to managing his plastering business. Many will readily testify to his strength of character, strong marriage, and loving relationship with his wife and children. 🌟

# Resources to Help Adult Students Transition to Work or School

**O**TAN is developing a new online Transitions course to share with the adult education agencies. It is currently being piloted by six different adult schools throughout the state. The course will be available in the Fall of 2012. In the meantime, here are several online resources to help students reach their school and career goals.

## Transition to Work/Career

The **GCF Learn Free** (Goodwill Community Foundation) Web site offers free, interactive lessons to help students prepare for work. **Career Topics** ([www.gcflearnfree.org/career](http://www.gcflearnfree.org/career)) helps students search for and land a job. The **Job Development** ([www.gcflearnfree.org/jobdevelopment](http://www.gcflearnfree.org/jobdevelopment)) topic helps learners keep their job and learn skills for job advancement. The **California Career Café** ([www.cacareercafe.com](http://www.cacareercafe.com)) from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, provides five robust lessons to assist students in planning for a career. Students are encouraged to create a "Career Action Plan" folder and keep copies of all the activities and resources completed through the site. Each lesson includes a video, external Web sites and a downloadable student activity.

## The National College Transition Network

([www.collegetransition.org/publications.icacurriculum.html](http://www.collegetransition.org/publications.icacurriculum.html)) also offers a series of handouts and lesson plans to help students identify their areas of interest in planning for a new occupation. Handouts include Career Exploration worksheets, exploring the labor market, an interview guide, and information about workers' rights, discrimination and equal rights protections.

For additional links, go to [www.delicious.com](http://www.delicious.com) and search the 'transitioncourse' tag.

## Transition to School/College

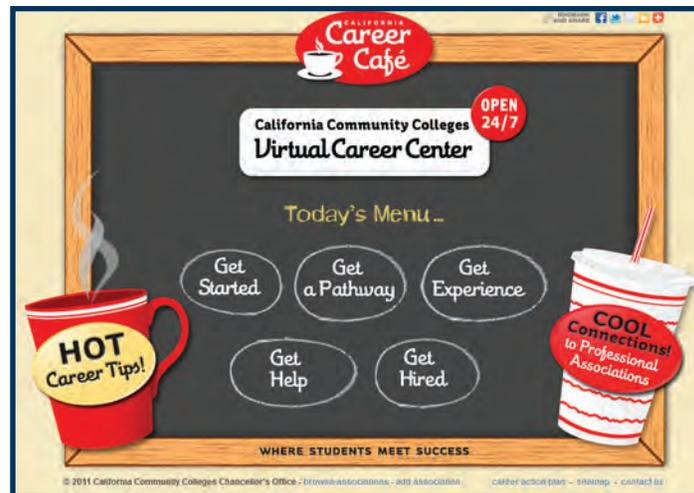
The National College Transition Network provides a wealth of information. The College for Adults ([www.collegeforadults.org](http://www.collegeforadults.org)) site helps students plan for college, and is divided into five areas: Career Planning, Applying to College, Financial Planning, Academic Skills, and Resources. This site also provides several interactive "warm up" activities to help students understand what they need to know to be successful in college. Each topic area includes practice quizzes, worksheets and how to find help when needed. The National College Transition Network at World Education also provides teachers a full curriculum for helping students transition to college. A complete set of materials is available online at [www.collegetransition.org/publications.icacurriculum.html](http://www.collegetransition.org/publications.icacurriculum.html) (The entire College Transition Toolkit is also available on CD for a fee.)

Another successful model for transitioning students to college and career is the Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST). In the I-BEST model,

basic skills instructors and career-technical teachers jointly design and teach occupational classes. Read about the I-BEST program at [www.otan.us/Training/pdfs/newsltr2010/Spring10.pdf](http://www.otan.us/Training/pdfs/newsltr2010/Spring10.pdf).

For research and best practices on transitions to postsecondary, go to the OVAE Web site.

([www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/AdultEd/transition.html](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/AdultEd/transition.html))



# Fun Online Game for Students: "What's Next?"

**O**TAN has developed a fun, interactive game for basic literacy students to explore the process of finding work or going on to more schooling. The "What's Next?" online game is in the format of the famous Jeopardy® quiz show, allowing students to earn points for correct answers, bonus questions and more. The game is offered on two topics: There is a round for "Success in School" ([www5.scoe.net/whatsnext/schoola.html](http://www5.scoe.net/whatsnext/schoola.html)) and another for "Job Preparation" ([www5.scoe.net/whatsnext/joba.html](http://www5.scoe.net/whatsnext/joba.html)). *Hint for teachers:* You can pause the timer after each question by pressing the keyboard's spacebar.



# ALLIES: A Unique Partnership

**A**LLIES stands for the Alliance for Language Learners' Integration, Empowerment and Success. It is a unique organization in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties in which adult schools and community colleges work together to meet the needs of the immigrant population. The vision of the organization is "to create a multi-stakeholder coalition dedicated to expanding opportunities for adults to learn English." ALLIES began in 2009 as a grass roots network of ESL professionals to coordinate services in the community. Although initially focused on language instruction, they are beginning to expand into career training as well. The project applied for and received a one-year planning grant from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation which ends this month.



- Working with college and school leaders to align assessments and curricula
- Advocating for funding to expand, improve and coordinate services
- Collection and dissemination of research on cross system collaboration needs, barriers and options

Forty-five people from ten adult schools and five community colleges attended the kick-off meeting of the ALLIES ESL Providers Network in February. It has continued to meet, and several pairs of an adult school and a community college have set up classes on each other's sites and aligned their assessment systems to make it easier for students to move from the adult school to the college.

ALLIES goals include:

- Increasing the supply and quality of Adult English Language Acquisition opportunities
- Increasing implementation of ESL best practices such as VESL and contextualized learning
- Increasing cooperation among adult schools, community colleges and community-based organizations to increase student transition between segments

Kara Rosenberg, Principal of Palo Alto Adult School and a founding member of ALLIES, notes that "ALLIES is important because we need to advocate for our students and we need to do it now! We want to make it easier for our students to achieve their goal of a family-sustaining income through more education and better employment, and coordination of services is a big part of the solution." 🌐

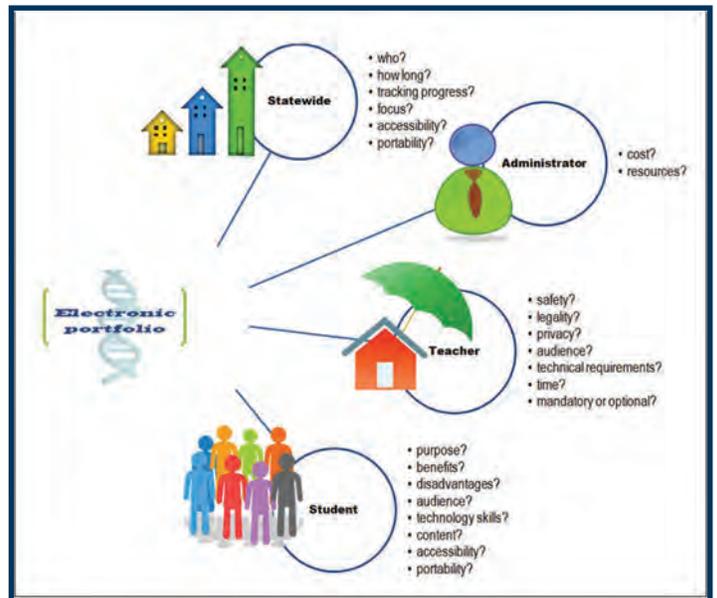
# ePortfolios for Empowered Learners and Happy Teachers

**O**TAN continues to explore emerging models for creating student ePortfolios. We have learned:

- There are two faces to portfolios according to Helen Barrett, an international expert on this topic. One is to showcase work and provide accountability, resulting in a product. The other is to learn and reflect throughout the process.
- Equipping adult learners for the 21st century includes giving them opportunities to create, manage and share a professional and overall positive online presence.

An example of our future goal might be: An ABE learner starts attending a local adult school and says to the teacher, "I'd like to share some of the work I did at another school. I have a resume, a goal setting essay and records of my CASAS tests. What is your professional email so that I can send you the links?"

After the completion of the pilot, OTAN will share the process and the results in online workshops and as conference presentations. 🌐



## Upcoming Webinars

Register early for OTAN's online workshops to improve your technology skills! Workshops with an asterisk can be taken as a part of a series with additional support within a Moodle Professional Learning Community course. Visit our Web site ([www.otan.us](http://www.otan.us)) for online workshop and series descriptions, schedules, and registration.

- **Social Networking for Adult Education (Mostly Facebook)\*** 1/12/12, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.
- **Online Documents: Create, Share, and Collaborate!\*** 1/13/12, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
- **Three Fun Activities for Students** 1/19/12, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.
- **Moodle: Create a Course Web Site\*** 1/19/12, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- **Orientation to OTAN "Advanced ESL" Shared Moodle Course** 1/23/12, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
- **Create FREE Online Quizzes** 1/27/12, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
- **Cell Phone Basics to Use in the Classroom\*** 2/3/12, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
- **USA Learns: A Web Based Tool for ESL Learners** 2/9/12, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## From the Executive Director

During the last couple of years there has been a great deal of discussion about postsecondary and career transition, and for good reason. According to the Federal Office of Vocational and Adult Education, about 90 percent of the fastest growing jobs in the future will require education or training beyond high school. Clearly, to meet the needs of learners, adult educators need to place an emphasis on instruction that is linked to work, career, and transition to postsecondary training.



To support your efforts, OTAN staff are reviewing free Web-based "transition resources" and also creating original instructional materials for your use. A new Moodle online ABE Transition Course is currently being tested and evaluated and will be available next fall. And just recently, OTAN launched a fun and engaging online game called "What's Next?"

When you have a few minutes, check out the Students Succeed Web site. California adult education teachers are making a difference! 🌐

*John Fleischman*



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