

American Association for Adult and Continuing Education

2015 Conference, Oklahoma City

Report for MAACCE 2016 Annual General Meeting

Liaison: Jamy Preul

The 64th annual conference was held in November in Oklahoma City with the theme of “Evolutions and Revolutions in Adult Learning”. I was able to attend and represent MAACCE, and am grateful for the opportunity to add this to my list of professional development endeavors.

AAACE conferences are typically representative of all types of adult education. In Missouri we might tend to think of adult education only as adult basic education, rather than the entire adult education world. Strands presented at the conference included: Adult Basic Education, Adult High School, Adult Numeracy, Correctional Education, Adult Development and Aging, Adult Learners with Disabilities, Adult Learning, Adult Psychology, Counseling and Services, Colleges and Universities (including Community Colleges), Distance and Online Learning, Cooperative Education, Minority and Human Rights, Popular Education, Non-formal Education, Religious Adult Education, Women’s Issues, English for Speakers of Other Languages, Vocational and Career Education, Graduate Student Education, Health Professionals, History and Philosophy of Adult Education, International Adult Education, Military Education, Program Management and Administration, Sustainability and Environmental Adult Education, Workforce Development, Professional Development, Continuing Education, and Human Resource Development.

Keynote Speakers were great and offered good information about the history, evolution, revolutions and future of adult education. Some of the information was about the growth of involvement internationally. One keynote was Dr. Katarina Popovic, Secretary General of the International Council for Adult Education and a professor at the University of Belgrade. She spoke of the changes that adult education has brought in social movements, social and political changes, and shifting paradigms. She took us through a walk in history to highlight examples of adult education, as an agent of positive change and evolutionary progress. She also shed light on possible misuses and failures of adult education, such as Nazism and communism. Another keynote speaker, who has been involved with adult education for decades, shared personal perspectives on some metaphors that reflect our past experience and can inspire our future directions. He shared a newly launched international compendium of adult and continuing education. His talk ended with the panel of colleagues who helped to explain their role in the new compendium.

I was able to attend 9 sessions and the poster display. The type of sessions that I chose to attend dealt with workforce issues, diversity and race, career development, welfare recipients’ self-identities and effective teaching characteristics. Each session had between nine and eleven choices, plus the round table discussions, so there were quite a number to choose from. Most of the information presented comes from research that the presenters are working on.

The 65th Conference will be held in Albuquerque, NM, November 8-11, 2016. I encourage all of you to attend.