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IAACE April Newsletter

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Fri, Apr 17, 2026 at 10:05 AM

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In This Edition of the IAACE Newsletter:

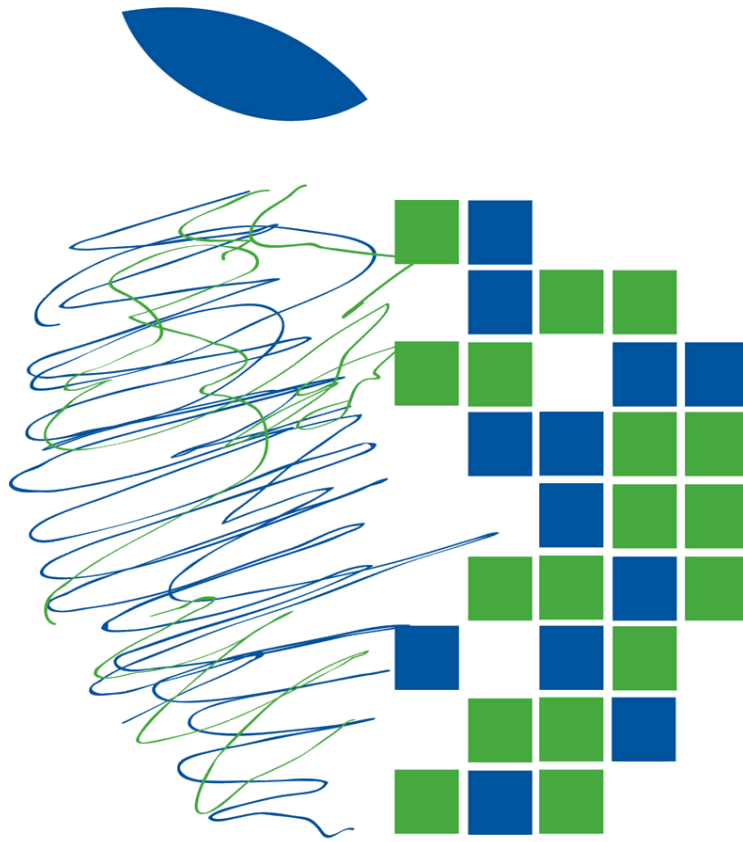
- President's Message
- IAACE Board Elections- Vote until April 23
- COABE 2026 Wrap Up
- Advocacy April
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Caroline Foster
IAACE President 2025-26




Caroline Foster, IAACE President 2025-2026
Click the logo to view the video.




iaace

Thanks to Leo Patiño, IAACE Board Member for creating this video.

VOTING PERIOD

BOARD *Elections*
VOTING PERIOD:
APRIL 8-
APRIL 23, 11:59 PM ET



VOTE!

 <https://iaace.com/2026-board-of-directors-ballot/>

IAACE Board Elections open until April 23, 11:59 pm ET

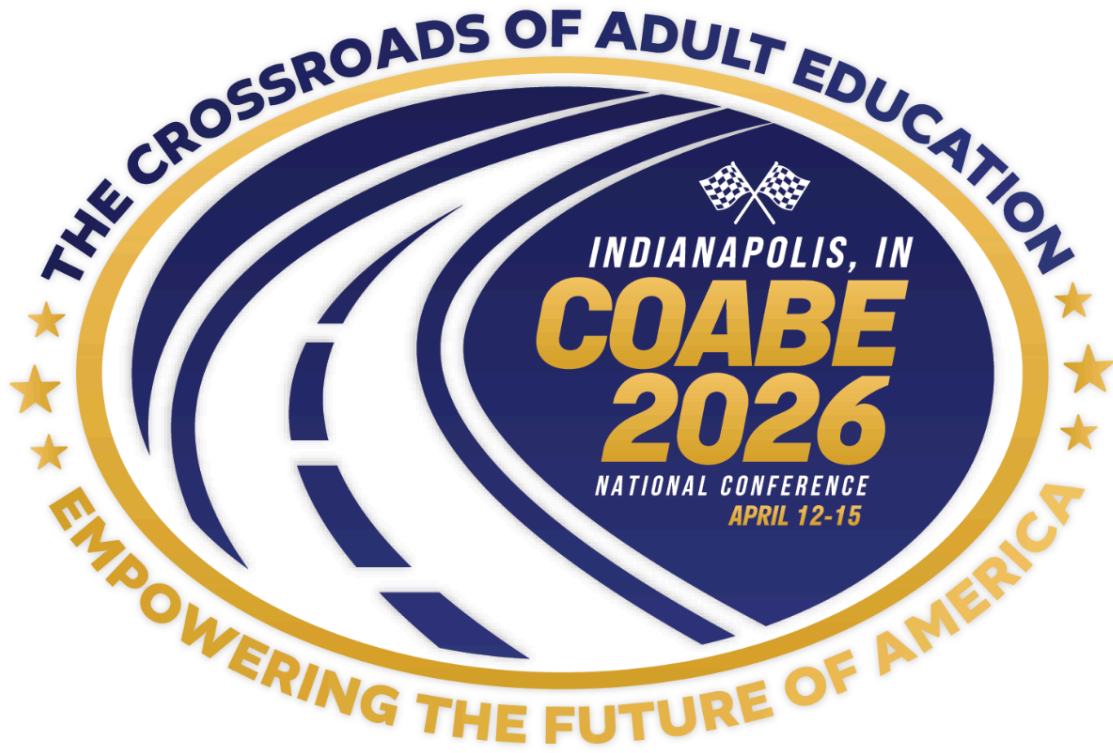
The ballot is open, and your voice matters more than ever.

IAACE is powered by its members—your ideas, your experiences, and your commitment to adult education across Indiana. The Board of Directors helps shape the direction of our organization, and voting in this year’s election is your opportunity to be part of that journey.

If you have not voted yet, we invite you to take a few moments to learn about the candidates and cast your vote. Each candidate has stepped forward with a passion to serve, lead, and strengthen our community. By participating, you’re not just selecting leaders—you’re helping define the future of IAACE.

Make your voice count. Vote, engage, and continue building the strong, connected community that makes IAACE thrive.

COABE 2026 Wrap Up



The IAACE Booth showed up and showed out at COABE this year—and if booths could take a bow, this one would be mid-curtsy right now.

From the moment attendees stepped into Griffin Hall Foyer, the energy was unmistakable. The *Embellish Your Badge* station quickly became a crowd favorite, turning name badges into tiny billboards of personality—ribbons, flair, and conversation starters everywhere you looked. Meanwhile, the *Rescue Station* became the unsung hero of the conference. Need a fix, a refill, or a “how did I forget that?” moment solved? It had you covered, no questions asked.

And then... the *Cornhole Challenge*. Equal parts competition and comic relief, it brought people together for quick breaks and big laughs. One unforgettable highlight? Our winning set of custom cornhole boards didn't just get claimed—they got packed up and flown home as checked luggage. That's commitment.

On Monday, the booth also served as a hub for connection and discovery. Attendees browsed the *Tomorrow Bookstore Pop-Up*, gathered ideas, and found inspiration to read. The curated selection was wonderful, see the pictures below.

Others stopped by for *Best of Indy* recommendations, walking away with local gems and plans for their next adventure.

Whether it was a badge glow-up, a much-needed assist, a new book, or just a place to pause and connect, the IAACE Booth delivered.

Want to see how it all played out—including competition results and a few standout moments? Check out the [Google Photo Album for COABE 2026](#)... or keep an eye out for a highlight video that captures the magic in motion.

Thank You from Executive Director, Jenn Wigginton

The COABE 2026 Conference in Indiana was more than just an event—it was a powerful reflection of who we are as a community.

To our membership: thank you for showing up in such a meaningful way. Your engagement, energy, and commitment to growth brought the conference to life. Whether you were diving into sessions, sharing your expertise, or making new connections, you embraced the exceptional professional development opportunities that define this field.

Hosting a national conference of this caliber in our state is both an honor and a responsibility. You demonstrated what it means to be outstanding stewards—welcoming colleagues from across the country with professionalism, collaboration, and true Hoosier hospitality.

Because of you, Indiana didn't just host COABE—we elevated it.

Thank you for representing our state and our field so well.



Advocacy April just got a little more playful—and a lot more powerful.

Our **Advocacy April Bingo** is your invitation to turn everyday actions into meaningful impact. Each square is a simple way to show up for adult education —whether that's sharing a story, connecting with a policymaker, amplifying a message, or celebrating the work happening in your program.

Upload your **BINGO Cards to the Google Photos or the Padlet**, and you've officially earned more than a completed card—you've earned **bragging rights**. The kind you carry into conversations, team meetings, and maybe even your next conference intro: *"Yes, I advocate."*

So jump in, mark your squares, and see how quickly those small actions stack into something big. Who's calling BINGO first?



iaace Advocacy April 2026 Photo Album

Advocacy April 2026 BINGO

Review our Master Guide to Advocacy	Ask Local Media to Highlight AE	Post AE Facts on your School Marquee	Teach a Lesson on Voting	Follow your Legislator on X
Share the 3-Click Campaign on your Socials	Share an Adult Learner Success Video	Sign up Adult Learners for a Free Membership	Schedule a Meeting with your Legislator	Review Legislative Talking Points
Raise Your Voice! Join Us for Advocacy April	Set a Reminder for a Feedback Form after Legislative Meeting	Post about the Value of your Local AE Program	Add to the Agenda for the Local AE Pledge	Request an Open Week Proclamation
Share an Adult Learner Success Story	Subscribe to Public Policy Pulse Newsletter	Learn more about Teaching Life Engagement	Take the Educate & Elevate America Pledge	Create a Video in Promote AE
Post your Educate & Elevate America Pledge Badge	Write a 15-Word Comment on COAEE Press	Write an Op-Ed Encouraging AE	Post your Successes to the COAEE Pledge	Email your Legislator in 3 Clicks



Advocacy April

PUT ADULT EDUCATION AT THE TABLE

///iaace.com/advocacyapril/

Advocacy April Info

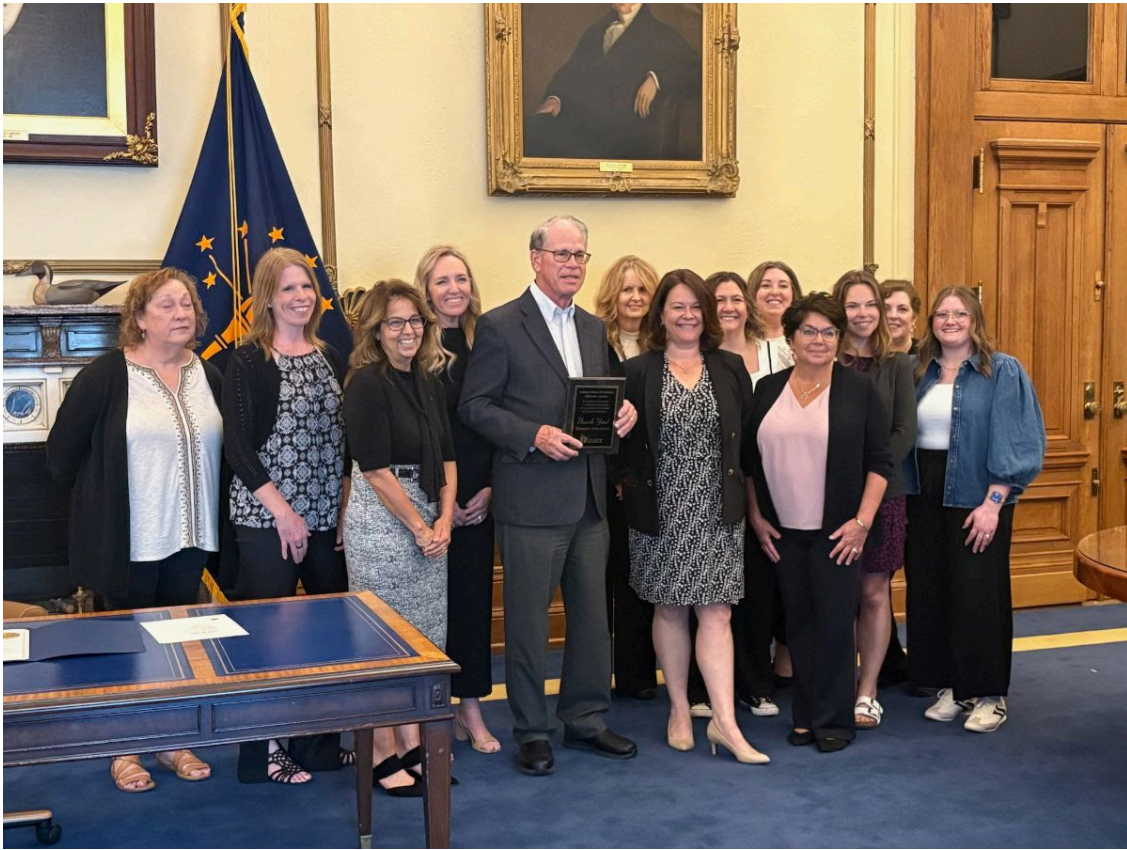
IAACE Crew Witnesses HEA 1195 Signed & Awards Governor for Support

Congratulations to the adult education programs in Indiana. HEA 1195 was ceremonial signed by [Governor Mike Braun](#) to help adult students in Indiana with their education.

Thank you to Representative [Andrew Ireland](#) and Chairman [Bob Behning](#) , Senator Jeff Raatz for helping get this legislation passed!

Indiana Adult Education is a National leader.

Thank you to the partnership with [IAACE](#) and recognizing the Governor with a nice award for supporting adult education.



(from left to right) Gayle Brooks, Denise Esslinger, Michelle Davis, Caroline Foster, Governor Mike Braun, Lara Pastore, Sara Gutting, Natalie Reuter, (backrow) Suzi Moore-Fenton, Corey Kennedy, Jill Jongeling, Roxanne Bauer



2026 IAACE Annual Meeting

10:00 am ET

Friday, May 15

MADE Center, 1610 Reeves Rd. Plainfield, IN

Hybrid

[//iaace.com/membership-annual-meeting/](https://iaace.com/membership-annual-meeting/)

The IAACE Annual Meeting is right around the corner, and this year it's designed with flexibility in mind. Join us on **May 15, 10:00 am ET** for a **hybrid event**, offering both in-person and virtual options so every member has a seat at the table—no matter where you are.

This important gathering is more than just a date on the calendar. It's a moment to connect, reflect, and help shape the future of our organization. During the meeting, the IAACE Board will present [proposed bylaw changes](#) for member review and consideration. These updates are part of our ongoing commitment to strengthen our governance, ensure sustainability, and better serve our members and the adult education community.

All members are encouraged to attend, stay informed, and actively participate in the process. Your voice matters, and the Annual Meeting is one of the most important opportunities to use it.

Mark your calendar, choose the way you'll join us, and be part of the conversation that moves IAACE forward.

Thank you COABE for bringing the conference to INDY!



COABE

The Voice Of Adult Education

Be a Part of the ADULT EDUCATION MOVEMENT!

educate & elevate America
COMMITMENT TO ADULT EDUCATION PLEDGE
SIGN TO UPHOLD ACCESS TO ADULT EDUCATION TODAY!

Click the graphic above to Sign the Pledge!



Happy Birthday to April Birthdays!

Julie	Hackerd	2
James	Boldman	3
Jon	Thurlow	4
Karen	McDonald	4
Stacey	King	4
Cassy	Coulter	7
Leo	Patiño	8
Jessica	Collier	9
Meresa	Creekmore-Armor	9
Ed	Krakowiak	10
Deborah	Thomason	14
Amanda	Sullivan	16
Julia	Lohla	17
Nikki	Chambers	17
Katie	Walton	20
Michelle	Stien	20
Jenn	Wigginton	22
Christine	McIntyre	25
Mireya	Clark	26
Sheila	Butler	26
Kimberly Renee	Anderson	29
Annette	Armstrong-Williams	30
Marylin	Burgdolf	30
Mary	Brabson	?

If your birthday is missing, [sign in to your profile](#) and add your birthday month and date. Your membership may also have expired.



TEACHERS TALK

The After-Class Conversation

What adult ed teachers are actually talking about.

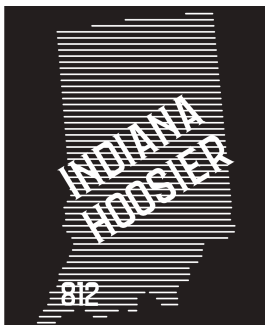
Released monthly on the last Friday of the month
www.iaace.com/teachers-talk/



Teachers Talk Page

Share and Learn: Member Resources

AE Acronyms Dictionary



The Power of the Pause! It was so much fun pausing and looking at all of Indiana pride shirts throughout the conference. I also had so much delivering my session. If you don't have access to COABE Whova app recording, email me and I'll share my session.

Calendar Link

Finding what you need on the IAACE Website is easy, check out the <https://iaace.com/help/> page for searching tips and help on the virtual.iaace.com platform.

The platform, virtual.iaace.com is available for all IAACE members and is a viable option for your professional development needs. Find details on Professional Development Options at <https://iaace.com/professional-development/>



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