

January 25, 2011

## DEPUTY MAYOR DENNIS WALCOTT APPOINTS TARA COLTON AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF ADULT EDUCATION

Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott today appointed Tara Colton as Executive Director of the [Mayor's Office of Adult Education](#), an office that serves as a critical bridge between government, industry, education and workforce providers, and community groups in building valuable and lifelong skills for New Yorkers. Ms. Colton previously served as Director of Strategy and Partnerships at the New York City Department of Education's Office of Adult and Continuing Education. Ms. Colton replaces Anthony Tassi, who left the Administration in September.

"I am honored to be joining the Mayor's Office of Adult Education, and am deeply committed to expanding opportunities and improving outcomes for the tens of thousands of adult learners in New York City," said Ms. Colton. "I look forward to partnering with a range of government, community and private sector stakeholders to continue the innovative work already underway under the strong leadership of Mayor Bloomberg and Deputy Mayor Walcott," she continued. "I especially look forward to working together to develop new initiatives that will strengthen this critically important learning system that improves the language, literacy and vocational skills of New Yorkers."

The Mayor's Office of Adult Education (MOAE) plays a vital coordinating and priority-setting role for a local adult education system unique in both its diversity and its sheer size. Four types of providers—the New York City Department of Education, City University of New York, community-based organizations, and the public libraries—served 71,000 adult students last year, with offerings that include Adult Basic Education, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), GED preparation, and Career and Technical Education. Ms. Colton pledged that MOAE would serve the field as a center for new program approaches, a clearinghouse for best practices and a tireless champion for its vital work. Under Ms. Colton's leadership, MOAE will build closer alignment between the adult education and workforce development systems, and join with the newly-created "workforce development cabinet" led by Deputy Mayors Walcott, Gibbs and Steel to strengthen the connection between workforce and literacy programs.

As Director of Strategy and Partnerships at the Office of Adult and Continuing Education (OACE) within the DOE—itsself a large and varied system serving about 41,000 adult learners annually at 175 sites around the five boroughs—Ms. Colton led efforts to expand and strengthen collaborations with a diverse range of partners, evaluate program operations, and guide the establishment of new sites. Prior to joining the Department of Education, Ms. Colton was the Deputy Director of the Center for an Urban Future (CUF), a non-partisan think tank focused on economic and workforce development. While at CUF, she was the Center's primary researcher on improving and expanding adult education and ESOL programming in New York.

Ms. Colton earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wesleyan University and a Master of Public Administration degree from Baruch College's School of Public Affairs. She lives in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, with her husband.