



**U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Vocational and Adult Education  
Adult Basic and Literacy Education  
Division of Adult Education and Literacy**

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**FACT SHEET SERIES**

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## **Adult Basic Education Career Connections**

### **Background**

It is widely acknowledged that the fastest growing jobs in the 21<sup>st</sup> century will require some level of postsecondary education. Consequently, moving more people through postsecondary programs aligned with the economic needs of a community or region is vital to our nation's future competitiveness, security, and stability.

The Adult Basic Education (ABE) Career Connections project promotes *career pathways* as a framework for assisting ABE students to successfully transition to postsecondary programs and begin careers in high-demand fields.

Career pathways are a series of connected education and training strategies and support services that enable individuals to secure employment within a specific occupational sector and to advance over time to successively higher levels of education and employment in that sector. Each step on a pathway is designed to prepare the participant for the next level of education and employment.

### **Overview**

The Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) awarded \$75,000 each to Blue Grass Community and Technical College in Kentucky, Instituto del Progreso Latino in Illinois, Jewish Vocational Service in California, Madison Area Technical College in Wisconsin, and Montgomery College in Maryland to enhance efforts to provide postsecondary education and support services that help adults become employed in occupational sectors important to local economies. OVAE has also been providing bridge program training, technical assistance, and access to national experts. The project period runs from October 2006 to September 2009.

### **Project Milestones**

- Held First National Meeting, May 2008
- Complete Second National Meeting, June 2009
- Develop ABE Career Connections manual, November 2009

### **Outcomes and Products**

- *ABE Career Connections* manual that describes how ABE programs can operate within career pathways to prepare students for higher levels of education and better jobs.

### **Web site**

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/AdultEd/adultbe.html>

### **Contact**

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