

Linda West Recognized for Preserving History of California Adult Education

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Former Outreach and Technical Assistant Network (OTAN) Managing Director, Linda West, was recognized at the California Council for Adult Education (CCAE) State Conference in San Diego last week. Linda was recognized for her work preserving the history of California Adult Education and was presented with the "Citation of Merit" during a conference luncheon held on April 25, 2014.

An adult educator, librarian, archivist and historian, Linda West, began teaching English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) in 1976 after a short career as a reference librarian. She specialized in vocational ESL, working in Indochinese refugee programs and Amnesty programs in the 1980s, when she developed curriculum and was active in state-wide staff development programs.

In 1990 she joined OTAN as Archives Manager, and became Managing Director when OTAN moved from southern California to the Sacramento County Office of Education.

Under her direction, the [California Adult Education Archives](#) was established and developed into its current size of over 2,000 cataloged items, including 29 oral histories and 12 special collections, all housed at OTAN.



Linda West



In 1995, Linda wrote the history of California adult education, *Meeting the Challenge*, published by the California Department of Education. It was updated in 2005, the sesquicentennial year.

Linda retired as Director of OTAN in 2005, but continues with OTAN part-time to maintain the Archives and provide reference services for California adult educators. The Adult Ed Archives is available online at <http://www.otan.us/browse/index.cfm?fuseaction=view&catid=2677/>.

Also honored during the CCAE State Conference were:

- Candace Lee of Los Angeles Unified School District/DACE with the "Award of Merit,"
- Marilyn Knight-Mendelson of Napa Valley Adult Education with the "Dr. Robert Rupert Award,"
- Sue Gilmore of Sacramento Unified School District with the "Partners in Adult Education Award,"
- Sharon Darling of the National Center for Families Learning with the "Partners in Adult Education Award."

Congratulations to all the honorees!