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Arkansas Adult Education Statistics

- ★51,295 students were served in adult education/literacy programs.
- ★32,610 of the students served were enrolled for 12 or more hours of instruction.
- ★42% of enrolled adult education and literacy students were between 25 and 44 years old
- ★5,402 unemployed students obtained jobs in the first three months after exiting adult education and literacy programs
- ★3,029 adult education graduates entered postsecondary education

Source: Adult Education Division July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009 Academic Program Year Report Card



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

UA Community College at Batesville Adult Education Center Helps Students Take a Second Chance, First Step

As a veteran adult education director, Nancy Whitmire has seen many changes over the years but her consistent philosophy is to give students a second chance. Helping students earn their GED credential is their major focus and this focus has delivered a consistent number of GED graduates – between 80 and 100 each year for the nineteen years that Nancy has served as director. “The GED credential is recognized everywhere and that is our focus. We avoid duplicating services offered by our college such as computer and clerical training,” states Whitmire. “We see ourselves as the first step toward a college degree.”

The Adult Education program at UACC Batesville is an integral part of the college. Physically located on the campus, students who have attended the adult education program feel comfortable taking college classes later because of the familiarity and the encouragement that they receive to further their education after completing the adult education program.

Whitmire feels that her greatest challenge is to motivate students to make the time commitments that they need to reach their goals. “Keeping students motivated is a huge challenge, but our faculty and staff genuinely care for the students and want them to be successful and that can be a huge motivator”, says Whitmire. Administratively, she feels that coming up with ideas of how to promote the program and publicize it to the public presents a special challenge. Current promotional plans include developing flyers and putting them in the post offices and gas stations, as well as developing radio PSA’s.

Employees at the center include two full-time teachers, four part-time teachers, a part-time secretary and a part-time alternate GED examiner who is employed on campus in their testing center. Two GED classes are taught every morning with each teacher instructing math, reading, and writing. Students are divided by TABE scores. Classes are also taught two nights a week. In addition, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes are offered and have become an important part of the program offerings. One of the center goals this year is to take pre-testing into the rural areas in local facilities such as community centers or fire stations in Pleasant Plains, Cord, Floral, Cushman, Charlotte, Newark and Bethesda.



Left: Nancy Whitmire.



Below: UACC Batesville Adult Education staff members Becky Saffell, Andrea Dito, and Debbie Wood.



CELEBRATE ADULT EDUCATION WEEK

In conjunction with the National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week, Arkansas Adult Education Week is September 13-17, 2010. GED® Pride Day is Wednesday, September 15. The week is a great opportunity for activities at local centers to promote and publicize the program. On the state level plans are being made for Governor Mike Beebe to sign and present a proclamation. The ceremony is planned for September 16 at 9:30 a.m. in the Governor’s Conference Room located on the second floor of the State Capitol Building.

Visit <http://www.ncladvocacy.org/aeft.html> for resources to help prepare for the weeklong observation which elevates adult education and family literacy nationwide with policymakers, the media and the community.

Training Conducted for Army National Guard GED Plus Program

The Arkansas GED Testing Program Administrator, Janice Hanlon, conducted a training for new Arkansas National Guard GED Plus examiners on July 22, 2010. The GED Plus program—a residential school—is located at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock.

Each week the newly trained examiners will be responsible for administering the GED Test to individuals who left high school without a diploma and want to join the Army National Guard. Students from all over the country channel through the program and experience both a military basic training and structured academic environment. More than 3500 individuals tested in 2009.

GED Plus testing services are coordinated through DANTES (Defense Activity for Nontraditional Education Support). DANTES is an educational extension of the Department of Defense.

GED® Testing Service (GEDTS) Holds National Conference

The 2010 GED Administrators' Conference was held July 22-26 in St. Louis, Missouri. Representatives from Canada, the United States and insular territories met for four days preparing to give more people the opportunity to pursue their dreams and support their families by earning a GED credential.

As the American Council on Education, GED Testing Service plans to launch the new GED 21st Initiative™ the organization faces a significant and strategic shift in the program. In an address to the group, Nicole Chestang, GEDTS Executive Director, cited the many opportunities that lie ahead. New direction for the program includes computer-based testing, enhanced preparation systems, and more effective college/career transition programs.

During the conference Arkansas GED Testing Program was applauded for its contributions to the GED Profiles of Success marketing campaign. The GED Profiles of Success are short videos submitted by GED credential holders sharing their inspiring stories of how they have found success through the GED Test. See the profiles at http://www.acenet.edu/Content/NavigationMenu/ged/test/profile/Grad_Profiles.htm.



Above: Arkansas GED Testing program receives kudos from C. T. Turner, GEDTS Marketing and Communications Associate Director.

Below: Julie Hearne (University of Texas Scoring Center) and Janice Hanlon in breakout session at GEDTS conference.



Project IDEAL Workshop

Adult Education Program's staff members Ralph Edds and Sherry Brown (Education and Instruction Coordinators), along with the Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center Professional Development Coordinator, Nancy Loftis represented Arkansas at a Project IDEAL workshop for Adult Education Distance Learning in Ann Arbor, Michigan held August 17-19.

Project IDEAL is a consortium of states working together to develop effective distance education programs for adult learners. Through collaborative research and practice, the consortium works to raise the quality of distance education across the country. The Project IDEAL Support Center at the University of Michigan provides Arkansas and other member states with technical assistance for program planning, teacher training, and program evaluation.

Topics for study included software usage, state-by-state review of 2009-10, blending distance and classroom instruction to increase intensity and persistence, and how to enhance program improvement using your data system. Social media in teaching and professional development were also discussed at length.



Arkansas National Guard
GED Plus examiners.

