

Student Spotlight



Pearlie Pierce
South Arkansas College
Adult Education Center,
El Dorado

Pearlie Pierce, 76, has been an Adult Education student at South Arkansas College since 2006.

Ms. Pierce worked in private homes for many years as a housekeeper and decided to earn her GED credential after retiring. Her value for education is an inspiration to those around her; she has a grandson also working toward a GED credential.

South Arkansas College Adult Education Program Helping Students Better Lives

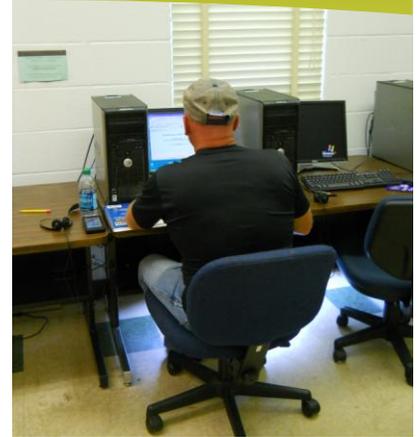
After working as a teacher and assistant principal in elementary and middle schools in El Dorado, Catherine Garrett became the adult education director of South Arkansas College. She has just completed her first year in the job while learning the “ins and outs” of adult education and completing her third graduate class toward adult education licensure.

Continuing to serve the public to the best of their ability and helping students earn their GED® diplomas and WAGE certificates are the primary goals of the center according to Garrett. “We want to be sure that we understand our students and help them make their dreams of a better life come true.”

The center achieves their goals by offering classes in ABE, GED Prep, ESL, and WAGE. “Our staff and faculty go above and beyond to help students succeed and provide a welcoming, nurturing atmosphere,” stated Garrett. “Students face many challenges including lack of consistent transportation and family obligations that prevent them from attending classes, and our staff helps out whenever possible. Sometimes it’s a matter of helping them to see that a helping hand is at the end of their arm,” Garrett explained.

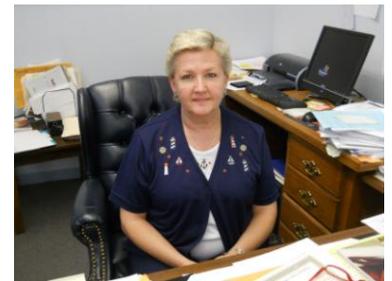
Classes are offered not only at the main center but at Goodwill Industries, South Arkansas Regional Health Crossroads program for mentally challenged adults, Boys and Girls Club, South Arkansas Substance Abuse program, and Union County Correctional Facility. Future satellites include classes at Smackover and Junction City.

Garrett feels that the center has helped many students over the year that she has been director. One student stands out in her mind as she was this young man’s third grade teacher. She has gotten to know him quite well as he has overcome many obstacles. He has earned his GED credential and plans to become certified in automotive mechanics.



Staff members at South Arkansas College Adult Education Center in El Dorado working to help students realize their dreams of better lives.

Below: Catherine Garrett,
Center Director



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

Arkansas Adult Education Week & “GED® Pride Day” Scheduled

October 10-14, 2011, has been designated as Arkansas Adult Education Week; and Monday, October 10 is “GED® Pride Day”. This is a great time to publicize your program by newspaper, radio, Facebook, open house, etc. Governor Beebe will sign a proclamation on Monday, October 10 at 10:00 a.m. in the Governor’s Conference Room (2nd floor) in the Capitol Building in Little Rock. The Adult Education Administrators’ Meeting scheduled on Monday and Tuesday, October 10 and 11 will allow many of you to attend the proclamation ceremony.

Please mark your calendars for these important events in Arkansas Adult Education.

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

Advisory Council Meeting

September 22-23
Texarkana

National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week 2011

September 12-18



OCTOBER

Arkansas Adult Education Week

October 10-14

GED Pride Day

October 10

Proclamation Ceremony

October 10
State Capitol
Little Rock

Administrators' Meeting

October 10-11
Embassy Suites
Little Rock

GED Examiners' Conference

October 12
Embassy Suites
Little Rock

Arkansas Association for Continuing and Adult Education Conference

October 27-28
Wyndham Hotel
North Little Rock



Visit the
Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center
website at aalrc.org
for a complete listing of
scheduled trainings and
professional development
opportunities.

NATIONAL GED® ADMINISTRATOR'S CONFERENCE

The Arkansas GED Testing staff attended the 2011 GED Administrator's Conference held July 25 - 28 in Washington D.C. At the center of the meeting was the discussion of how today's priorities will lay the path for tomorrow's success.

Key to the importance of the conference was the time to refocus and recommit to the goal of providing a real second opportunity for adult learners – an opportunity to achieve a high school credential, go to college, find better-paying jobs, support their families, be role models and realize their dreams for a better life. It was also a time to network with colleagues, learn from other states, receive training on the newest processes, and hear the amazing stories of GED graduates who have benefited from the program.

At the national level the commitment continues to provide a high-quality testing program, usher in a new era of GED testing with computer-based delivery, and to prepare the path for the new GED assessment system and the GED 21st Century Initiative.

Other highlights from year's conference included:

- A review of the accomplishments over the last 12 months.
- A plenary session detailing the new test-taker accommodations process.
- An in-depth look at the new GED assessment system – specifically the framework for the new GED test to be released in 2014.
- In-depth information about computer-based testing delivery and time for small group discussions.

Below/Middle: State GED program administrators Dr. David Stout (South Carolina); Janice Hanlon (Arkansas); Dr. Philip Less (Rhode Island); and Eloise Richardson (Mississippi).

Right: Arkansas' Claritta Stinson and Janice Hanlon attend plenary session.



Joint Professional Development Day Held

The NorthWest Arkansas Community College Adult Education Program joined the Fayetteville Adult Education Program for a day of professional development on August 18. The six-hour workshop was held at the Fayetteville center. Ralph Edds led the morning session with a presentation on the WAGE Program. Both programs will have new WAGE programs beginning with this 2011-2012 school year.

The afternoon featured concurrent sessions for GED and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. Jeannie Peters and Lana Clark led the GED sessions sharing instructional methods from the Adult Numeracy Instruction – Professional Development project. The ESL instructors participated in a round-table discussion on recruitment, retention, and assessment.

