

## Student Spotlight



**Lilia Sanchez,**  
**Cossatot Community**  
**College-UA Adult Education**

Each semester Cossatot East Adult Education Center in DeQueen celebrates a student who attends consistently—rain or shine. This semester's recipient is Lilia Sanchez.

*"Within a little over two years, I have reached four of my goals. I obtained my citizenship, my GED, a new job requiring use of my English [skills], and graduated from ESL. My next goal is to attend CCCUA, so now I am studying here at CEAE to pass the College Entry Exam. Remember, if you are consistent and set aside time to study, you can do anything!"*

--CEAE NEWS January 2011

## ASU SEARCY ADULT EDUCATION CENTER

As a new adult education administrator at ASU Searcy, Natasha Richards wants to be approachable to students and accessible to the six full-time and three part-time staff members. So much so, that she has moved her office from a private room to the reception area for students.



ASU Searcy Adult Education not only has a new administrator but the Adult Education area has been fortunate to have a remodel of the physical facilities as well which includes a reception area, a computer lab, classrooms, and a GED testing area.

Students are served in White and Cleburne counties with satellite centers at ASU Beebe and ASU Heber Springs. In addition, classes are also offered at Wilbur Mills Treatment Center for Drugs and Alcohol. New this semester are Distance Education classes which the staff looks forward to implementing. Goals for the center include: (1) Increasing enrollment at the satellite centers. To accomplish this goal part-time instructors have been hired at the Beebe and Heber Springs satellites. (2) Improve relationships with partners in the community including DWS, DHS, and Career Pathways on campus.

Getting the word out about our services, according to Richards, is one of the greatest challenges of the center. "If we can get people to come in the door, we can help them to understand how important education is. So many people don't know what adult education is." The center aggressively promotes their programs through newspaper ads, brochures, flyers, emails, Facebook, the ASU web site and participation in business expos and county fairs.

ASU Searcy Adult Education has a very dedicated and caring staff. ASU Searcy Chief GED Examiner Sheila Vernon loves her work at the center and states, "Seeing people who didn't think they had the abilities—but they do—is very gratifying. There are those that never thought they would go to college, but after they earn their GED credential they do!" Elaine Padgett, Alternate GED Examiner, says, "You can watch their self esteem improve. They take back control in their lives."

Below: ASU Searcy Adult Education Instructors (l-r): Jan Hill, Audrey Estes, Judy Jackson and Brenda Jaynes (seated). Inset: Brenda Jaynes with student, Lanette Willette



Above (l-r): Sheila Vernon, Chief Test Examiner; Elaine Padgett, Alternate Examiner/Administrative Assistant; and (seated) Natasha Richards, Adult Education Coordinator.



The Arkansas Department of Career Education funds the Adult Education Division. The Adult Education Division provides programs and services statewide.

## STANDARDS-IN-ACTION

In recent years, many states have adopted adult education standards to guide educators in providing effective instruction to students. For standards-based reforms to take hold in adult education programs, however, instructors must become full and active partners in transforming their classrooms for the twenty-first century. The Standards-in-Action (SIA) innovations give adult educators at all levels the methods and materials they need to take their state standards off the shelf and put them to use for students—literally making them *standards in action*.

Directed at the crucial intersection where standards meet classroom instruction, the innovations build on past efforts by the Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) to promote state-level institutionalization of adult education standards.

The process to develop, pilot and finalize the SIA innovations lasted from 2006–2009. The current project, as well as the completion of the SIA innovations, represents OVAE's readiness to roll out the SIA innovations nationally.

Seven states—AR, GA, KS, KY, MT, NV and VT—are participating in this project to learn how to implement the SIA innovations in their states. Participants have committed to implementing all four SIA innovations and to conducting local SIA professional development activities in the 18 local programs serving as implementation sites. States and programs are receiving assistance to develop and carry out implementation plans, and to learn how to scale up and sustain use of the SIA innovations after the life of this project. MPR Associates, Inc., through a contract with OVAE, manages the National Diffusion of the Standards-in-Action project, and oversaw the development of the SIA innovations.

Visit <http://www.adultedcontentstandards.ed.gov/standardsInAction.asp> for additional information on this project.



**Say Go College** week is coming soon (February 14th-20th), and Adult Education programs can be a major part of it!

All week exciting activities and events are planned to get students informed and enthused about going to college. Every day holds something new, and you can follow along by checking out **SayGoCollege.com** for information, teaching materials and more.

### Adult Education Regional Workshops

The Adult Education state staff is conducting regional workshops which assist and train local programs in the budget development process. Workshop locations include Monticello, Rogers, Arkadelphia, Newport and Little Rock.

All Arkansas Adult Education centers and Literacy Councils receiving federal funds are responsible for budgeting and managing allowable costs within their programs.



### NORTH CENTRAL ADULT EDUCATION CENTER: An Ingredient in Student's Success

If you've visited Leslie recently, you may have noticed a new restaurant opened by Joy Mayes. Joy is a 2008 GED® graduate from the North Central Career Center.

Joy was home schooled and earning a GED diploma was a way of credentialing and certifying a successful home school experience. She periodically attended classes at North Central Career Center for about a year before she took and passed the GED Test.

According to Joy earning her GED helped her get jobs and would recommend others to get help through the program. She sums her feelings and attitude about earning her *Arkansas High School Diploma* by saying, "I think it's important."

Mary Kirk (Instructor) said of Joy, "she's a very bright young woman and very capable of doing anything she set her mind to." Kirk shared that her success in instructing students—like Joy—comes largely from truly caring about the students, how they perform, and what happens in their lives.

All of the staff at North Central work hard to serve the Searcy county area. That effort includes building and maintaining good relationships with students and establishing a strong rapport with the community.



Left:  
Joy Mayes,  
owner  
of the  
Skylark  
Café.

Below: Mary Kirk, Instructor; Peggy Adams, GED Examiner; and Gayla Feist, Adult Education Center Director.

