

2009 AACAE Awards

Outstanding Business Partner
Lennox Industries
Stuttgart

**Arkansas Literacy Council (ALC)/
Win Rockefeller Leadership Award**
Charlie Searcy
Monticello

**Arkansas Bar Association's Lawyer
for Literacy Committee
Tutor of the Year Award**
Jim Oschenfield
Hot Springs Village

**Outstanding Adult Education
Teacher**
Darrell Collier
Valley View

**Luther H. Black Outstanding Adult
Education Administrator**
Ruth Ann Williams
Conway

**Outstanding Friend of Adult
Education
State Representative**
Jim Medley

**Garland Hankins Award
State Representative**
Jim Medley

AACAE Conference

Approximately 200 attended the Arkansas Association for Continuing and Adult Education (AACAE) annual conference October 22-23, 2009, at the Holiday Inn & Convention Center in Springdale, Arkansas.

The theme of the conference was "Adult Education and Literacy: Opening the Windows to Success". Keynote speaker was Randy Frazier of Frazier Communications, Inc. Frazier spoke on the science and importance of continuing to learn throughout life.

In her message to conference participants, 2009 AACAE President Sandra Miller commented "This conference, a joint effort of the AACAE and Arkansas Literacy Councils, truly reflects the multi-faceted face of adult education and literacy across the state."



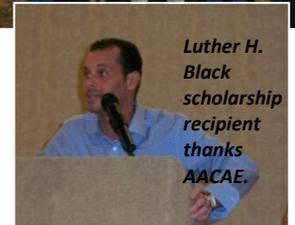
Participants engage in conference activity.



Jim Medley accepts awards presented by Jim Smith.



2010 AACAE Officers take oath.



Luther H. Black scholarship recipient thanks AACAE.

The Annual GED® Examiners' Conference was held October 16, 2009, at the Crowne Plaza in Little Rock. Commenting on the conference Janice Hanlon, GED Testing Program Administrator said, "the conference always provides a great mechanism for updating not only the examiners but adult education directors and state staff." Approximately 200 participants attended the training. Highlights of the conference included:

- A presentation by James Koller, Ph.D. from the University of Missouri (Columbia) on test accommodations.
- Julie Hearne, University of Texas Scoring Center introduced developments for online applications.
- A panel discussion led by GED examiners Lynn Stanberry (NorthWest Arkansas Community College), Gary Udouj (Fort Smith), and Nita Wilson (Lonoke).
- A testing session demonstration led by state staff members Tambra Nicholson, Claritta Stinson and examiners Linda Kindy and Ann Henry (Little Rock); Chuck Carter (Pulaski County); and Lloyd Huskey (Shorter College).



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

President Declares Information Literacy Awareness Month

President Barack Obama declared October as Information Literacy Awareness Month. The President's proclamation called on Americans to be aware of the importance of information and the range of information resources available through radio, television, and the Internet. ProLiteracy President and CEO David C. Harvey said he is especially pleased by the proclamation's statement that "In addition to the basic skills of reading, writing and arithmetic, it is equally important that our students are given the tools required to take advantage of the information available to them."

- ProLiteracy.org

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

Gabriela Ford, ASU-Mountain Home

Five years ago, Gabriella Ford was a teacher of English as a Second Language (ESL) and Spanish as a Second Language at the University of the Americas in Puebla, the fourth largest city in Mexico. Marriage brought her to Mountain Home, Arkansas. For the two years she went through the immigration process, she couldn't work. So, she immersed herself in the culture.



It's one thing to speak proper English in a foreign classroom. It's another to learn American street English colored with a Southern accent and local dialect. During those two years, Ford's English did not improve; it deteriorated. Her friend in Mexico City was shocked during a visit that Ford had picked up poor English grammar and slang.

Penny Ellis at the Baxter County Library told Ford, 49, about the Arkansas State University Mountain Home (ASUMH) Adult Education Center. Ellis serves as a GED examiner for the center.

"All people have to do is come see us," Ellis said. "We can help all kinds of people, from high-school dropouts and girls who get pregnant to adults who quit school long ago to work to support their families."

At the ASUMH Adult Education center, Ford took an assessment test which identified math and reading as areas where she needed help. She earned a high school diploma, but all record of it was lost in the 1985 Mexico City earthquake.

Again, the ASUMH Adult Education Center stepped in. The center offers day and evening classes as well as GED (General Educational Development) Testing services.

Five months after starting her adult education classes, Ford passed the test. In addition to her GED credential, she received a Workforce Investment Act (WIA) scholarship and worked on receiving a federal Pell grant. She is now in the licensed practical nursing program at ASUMH.

- BaxterBulletin.com

Crawford County Adult Education Puts Students First

Debbie Faubus-Kendrick, Adult Education Director at Crawford County Adult Education Center, sums up the philosophy for services provided at the center simply: "Students come first. Students are always first."

The center serves about 1200 individuals in a year through a variety of adult education programs including English as a Second Language (ESL), computer literacy, family literacy, GED Testing, and others. Satellite classes are held in Cedarville, Mountainburg, Mulberry, and at the Van Buren Housing Authority.

Renovations to the physical space at the center are almost complete—creating an even more dynamic and excellent learning environment. Additionally, stimulus dollars from their funding school district have been earmarked to purchase 15 new computers for the lab.

With 26 staff members (16 certified teachers, 10 paraprofessionals) and two volunteers Faubus-Kendrick says "We work as a team. We're staffed with really good and effective people. They really care about what they do." Overall she says she is "pleased with the encouragement and support received from the community and especially from the school district."

GED® Testing Update

The GED Testing Service (GEDTS) has announced that it will not introduce a new GED Test on January 1, 2012, as previously planned. Instead, GEDTS is launching a new initiative called GED 20/20, which will result in a test with more rigorous standards intended to make GED credential recipients career-and-college-ready.

Because of the changing national landscape GEDTS decided to transition directly from the current 2002 Test Series to a new, more comprehensive assessment program. This new program intends to dramatically increase the number of test-takers and GED credential recipients who are prepared to pursue postsecondary education opportunities. Elements of the new program will be introduced as early as 2010.



GED Examiner
Darla Melton and
Director Debbie Faubus-
Kendrick



Students learn in
the recently
renovated
classrooms
and computer
lab.

WAGE™ Retreat

A Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy (WAGE) Program retreat was held October 1-2, 2009 at Mt. Magazine.

Jim Parker (Parker Consulting, Maryland) served as keynote speaker. His career began in 1963 with the US Department of Commerce, and he retired from public service from the US Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education. Parker brought a wealth of information from his decades of involvement in educational leadership projects. He presented an overview of the status and components of WIA reauthorization legislation.

The 30 retreat participants learned about the implications of new legislation on WAGE funding, operations, and outcomes. Workshop discussions also identified program goals and focal points for the future.

<http://ace.arkansas.gov/AdultEd/WAGE.html>