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*The Voice of
Adult Education
in Massachusetts*

November 22, 2010

For Immediate Release

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**STATEWIDE COALITION RECOGNIZES LOCAL ABE COUNSELOR
NSCAP Practitioner Wins Outstanding Counselor Award**

Boston, MA: Adult basic education creates a pathway to success leading people to better jobs, higher education and civic participation. Counselors like Maureen Smith from the ESOL Program at North Shore Community Action Programs (NSCAP) work with adult learners to help them succeed and connect them to the resources they need. Maureen is this year's recipient of the Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education's (MCAE) Outstanding Counselor Award.

"I consider it a great privilege to recognize Maureen for her outstanding contributions to adult basic education and for going above and beyond what is asked of her," said Kenneth Tamarkin, MCAE's Executive Director.

A mother with a child who is diagnosed with ADHD needs to learn how the school system can help him; another mother with children who retreat silently into themselves in the classroom needs help to get them in a school that is best equipped for them; a student needs fuel assistance; a student needs employment; a student needs a mental health counselor that speaks her language; a student needs help with domestic abuse. Maureen helps each one. She speaks to the social service worker or resource person directly. It is not only that she knows how to help her students but she has a passion to do what she can to alleviate their problems and pain.

"Maureen is an invaluable member of the ESOL Program at NSCAP," said Beth Hogan from NSCAP. "Everyone at NSCAP feels very fortunate to have Maureen on our staff, and the students know that she is a true advocate for them. She is always there for them."

NSCAP provides free classes to help non-native speakers improve their ability to speak, read, write, and understand English. The classes, which are taught by experienced ESOL instructors, also include a computer-literacy component. For more information regarding NSCAP visit www.nscap.org.

MCAE is the statewide organization for practitioners, adult students, individuals and organizations supporting equal educational opportunities for all adults. MCAE is dedicated to the advancement of adult education through high quality services and professionalism in the field from basic literacy and English for Speakers of Other Languages through preparation for a high school credential such as the General Educational Development (GED) test to programs such as family literacy, workforce development, and workplace education to transitions to post-secondary education. For more information about adult

basic education in Massachusetts visit www.mcae.net.

MCAE annually honors outstanding students, businesses and practitioners in adult education at the NETWORK conference each fall.

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Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education

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