

Subj: **NVC 112613 PIAAC and OVAE's Response**
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PIAAC and OVAE's Response

On November 12th, Jeff Carter, NAEPDC Government Relations Consultant, attended an event at the Center for American Progress (CAP) co-hosted by the OECD highlighting the special OVAE-commissioned U.S.-focused OECD report on PIAAC, called *Time for the U.S. to Reskill? What the Survey of Adult Skills Says*.

That report is available here:

http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/education/time-for-the-u-s-to-reskill_9789264204904-en

After the OECD's presentation, Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) Brenda Dann-Messier outlined FIVE specific actions that her office is taking in response to the report, which were as follows:

- (1) Her office will be developing a **new national plan**, to be released at the end of April, aimed at improving "the foundational skills" of low skilled adults.
- (2) The plan will be informed in part by a series of **five regional "engagement sessions"** around the country, **which began with a session here in D.C. last Wednesday** (more on that in a followup post). OVAE will be working with the Department of Commerce to ensure that representatives from the workforce development, human resources, business, and labor communities "are actively engaged in these regional sessions." OVAE also plans to gather "additional input" in each region from adult learners and teachers in local adult education and workforce training programs.
- (3) She says OVAE has also put together a **toolkit** for people who want to host their own engagement sessions or roundtables. Feedback from these sessions will be collected and considered during the planning process. OVAE also plans to provide opportunities for individuals to submit comments as well.
- (4) OVAE has produced a new set of **state fact sheets** that profile the low-skilled adult population in each state. (There's a national profile, too.) Note, however, that these **profiles are not based on PIAAC but on schooling and educational attainment data from the American Community Survey (ACS)**.

I strongly recommend that state directors review these fact sheets, particularly the funding and enrollment totals.

OVAE State Profiles: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/AdultEd/state-profiles.html>

- (5) Finally, the Assistant Secretary announced a new "**awareness campaign**" with an organization called [Connect2Compete](#), in order to, in her words, "create access for the approximately three million low-skilled adults" identified in PIAAC "who want to participate in adult education but can't due to lack of space or other constraints." It's going to be called the "Everyone On" campaign, **which she said**

will help "millions" of low-income American families "acquire low-cost high-speed internet access and low-cost, high-end devices, such as tablets and laptops."

She said the campaign was not about simply qualifying students for affordable access and devices, but also "to help adult learners connect with everyday services, engage in their communities, apply for jobs, and access high-quality online learning opportunities 24/7, 365 days a year," which will "help us expand the infrastructure for adult learning in our country so that many more low-skilled adults can access high quality learning anytime, rather than exclusively relying on the WIA infrastructure which has the capacity to serve less than 2 million low-skilled adults per year.

You can view the entire event (including her complete speech) here:

<http://www.americanprogress.org/events/2013/10/03/76273/survey-of-adult-skills-and-its-implications-on-the-american-middle-class/>

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Keep up the good work. Let me know when we can help.

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A Natural Resource For Adult Education State Directors and their Staff Members

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