

A Center Director's Perspective

After one year as adult education center director for Dumas Adult Education Center, Tammy Healey is pleased with the progress that has been made. As an example of progress, in 2008-09, fifteen test-takers earned their GED® credentials. In 2009-10, twenty test-takers passed the tests—which reflects a 33% increase.



As a former elementary principal, Healey says, "Getting to know adult students has been rewarding. They draw me in. I get involved on a personal level." A lifelong resident of Dumas, Healey says that "I thought I knew this town but working in adult education has opened my eyes, put me in industry and business, and given me the opportunity to assist people of all educational levels."

Healey's goals for the coming year include increasing the number of individuals that come through the door, getting satellite center(s) going, increasing the number and types of classes to serve a variety of people, and moving the center to a more suitable environment.



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

Rich Mountain Community College Adult Education Program Continues to Grow

Rich Mountain Community College Adult Education is part of a comprehensive, learning centered community college that provides a broad range of programs, services, and learning opportunities to its students and citizens in the service area. Adult Education Center Director, Julie Black, has as a goal "to make adult education as successful as possible by expanding enrollment and assisting students to succeed."

Located in a rural Arkansas setting, attracting students into adult education can present problems on its own. Many potential students are isolated, lack transportation and child care. The adult education program helps to address some of the issues by offering classes in Mt. Ida, Waldron, and Glenwood. "We can offer more individualized instruction", states Black. "Our instructors are motivated and compassionate. They are listeners, teachers, and counselors."

With an expanding non-English speaking population in the area, the English as a Second Language (ESL) program is seeing growth. An ESL class in Glenwood is experiencing increased enrollment and a new class has been started in Waldron.

In April of 2009 the college including the adult education facility was severely damaged by a tornado. The program had to be temporarily relocated to another facility for several months. With administrative support from the college and a hard working, dedicated adult education staff, the program survived and is stronger than ever!



Above: Mark Lyle, recently hired as an instructor, with a Rich Mountain Adult Education Center student.

Below: Julie Black, Adult Education Center Director.



Auditors Join Arkansas Department of Career Education Staff



Carolyn Korte and Don Bellcock, ACE Senior Auditors

The Department of Career Education recently filled two senior auditor positions. Donald Bellcock and Carolyn Korte will be responsible for financial and compliance monitoring and auditing of sub-grantees of the agency. One of their primary focuses will be on the state's Adult Education Programs. Their tasks will include working with centers to assure that materials and equipment are used in the programs and for the purposes intended.

"I am excited to be one of the new auditors hired to work with both ACE personnel and education providers to ensure grant funding guidelines are in place and followed to meet the needs of the Department," says Korte.

Twin Lakes Literacy Student of the Year: Shirley Stratton

Shirley Stratton is the Literacy Student of the Year for Twin Lakes Literacy Council (Mountain Home). She did such a good job of telling her story at a recent luncheon that the text of her entire speech is included here.

"I would like for you to know when I was asked to talk to you, I was proud and scared at the same time.

You see the last time I did this I was about 16. The class I was in, they laughed at me and it hurt. The next day I quit school and I did not want to go back to school.

My mom made me go back and they put me in a DVR class. This is like Special Ed today. But in DVR, they would teach you how to work a job, not how to read.

I had never learned to read well because I would get in trouble at school for daydreaming. I would tell them I was not doing that but I was not sure what I was doing. I would try so hard to understand all the things I was being taught. It would not stay in my brain. Finally they said I had epilepsy. But because it was not caught in my young years, it caused some damage to my comprehension. I did graduate with a 4th grade reading level.

But this is about you and what you do for people like me and my grandson. Without you giving of time and love to help all of us, where would we be? You are all a gift from God to us and I would like for you to always remember that.

Now I come in to tutoring and Diane helps me to understand the word and how it's spelled and what it means. It seems like they are all the same word, but they're spelled different. Tutoring has helped me, and it's helped me to help my grandson because he has the same problems with learning that I do.

Remember the people who come to you for help. They are scared and embarrassed that they cannot read. There are times that people just would like to read a book to their child or to their grandchild. They might want to improve at work or to move up in their job.

It makes me feel good that there are so many volunteers like you that look past all of that. I wish that this program was around when I was in school. Maybe there would not be so many people like myself that need help.

I would like you to know that you are appreciated by us all. Thank you."

From the Twin Lakes Literacy Council
Newsletter

<http://www.twinlakesliteracycouncil.org/>

National Ad Council Launching GED Achievement Campaign

The National Ad Council in collaboration with the Dollar General Foundation, National Center for Family Literacy and ProLiteracy has developed a national campaign to recruit adult education students. The campaign is scheduled to launch nationally during June 2010.

After speaking with the higher education community, the Ad Council became convinced that the percentage of adults who do not have their high school diploma represented a serious problem in our country – one in which advertising and awareness could make a difference. In developing the campaign, the Ad Council sought to show high school dropouts that they *can* take the first step towards getting their GED® diploma. All of the campaign's new public service announcements direct audiences to visit a new comprehensive website, www.YourGed.org where they can find free referrals to local GED programs and information on the GED diploma process. There will also be a toll-free number, 1-877-38YourGED, where viewers can call for referrals to local GED centers.

While all high school dropouts would find the website helpful for information on getting their GED diploma, research showed that adults in their mid to late 20's were most likely to take the next step to get GED certified because they are just seeing the effects of life without a diploma. Insight from research showed the Ad Council that individuals believed "I can see a better life; I just can't see how I'm going to get there."

Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy (WAGE) Programs Open New Doors for Participants

Wendy Clark was laid off from SAS (San Francisco Shoe). In her time with the W.A.G.E. Program at Conway Adult Education Center she earned the Employability Certificate, Clerical Certificate and a Gold level Career Readiness Certificate. Wendy has been accepted to the University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton Graphic Design Associates Degree program.



Wendy says, "I am a dislocated worker. For twelve and a half years, all I knew how to do was how to assemble leather shoes. In a heartbeat, the factory was gone. This event forced me to have a new outlook on my existence in the workforce. Soon I began exploring the extent of my intelligence, conquering everything from math to the dreaded typing lessons. Now I go on to a higher place of learning: college. The panic is gone, replaced with a confidence of achievement. All anybody needs to do is to take the first step."

