



MESSAGE FROM MK

AUGUST 2005 – GUIDING PRINCIPLES: SERVICE

*An update from Mary Katherine Moen, State Director of Adult Education
mkmoen@doe.nv.gov, 775.687.9167*

Service—We value the dignity of each individual and the inherent ability to succeed. We respect the cultural diversity of our students. We encourage feedback from students and stakeholders in our customer-focused delivery system.

—Nevada Adult Basic Education Directors, 2004

What a joyous world it would be if we were each able truly to incorporate this concept into our hearts and our thinking. Respecting all people, their dreams, their beliefs, and their right to be heard would yield a world without bombings, a place of hope and acceptance.

It can be argued that this is simply utopian thinking, that the rose-colored glasses are in the way of seeing reality. But as educators we strive to open eyes and minds to the possibilities in life, to the riches of learning and knowing. Is it not this world of possibilities that keeps us focused on helping people to reach their goals? That keeps us going to teach that evening class once again even though fatigue has set in after a full day's work at another job? That fills us with pride when that student receives a GED certificate or independently forms a grammatically correct sentence in English?

Let us continue to be optimistic. Let us be fully aware that valuing the dignity of one can change at least one tiny corner of the world — and perhaps more than that! May we wear our rose-colored glasses with pride.