

Western Business and Information Technology Educators PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE 2008 GRADUATES

The ninth Professional Development Institute (PDI) co-sponsored by WBITE and local STPs graduated eight professionals at the 2008 WBITE Conference held in Scottsdale, Arizona on May 23, 2008. Mary Ann Lammers, WBITE PDI Director and NBEA Past President, conducted the six-hour workshop. Participants had one-half of their registration fee paid by WBITE and one-half could be paid by their own state or territory's professional association.

Since its inception at the Vancouver, British Columbia, Conference in 2000, 69 teachers and administrators have participated in the PDI workshop. Dr. Colleen Vawdrey chaired the event for several years, and then co-chaired with Mary Ann Lammers for three years. Oregon has had the most participants (17), and some states have had very few. The goal is to have two participants from each state attend the training in 2009 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, when IBEA hosts the WBEA Conference. Please contact your STP president for further details or check the Web site at www.WBEA.info.

This year's graduates were introduced at the WBITE Executive Board meeting on Friday afternoon and again honored with their certificates at the Saturday luncheon session. The participants for 2008 were the following:

Allyson Hill has 10 years of industry experience and four years' experience as a secondary instructor at Metro Tech High School in Arizona. Her expectations for attending included the opportunity to network with other professional educators, improving her leadership skills, and better comprehending the world of WBITE/WBEA and NBEA.

Brent Sebold has five years' experience at Arizona State University. He hoped to network with other business educators, learn new leadership skills, and learn how to become more active and influential within business educational professional organizations—an outcome that we are looking for!

Ken S. Kuhn has 32 years of teaching experience in grades 6 through 12. Currently he is at Terry Fox Secondary in Port Moody, British Columbia. He hoped to gain new skills to provide leadership and growth in the training of business educators' use of technology.

Linda D. Snider has been a career educator since 1982 at the secondary, adult education, and community college levels. She currently is employed at Grossmont College in California. She hoped to learn strategies to share with colleagues and professional association members (CBEA) to help revitalize their association.

Verna L. Studer has over 19 years' experience in teaching and is currently employed as Lewis Clark State University in Idaho. Her expectations included: 1) learning how WBITE/WBEA and NBEA work, 2) developing a strong network of committed fellow educators, and 3) learning how to lobby for her students' needs.

Janie McFarland hails from Conrad, Montana, and has 17 years of secondary and 3 years of post-secondary teaching experience. She hoped to develop leadership skills for her current positions, classroom, and BPA activities and future roles of leadership in MACTE and/or WBEA.

Jon R. Abel has 23 years of teaching experience in five different high schools; however, he is currently employed at North Salem High School in Salem, Oregon. He participated so that he could attend workshops that would provide current information and skills that would be applicable for his students, not only in their business classes but also in their future careers.

Jessica Voas is a relatively new teacher and is presently part-time teacher at Portland Community College in Portland, Oregon. She is currently president-elect of OBEA and wanted to develop her leadership and communication skills.