



Dr. Judith Rényi
Executive Director, The Mayor's Commission on Literacy

Dr. Judith Rényi was appointed Executive Director of the newly reconstituted Mayor's Commission on Literacy by Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter in January, 2011, who charged her with focusing the work of the Commission on adult work-readiness for the City's large, under-educated population. With support from the City of Philadelphia, private and corporate funders, Dr. Rényi has instituted systems to increase quality and access to adult literacy and ESL throughout the city.



She established the Philadelphia Adult Literacy Alliance, bringing together all literacy and ESL providers, workforce development professionals, and other partners, for professional development, networking and advocacy. Dr. Rényi has also introduced the first-ever electronic registration and enrollment system for low literate adults in the U.S., and the first-ever cohort-based, interactive online courses are to pilot in early 2014. She is a trustee of the Community College of Philadelphia and a member of the Board of Directors of Philadelphia Works, Inc.

Dr. Rényi has worked at the cutting edge of instructional technology for K-12 and higher education for 30 years, first as a Dean at New York University and later Rosemont College, founding Vice President of Academic Affairs and Partnerships for American College of Education, and President and CEO of The NEA Foundation for the Improvement of Education. She also worked in K-12 school reform as the founding Executive Director of what is now called The Philadelphia Education Fund and, on behalf of The Rockefeller Foundation, a national network of urban education reform projects.

Widely known as a speaker and writer on education reform, her book, *Going Public: Schooling for a Diverse Democracy* was published in 1994. She has served as a national advisor on education to the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council for the Humanities, and The President's Commission on the Humanities. She was also a founding member of the Board of Directors of Grantmakers for Education.