

Student Spotlight



Pictured above Becky Ballard assists Saline County Adult Education student Phyllis Fry.

Phyllis Fry has been out of school over 40 years; she left school in 11th grade out of necessity to help her mom earn a living. She enrolled at Saline County Adult Education so that she would be better prepared to land a job. Over the years she has worked in factories and as a temporary office worker.

"The people at the center have been so helpful. When I came here I was so bad in math, and I have learned so much" she says.

Ms. Fry would eventually like to work as a bilingual receptionist.

Saline County Adult Education Center Connects Students to Success

Saline County Adult Education strives to create an open environment where people are accepted and encouraged to build on their strengths to accommodate their goals. "Using a holistic approach is important," states Yvonne Dougherty, Adult Education Center Director. "We can't just look at their TABE scores and their educational goals. We have to look at the whole person and what barriers might be standing in their way."

Adult education staff members go the extra mile to act as a liaison between the student and what it takes for the student to reach their goals. According to Dougherty, staff members have provided food boxes, helped students find transportation and child care as well as made calls to find medical care for free.

Programs include ABE, ESL, Basic Skills upgrade, and GED prep. The staff consists of two full-time teachers, four part-time teachers, a part-time GED examiner, one full-time administrator/chief GED examiner (Dougherty), and one full-time paraprofessional. Providing an extended day Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., also helps those students who cannot attend classes during the day.

Future goals for the center include (1) having 100 GED graduates from July through June; (2) identifying and providing accommodations for everyone who needs them; (3) locating/using new and innovative instructional material.



Above: Instructor Janice Housley helps prepare GeorgiaRuth Ghormley for the GED Test. GeorgiaRuth plans to become a nurse.

Below: Saline County Adult Education promotes graduation activity via community website.



State Directors' Meeting Held

OVAE's 2011 National Meeting for Adult Education State Directors was held in Arlington, Va., on May 10-12, 2011. The meeting was chance for state directors and other state personnel to engage in learning opportunities and to interact with senior administration leaders and Congressional staff on policy related to adult education.

Fort Smith Adult Education Graduation Ceremony Held

The 37th annual Fort Smith Adult Education Center awards ceremony was held May 9th at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith Stubblefield Center. Shannon Blatt, president of the Fort Smith Board of Education, presented GED diplomas to 137 graduates. Shane Broadway, interim director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, was the commencement speaker.



Above: Linda Holland and Roger Prescott, Adult Education instructors, with Fort Smith graduates.



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

New State Staff Member Named

The Arkansas Department of Career Education, Adult Education Division welcomes a new education and instruction coordinator: Sherreccia Jackson. Mr. Jackson holds an advanced degree in both Education and Theology. Continuing his desire as a "lifelong learner", he will be defending his doctoral thesis in October of this year to complete the final requirements of his doctoral program to receive a PhD in Education.

Mr. Jackson brings to ACE a total of eight years of educational experience to include the K-12 educational environment and higher education. Mr. Jackson, a Mississippi native, relocated to Colorado in 2006 to become the education director for a 1500 bed medium custody adult male correctional facility in an adult education center. He partnered with Colorado Community Colleges Systems and taught V-Net and Distant Learning classes to critical area high schools and was an adjunct professor of Social Science for a local community college.

Mr. Jackson will assist with program reviews and site visits, run statistical reports for the state, assist in streamlining processes in AERIS and review our policies and procedures for clarity, conciseness, and compliance.

NWACC National Adult Education Honor Society Induction Ceremony

The NorthWest Arkansas Community College Chapter of the National Adult Education Honor Society held its annual induction ceremony on Thursday, April 28. The National Adult Education Honor Society is a national honors organization for adult learners. The organization was founded in 1991 to recognize the sacrifices and efforts of the adult students. The organization has grown nationwide. The NWACC chapter was organized in 2004 and was the first chapter in the state of Arkansas.



Forty-four adult students were nominated for NAEHS membership by their instructors. To be eligible for membership a student must be enrolled in the NorthWest Arkansas Community College Adult Education Program. Membership requirements include:

- **Attendance:** **Attend** class regularly, **Arrive** on time, and **Complete** a minimum of twelve hours in the classroom
- **Cooperation:** **Respect** other's ideas and values, **Participate** actively, and **Work** harmoniously with teachers and students;
- **Self-Reliance:** **Comes** to class prepared to learn, **Sets** goals and follows through, and **Takes responsibility** for own learning;
- **Achievement:** **Demonstrate** achievement through one of the following: B.E.S.T. Advancement, T.A.B.E. Advancement, **Pass** the GED Exam, or **Earn** U.S. Citizenship.

Guest speaker for the ceremony was Dr. John Tuthill, Vice President for Learning and Learning Support Services at NWACC. The induction ceremony was held in McAuley Hall at the Center for Nonprofits in Rogers. An informal reception was held following the ceremony.



Arkansas Correctional School held its 2011 Graduation Ceremony on May 24th at the Ouachita River Unit in Malvern. The 942 individuals earning a GED credential within the Arkansas Department of Correction make up the largest graduating class in the state.

In the school's 37 year history, 20,649 students have graduated.

