



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DOLLAR GENERAL, CAAL LAUNCH INDEPENDENT  
BLUE-RIBBON ADULT LITERACY COMMISSION**

GOODLETTSVILLE, Tenn. and NEW YORK, NY (October 9, 2006) -- Dollar General Corporation and the Council for Advancement of Adult Literacy (CAAL) today announced the launch of the independent blue-ribbon National Commission on Adult Literacy. The Dollar General Literacy Foundation is the lead supporter of the initiative with a donation of \$1 million. Dollar General chairman and CEO David Perdue is chairing the Commission. CAAL is the grantee organization and will manage the Commission study.

The distinguished Commission is comprised of a former governor, Fortune 500® CEOs, former congressional and cabinet members, and other influential business, education and literacy, and public policy leaders. A complete list is attached.

The Commission will examine all components of the adult education and literacy enterprise in America and recommend a future course for comprehensive service. One key goal is to bring about needed legislative change in federal and state policy. Another is to build better awareness and involvement by the business and philanthropic communities. Creating stronger public support is also an expected outcome. The Commission's underlying vision is to improve American economic vitality and competitiveness, civic engagement, and quality of life – all essential to our democratic society and our nation as a world leader.

“We are proud to lend our name and support to this Commission. Its work will help millions of undereducated adults improve their life prospects and find good jobs, strengthening the American workforce,” said David Perdue. “We’ve assembled a truly remarkable group of commissioners who bring deep knowledge, enthusiasm, and a high sense of purpose to this undertaking.”

“We’re thrilled by Dollar General’s boldness of vision,” said CAAL president Gail Spangenberg. “Never before has such an outstanding group come together for an extended period of time to consider the future of adult literacy. This is an unprecedented opportunity for adult education, for the many millions of adults in need of skills upgrading and further education, and for the nation.”

Dr. Cheryl King, former Deputy Secretary and Commissioner of Adult Education and Workforce Development in Kentucky, is the study director. A resource group of adult literacy and education professionals is being formed for advice in key areas.

In mid-2008, the Commission will issue a major, highly visible report complete with analysis and strategic recommendations addressed to federal and state government and the business, education, and philanthropic communities.

Because of his longstanding interest in adult literacy, Harold W. McGraw, Jr., Chairman Emeritus of The McGraw-Hill Companies, has personally donated \$100,000 to the Commission.

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#### **About Dollar General**

Dollar General is a Fortune 500® discount retailer with more than 8,000 neighborhood stores. Dollar General Stores offer convenience and value to customers by offering consumable basic items that are frequently used and replenished, such as food, snacks, health and beauty aids and cleaning supplies, as well as a selection of basic apparel, house wares, and seasonal items at everyday low prices. The company has a longstanding tradition of supporting literacy and education in the U.S. In 2005, its support of nonprofit organizations helped more than 81,000 individuals take their first steps toward literacy, a general education diploma, or English proficiency. For more information about Dollar General, go to [www.dollargeneral.com](http://www.dollargeneral.com).

#### **About the Council for Advancement of Adult Literacy**

CAAL is a nonprofit organization, incorporated as a national public charity. It is dedicated to expanding and strengthening the adult education and literacy system in America through a program of research and analysis, symposia, and special cutting-edge projects – all designed to improve policy, planning, and practice at the state and national levels. For more information about CAAL, go to [www.caalusa.org](http://www.caalusa.org).

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# National Commission on Adult Literacy

(as of 10--09-06)



Council for Advancement of Adult Literacy

1221 Avenue of the Americas – 46<sup>th</sup> Floor – New York, NY 10020

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## **COMMISSIONERS**

**David Perdue** - Chairman and CEO, Dollar General Corporation (Commission Chair).

**Bob Bickerton** - Senior Associate Commissioner of Education for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; Past President National Council of State Directors of Adult Basic Education.

**Sherrie Claiborne** - President, National Coalition for Literacy and Chair of Public Policy, Commission on Adult Basic Education (COABE); Past President of COABE.

**Marion Crain** - Deputy Director, Center on Poverty, Work, and Opportunity, University of North Carolina.

**John Comings** - Director, National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy, Graduate School of Education, Harvard University.

**Sharon Darling** - President and Founder, National Center for Family Literacy.

**Alfredo G. de los Santos, Jr.** - Distinguished Professor, Hispanic Research Center, Arizona State University; Recipient, Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education; Board Member, Carnegie Foundation for Advancement of Teaching; Past President, League for Innovation in Community Colleges.

**Samuel Halperin** - President and Founder, American Youth Policy Forum and Institute for Educational Leadership; Director of William T. Grant Foundation studies of non-college-bound youth, "The Forgotten Half."

**Paul Harrington** – President and CEO, Reebok International, Ltd.

**Bridget Lamont** - Vice Chair, U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science; Past Chair and current member, Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board.

**The Honorable Ray Marshall** - Rapoport Centennial Chair in Economics and Public Affairs, University of Texas (Austin); U.S. Secretary of Labor (Carter)); Member, National Skills Standards Board and Advisory Commission on Labor Diplomacy (Clinton); Co-chair, Commission on Skills of the American Workforce and of Commission on Skills of the American Workforce in a Global Economy.

**Gail Mellow** - President, LaGuardia Community College; On many national higher education boards and commissions; Gubernatorial appointee to New Jersey State Employment and Training Commission; Member, New Jersey Commission on Higher Education and Technology.

**Owen Modeland** - President, Correctional Education Association (incoming); Superintendent of Schools, Oklahoma Department of Corrections.

**Mark Musick** - James Quillen Chair, East Tennessee State University; President Emeritus, Southern Regional Education Board (SREB); Chaired Board of National Assessment of Educational Progress under three presidents.

**Karen Narasaki** - President, Asian American Justice Center; Vice Chair Leadership Conference on Civil Rights; Vice President of Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration Reform; Recipient of award of the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

**Cam Preus-Braly** - Commissioner, Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development; President, National Council on State Directors of Community Colleges; Chair-elect Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education.

**The Honorable Tom Sawyer** - Former member, U.S. House of Representatives (OH); Author, National Literacy Act of 1991; Former Mayor, Akron, OH; Extensive Congressional role in tracking U.S. and world demographic trends and applying them to policy and program purposes.

**The Honorable George M. Staples** - Director General of U.S. Foreign Service and Assistant Secretary for Human Resources, U.S. Department of State; Former political advisor to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) at NATO in Belgium; Former U.S. ambassador to many countries.

**Gail Spangenberg** - President and Founder, Council for Advancement of Adult Literacy; Former Operating Head, Business Council for Effective Literacy.

**Andrew Sum** - Professor of Labor Economics, Director of Center for Labor Market Studies, Northeastern University; National leader in labor market research related to adult literacy.

**Robert Wedgeworth** - President, ProLiteracy Worldwide; Former President, American Library Association; A leader in creating the National Coalition for Literacy in its original form.

**William White** – President and Chairman, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation; Leads Mott’s pioneering work in community education. Member, President Ronald Reagan’s Task Force on Private Sector Initiatives; Observer, Carter Center’s Delegation to the Palestinian Elections.

## **HONORARY COMMISSIONERS**

**David Baldacci** – Author of 13 best-selling novels, translated into 38 languages and sold in more than 80 countries; Playwright; National ambassador for various charities, including the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy; Lawyer, trial and corporate law.

**The Honorable Richard Riley** – Partner, Nelson, Mullins, Riley, and Scarborough; Secretary of Education in Clinton Administration; Former Governor, South Carolina; Recipient Harold W. McGraw Jr. Education Prize for national leadership.