

Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy (WAGE)TM



WAGE is a work readiness program designed to ensure that unemployed and underemployed Arkansans have the skills necessary to be successful in the workplace.

WAGE accepts students who assess at less than a 12.9 grade-level (12th grade, 9th month) equivalency on the TEST of Adult Basic Education (TABE) and who have a goal of obtaining a job, retaining a job, improving their skill level to gain improved employment, or entering next-level workplace training.

WAGE Certificates Issued Fiscal Year 2009-10

Banking	20
Clerical	70
Employability	468
Industrial	208
Total	766

For more information on the WAGE Program, please visit <http://ace.arkansas.gov/AdultEd>



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

Monticello Adult Education Center: A Model in Accessibility

Location, location, location! Having the Monticello Adult Education Center located in the Workforce Training Center on a busy highway in Monticello has proven to be a good site. Monticello Adult Education shares the building with the Literacy Council, Employment and Training Program, Youth Development Program, Experience Works, and Social Security Administration. "We get many referrals from the other programs," reports Faye Branch, adult education center director.

The location of the center falls in line with Branch's personal philosophy which is "To be accessible to the community and help reach those individuals without a high school diploma. We also encourage those with diplomas to keep them updated and prepare them for the job market."

Reaching out to the community doesn't stop at having a great location for the main center. Satellite programs are also located at Wilmar and Selma. ELS students are served in a class at a local church and workplace classes are held at various locations such as Drew Foam and SEA ARK Boats.

The staff of two full-time and four part-time instructors, the center director and a secretary are dedicated and committed. Many have worked at the center for years – Director, Faye Branch since 1987; Instructor, Garry Phelps since 1988; Instructor, Chris Pace since 1991; and Secretary, Linda Shorter since 1991.



Faye Branch (left), Director, and Monticello Adult Education Center staff members.



The Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center (AALRC) was established in 1990 to provide a source for identification, evaluation, and dissemination of materials and information to adult education/literacy programs.

AALRC allows Arkansas Adult Education/Literacy providers to access the needed information and resources to enable Arkansas' adult learners to reach their full educational and economic potential. The Resource Center provides information, resources, research, professional development, and technical assistance which benefits adult educators and literacy providers.

Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center
 525 West Capitol, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 * (501)907-2490 * aalrc.org

Work Retreat Held for State Staff

Staff members of the Arkansas Adult Education Division attended a work retreat at the State Park Conference Center atop Mt. Magazine on July 5-9, 2010. The session gave individuals charged with state leadership an opportunity to plan, organize, and overhaul many components of the program. Meeting hours were long but productive. Following are some of the work retreat highlights and results.

- Developed long- and short-term goals for instructional areas and GED Testing program.
- Planned content/agenda for the New Administrators' Meeting (September 15); Administrators' Meeting (September 16-17); and GED Examiners' Meeting (October 6).
- Restructured geographical regions assigned To Education and Instructional Coordinators—increasing the number of program areas to five.
- Established primary and secondary points of contact for program areas and projects. The new contact system will increase cross-training between staff members.
- Revamped one-day site visit and three-day program review processes. Planned completion of all one-day site visits by December 1, 2010. Selected eight sites for program reviews. (Announcements of programs selected will be made at a later date.)



Adult Education Division state staff members.

Jim Smith, Deputy Director for Adult Education, indicates that a number of enhancements are now on the horizon for the state staff—including development of a new, step-by-step procedures manual.

10th Adult Education ESL Summer Institute

This year marked the 10th anniversary of the Adult Education English as a Second Language (ESL) Summer Institute. Dr. Philip Less, state ESL Coordinator, once again organized the three-day teacher training that was held at the Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center in Little Rock. More than 50 adult education teachers from across the state attended the Institute.



Above: ESL Summer Institute participants.

This year's presenter was Dr. Keith Folse, Associate Professor of TESOL at the University of Central Florida. Dr. Folse is the author of 43 books and numerous articles on language teaching and second language research. He is a frequent conference presenter in the U.S. and abroad. Dr. Folse's workshops focused on teaching speaking activities, grammar, and pronunciation. His broad experience teaching English and living in several countries was clearly evident in his lively and interactive presentations.

NEW ADULT EDUCATION STAFF

Bridget Bullard and Cecelia Jarry are the new Education and Instruction Coordinators (formerly known as Program Managers/Advisors) in Adult Education. They join the group of state staff who are responsible for providing technical assistance, conducting site visits and program reviews, and monitoring programs for compliance with state and federal laws and regulations. Bullard is assigned coverage of programs in central Arkansas, and Jarry will have programs in the northwest area of the state.



Cecelia Jarry and Bridget Bullard.

Bullard has an extensive work history in adult education and career programs. "Having spent the bulk of my professional career in Illinois, I am excited about the opportunity to return to Arkansas and continue my work in the area of Adult Education. What I appreciate most about being a part of this team is that we are educators at heart and understand how what we do impacts the programs and students throughout the state," says Bullard.

Jarry spent 22 years in public schools as a teacher and administrator and has National Board certification in math. She has also taught adults at the college level. "I am very excited to transition to Adult Education fulltime," says Jarry. She continues "I will miss the one-on-one contact with the students in the classroom, but I hope that I can still make a difference."

