**Welcome Letter Below From Sharon Bonney, CEO COABE**

On behalf of our board, dedicated staff, and over 55,000 adult educators nationwide, welcome! Your membership in the Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE) has been activated. You are now a member of the largest, most dynamic association of adult educators in the world!

Our association engages with more than 53 national partners and 47 state partners on a variety of projects and initiatives. You can learn about our partnerships and collaborative enterprises ([here](https://www.coabe.org/national-partners/)) and via our many communiques.

As a member, you will receive updates throughout the year on new and exciting projects, such as our COABE Google Bootcamps that are being rolled out in each state across the country, delivering the highest quality digital skills for adult learners.  You can also take advantage of our “Reducing Barriers to Employment” initiative with Amazon that enables adult learners in your program to apply for jobs making $15-$19 per hour, plus retirement package and benefits as well as the College Choice where Amazon will pay for 80%-95% of the college costs for employees. Amazon will also remove the barrier of needing a bachelor’s degree for a management level job! Amazon also organizes field trips for local programs that are interested in showing adult learners the types of jobs they are eligible for. COABE also partners with the national Chamber of Commerce, SkillsUSA, and the [Minds that Move Us](http://mindsthatmoveus.org/), an initiative that incentivizes creating innovative career pathway training models that address business and industry demands.

You will also hear from experts and award winners over the course of the year on a myriad of topics as they impart their wisdom, best practices, and professional development tools to our members.

I have listed additional benefits below and invite you to be an **ACTIVE**member of our association. Join us on the COABE App ([here](https://www.coabe.org/get-the-app/)) and social media ([here](https://www.coabe.org/social-media/)) so that you can begin meeting and  networking with other members.

We also invite you to join our advocacy network and submit your student and workplace success stories ([here](https://educateandelevate.org/adult-learner-success/)) for an opportunity to be featured in one of our eblasts that will go out to more than 50,000 contacts and on our website which receives more than 28,000 unique visitors monthly!

Want to get excited about our cause? Access our video produced by Success Files with Rob Lowe ([here](https://educateandelevate.org/learn-more/)) on our award winning public awareness campaign site located at [www.educateandelevate.org.](http://www.educateandelevate.org/)

We have also launched a new FREE adult learner membership option to amplify the voice of the adult learner and highlight their successes. Adult learners can apply for $60,000 of life insurance and benefit at no cost for 2 years! You can send us all of your adult learners, and they can access benefits for free! Learn more ([here](https://educateandelevate.org/learn-more/" \t "_blank)).

I look forward to collaborating with you in the coming year! Please be sure to read below for more details on many additional of benefits of your membership in COABE!

 Kind Regards,

Sharon Bonney  
Chief Executive Officer