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The Voice of Adult Education in Massachusetts

July 6, 2010 Tamarkin For Immediate Release: Kenneth

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## THE BOSTON FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT TO STATEWIDE COALITION ADVANCING EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Boston, MA - Recognizing that Adult Basic Education is a lynchpin service for improving the quality of life and economic growth of communities and families, The Boston Foundation has awarded MCAE a multi-year grant of \$110,000 to promote the career advancement and economic security of low-income individuals and their children.

"Education only becomes more important for those looking for greater opportunity in our global, knowledge-based economy," said Paul S. Grogan, President and CEO of the Boston Foundation. "MCAE is a proven leader in the critical work of creating greater upward mobility for area residents by advocating for Adult Basic Education services, and we are proud to support them in this critical work."

The Massachusetts Workforce Investment Board states that tens of thousands of Massachusetts adults lack the education and skills to participate in advanced job skill development or higher education. According to the Commonwealth Corporation the state's overall economic performance is determined, in part, by the size and human capital characteristics of the state's labor force. When more residents earn educational credentials and update their literacy and job skills they have more career options, which provides more direct financial benefits to local communities by way of tax revenues.

"Adult basic education creates a pathway to success leading people to better jobs, higher education and civic participation," said Kenneth Tamarkin, Executive Director of MCAE. "The grant from The Boston Foundation will give us additional resources to support MCAE's advocacy initiative to increase the visibility, funding, and system capacity for adult basic education."

MCAE is a statewide membership organization of educators, adult students, and others who support equal educational opportunities for 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 transitions to post-secondary education. MCAE also serves as a resource for practitioners, policy makers, researchers and the media. MCAE's President is Connie Nelson, who is also the Director of the Massachusetts Worker Education Roundtable. For more information on MCAE visit www.mcae.net.

The Boston Foundation, Greater Boston's community foundation, is one of the oldest

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and largest community foundations in the nation, with assets of \$695 million. In Fiscal Year 2009, the Foundation and its donors made \$86 million in grants to nonprofit organizations and received gifts of over \$72 million. The Foundation's competitive grantmaking is supported by the Permanent Fund for Boston at the Boston Foundation, which continues to receive gifts and bequests from those who want to ensure that Greater Boston has a permanent endowment. The Boston Foundation also serves as a major civic leader, provider of information, convener, and sponsor of special initiatives designed to address the community's and the region's most pressing challenges. For more information about the Boston Foundation and its grant making, visit www.tbf.org, or call 617-338-1700.

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## Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education

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