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Providing Staff and Program Development for Boston-Area Adult Basic Education Programs

Adult Literacy Resource Institute, University of Massachusetts Boston

System for Adult Basic Education Support (SABES)

College of Education and Human Development, University of Massachusetts Boston

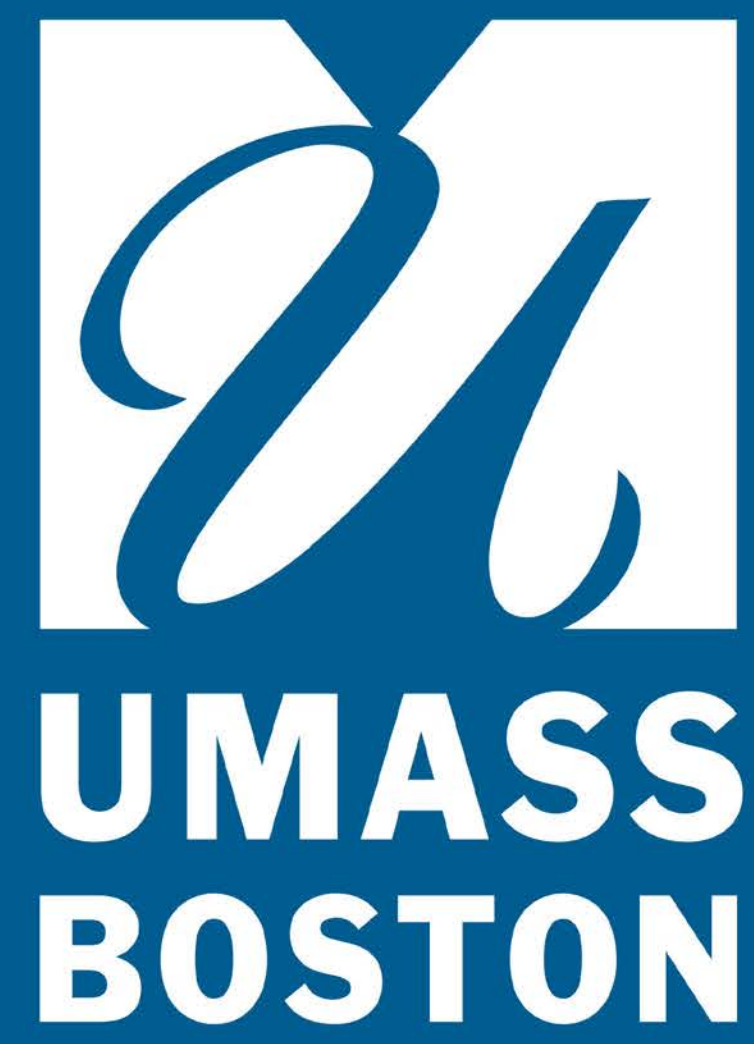
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Providing Staff and Program Development for Boston-Area Adult Basic Education Programs

Adult Literacy Resource Institute/SABES Greater Boston Regional Support Center
College of Education and Human Development



Summary

The Adult Literacy Resource Institute (part of UMass Boston since 1983, and 100% grant-funded) serves as the Greater Boston Regional Support Center for SABES, the state's System for Adult Basic Education Support. We provide staff and program development services to adult basic education programs in the Boston area, especially the approximately 40 programs in the region (most located at community-based organizations) that are funded by the state's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and that offer ESOL, basic literacy and numeracy, high school equivalency preparation, and other classes (including family literacy, civics education, career pathways, and college transition).

Goals of ALRI and SABES

- To promote high-quality adult basic education services through professional development (PD), program support, and other resources that improve the skills and knowledge of practitioners and that strengthen programs.
- Collaborate with Regional Support Centers statewide and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop a workplan that guides our work each year.

Funding and Contact Information

The A.L.R.I. is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education/Adult and Community Learning Services and by the City of Boston/EDIC/Office of Jobs and Community Services. Contact information--A.L.R.I. Director: Steve Reuys, 7-4071, steve.reuys@umb.edu (website: www.sabes.org)

Approaches and Methods

- Free professional development activities and other support services to teachers, counselors, and administrators at adult basic education programs in the Boston area.
- Services include mini-courses, workshops, sharing groups, program-based support, on-line activities, and individual technical assistance related to teaching and learning, curriculum and assessment, counseling and student support, program management and planning, workforce development and college transition, technology and data reporting, and other areas.

Specializations of A.L.R.I.:

- Teaching Writing – statewide leadership to create a new PD program in writing.
- SABES Literacy Library – maintain and operate this resource, serving all adult basic education programs and practitioners throughout Massachusetts.
- Technology – develop new PD and provide technical assistance related to the state's adult basic education database (SMARTT) and integrating technology into classrooms.

ABE Program Partners

Downtown Boston:	-Perkins International Institute of Boston -Jewish Vocational Service --YMCA International Services	East Boston:	-Harborside Community Center HydePark:	Roxbury:	-Dimock Center -ESAC -WAITT House
Allston/Brighton:	-Jackson/Mann Community Center	South Boston:	-St. Mary's Women and Children's Center	South End:	-Notre Dame Education Center -NDEC/Julie's Family Learning Program
Charlestown:	-Charlestown Community Center	South End:	-Jewish Vocational Service/Hyde Park	South End:	-Educational Development Group -United South End Settlements
Chinatown:	-Asian American Civic Association -Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center	Jamaica Plain:	-El Centro del Cardenal -Jamaica Plain Community Center	Cambridge:	-Community Learning Center
Dorchester:	-BPS Adult Learning Center -College Bound Dorchester -Haitian Multi-Service Center -Mujeres Unidas Avanzando	Mattapan:	-ABCD/Mattapan Adult Education North End:	Somerville:	-SCALE
		Roslindale:	-ABCD Neighborhood Service Center -ABCD/SouthSide Headstart	Other:	-Suffolk County House of Correction -Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts

Results/Impacts

In FY2013:

- A.L.R.I. offered **69** region-wide staff and program development **activity sessions** reaching **734 participants**.
- **382 individual practitioners attended one or more** sessions, with most of them representing the 36 DESE-funded programs in the Greater Boston region (our primary target audience).

New Professional Development:

- Writing PD opportunities developed, including the "Hungry to Write" course & "Knowing Writing" workshop.
- Online module for teachers on creating effective assessments.
- Online "SMARTT New User" training, incorporating A.L.R.I. instructional videos.
- Online version of existing "Integrating Career Awareness" course created.