

THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

Advisers to the Nation on Science, Engineering, and Medicine

Improving Adult Literacy Instruction Options for Practice and Research

Public Discussion Agenda

May 30, 2012

National Academies Keck Building, Room 100

500 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

This public event is an opportunity to discuss the newly released NRC consensus report, *Improving Adult Literacy: Options for Practice and Research*. Members of the authoring committee will present the report's key findings, recommendations, and messages. Invited experts will examine strategies for acting on the recommendations to address the educational needs of adults with low literacy and improve their employment opportunities and economic outcomes. The discussion is designed to establish some common understandings about the report among the various stakeholders (policymakers, business leaders, administrators of adult literacy programs offered in adult education programs and community colleges, public and private funders of research and development for literacy, and developers of curricula and education technologies), and to consider how the report may be used to shape and support activities at federal, state and local levels for improving adult literacy instruction.

9:00 Welcome & Introductions

Robert Hauser, Executive Director, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, National Research Council

9:10 Opening Remarks

Brenda Dann-Messier, Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education (Study Sponsor)

Roberto Rodriguez, Special Assistant to the President for Education, White House Domestic Policy Council

This study was sponsored by the Office of Vocational and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education

9:30

Panel 1: Overview of the Report and Discussion with the NRC Committee

Participating Committee Members

Alan Lesgold, Committee Chair and Dean, School of Education, University of Pittsburgh

Aydin Durgunoglu, Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Minnesota, Duluth

Art Graesser, Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Memphis

Daryl Mellard, Director, Division of Adult Studies, Center for Research on Learning, University of Kansas

Kenneth Pugh, President and Director of Research, Haskins Laboratories

9:30

Overview of the Study

Alan Lesgold

9:45

Highlighted Topics from the Report

Developing English Language and Literacy

Aydin Durgunoglu

Technology and Instruction

Art Graesser

10:00

General Audience Discussion

Moderator: Alan Lesgold

10:45

Break

11:00

Panel 2: Perspectives on the Implications of the Report

Panelists who represent high profile stakeholder groups respond to the report from their various vantage points. The discussion will focus on key issues in adult literacy education as part of the bigger solution to strengthening the economy and improving outcomes and opportunities for all. Guiding questions for the discussion include:

- What are the priorities for improving adult literacy and adult literacy instruction in the 21st century and current economic context?
- What are opportunities to apply what is known from research (for example, to improve professional development, curricula and texts, technologies, and assessments) while studying further what works for various segments of this diverse population?
- What are some of the challenges involved, and how might these be overcome?

11:00 **Panel Discussion**
Josephine Reed-Taylor, Deputy Commissioner, Technical College System of Georgia
Gavin Kerr, President and Chief Executive Officer, Inglis Foundation
Andrés Henríquez, Program Officer, Literacy and Standards, Carnegie Corporation of New York

11:30 **General Audience Discussion**
Moderator: Johan Uvin, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Policy and Strategic Initiatives, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education

12:00 **Closing Comments**
Johan Uvin
Alan Lesgold

12:15 **Adjourn**

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