

**Minnesota ABE Teaching and Learning Advancement System [ATLAS](#) @ Hamline University
School of Education
2017 National Coalition for Literacy
Literacy Leadership Award**

When it comes to adult literacy education, professional development is not just a nice thing to offer teachers. It's essential. In order to provide high quality instruction in literacy, numeracy, HS equivalency, and prepare adults for success in college and careers, we must provide in-service training. Many adult educators do not have a degree in adult education. And, of course, our understanding of what constitutes high quality practice changes in adult education as it does in other fields.

Professional development (PD) providers are often unsung heroes of adult education, charged with promoting and ensuring program and instructional quality. As a PD practitioner myself, it gives me great pleasure to recognize one of our own: the **Minnesota ABE Teaching and Learning Advancement System at Hamline University School of Edu.** ATLAS is one of the premier ABE/ESOL PD systems in the U.S. I know them through my work at World Education and our collaborations over the years. I know them to be practitioner-centered and innovative, and yes, collaborative.

ATLAS is known for providing high quality evidence-based PD - including certificate courses. For example, their ongoing adult numeracy initiative is a comprehensive, creative, and sustained professional learning effort that has produced national adult numeracy leaders. This is not accidental: They intentionally cultivate teacher leadership.

ATLAS has helped to improve national adult literacy practice. The *Transitions Integration Framework* developed by ATLAS has informed our national adult education PD practice at World Education. It defines the academic, career, and employability skills essential for adult learners to successfully transition to postsecondary education, career training, the workplace, and community involvement. And the Framework is available free of charge as are all the resources developed by ATLAS, right on their website.

Every state needs a PD center like ATLAS. Thank you for your exemplary work and leadership. I am honored to present this award to you on your 10th anniversary.

Accepting the award are Dr. Patsy Egan, Director of ATLAS and Marisa Squadrito Geisler, ATLAS Operations Manager

*Silja Kallenbach
Board Member, National Coalition for Literacy
Vice President, World Education
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