

# Boston Reed Announces Grants to California Adult Schools for Staff Development

September 21, 2007

Boston Reed has announced awards of its Professional Development Mini-Grants. Five adult schools received grant funds totaling \$7,000 to be used to support teams of teachers in activities such as peer coaching and study circles.

Awarded Districts are:

Lompoc Adult School	\$1,500
Martinez Adult Education	\$1,200
Napa Valley Adult School	\$1,300
Soledad Adult School	\$1,500
Tulare Adult School	\$1,500

“We are really grateful to the California adult school system. We wanted to do something that would make a difference for adult schools,” said Boston Reed CEO David Wignall. “We asked some field people for their input, and they told us one of the biggest barriers they face [in strengthening their programs] is release time for teachers. So we decided to pitch in with that.”

**Lompoc Adult** will use mini-grant funds to train staff on the use of the ADEPT ( A Developmental English Proficiency Test) and its results. This will allow for specific focus in the classroom on the most severe needs, give teachers needed certification training, provide a mentor to assist them in the classroom, and offer networking opportunities.

**Martinez Adult** will use its award to provide teachers compensation for meeting as a community of learners to discuss, reflect upon, and mentor each other on strategies and tools for addressing the specific needs of adult students with learning disabilities. This meeting and mentoring time will be designed to aid in developing resources and materials, to be housed in MAE’s resource library.

**Napa Valley Adult School’s** professional development plan is designed to help teachers address the future trends in employment, present new and inventive ways to teach to the needs of today's workforce and introduce new technology

**Soledad Adult’s** grant will support professional development of nursing educators. Among other activities, nursing educators will be observing each other and sharing best instructional practices.

**Tulare Adult’s** mini-grant will support instructor release time to work collaboratively on issues specific to their subject areas. Such issues include Adult Secondary Education staff discussing strategies for increasing pass rates of the CAHSEE, and Career Technical

## Education programs aligning their curriculum to the California State and industry Standards

Grant dollars are to be matched by other resources available to adult schools. “Our intent is to complement other investments being made in professional development, such as CALPRO and other activities at the adult school site level” remarked Tom Reid, Boston Reed Senior Vice President. Mini-grant applications described how mini-grant resources would fit within the schools’ broader plans for professional development.

Boston Reed hopes the mini-grant process will contribute to a conversation about adult school funding and professional development. “The ‘continuous improvement’ emphasis in professional development we see coming down the road depends on staff having time outside of the classroom for collaborative problem solving,” Reid commented. “More case studies of such teacher-to-teacher work may help guide adult education leaders as they make decisions about their professional development investments.”

A panel of adult educators with recognized professional development expertise made award recommendations to Boston Reed. The applications of awarded schools are available online at [www.bostonreed.com/pd](http://www.bostonreed.com/pd).

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