

NWACC offers Instruction in English As A Second Language (ESL)

Instructor Danny Sheffield's students come from all over the world – from Peru to Thailand. ESL classes offered at NWACC range from pre-literacy through advanced, and include instruction in Reading/Writing; Pronunciation; Conversation; and ESL College Prep. In order to better serve students, daytime and evening classes are offered Monday through Friday. Sheffield reports that classes allow individuals to assimilate into the community, improve their positions at work through better communication, and are student centered. "Use" is the key – using English for shopping, at the doctor's office or jobs.



Danny Sheffield with Nelly Aguirre, ESL student from Peru.



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

ADULT EDUCATION AT NWACC CENTERED ON STUDENTS

The Adult Education Center at NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC) served approximately 3,300 adults last year. The center is open 58 hours per week, and testing services are offered four days per week. The Adult Education Center is located in Rogers with eight off-site locations in Rogers, Bentonville, Lowell, Siloam Springs and Decatur.

"One of the comments I hear from so many of our students is that we are like a family," says Ben Aldama, Adult Education Director. "Our students say they feel unconditional acceptance when they come here, and they say they receive a lot of encouragement and support."

Aldama says the faculty and staff are a team. "We all work well together and we are willing to do whatever it takes to help the student." Importance is placed on regular faculty and staff meetings and open communication. Staffed with five full-time teachers, one full-time examiner, four full-time classified staff, and twenty-one part-time teachers, the center offers ABE, ASE, ESL, and Citizenship classes.

NWACC administration is very supportive of the Adult Education Program. Dr. Becky Paneitz, President, ensures that the facilities and the technology needed to serve students.

The program maintains a high profile in the community, participating in several festivals, job fairs, and school events. Aldama indicates "two highlights of our school year are the Adult Education Graduation Ceremony and the National Adult Education Honor Society Installation Ceremony." He expects the center to continue growth and improve by expanding the services we offer to adults transitioning from adult education to college credit classes.



Student needs are met in classroom and individual settings.



Ben Aldama, NWACC
Adult Education Center Director



A Message from Jim Smith Deputy Director, Adult Education Division

In this season of giving, remember that Adult Education gives some of the best gifts of all: the ability to improve a student's reading, math, language skills, learn to speak English as a Second Language or to earn a GED® or WAGE™ certificate, obtain employment, enter postsecondary education, and stay or advance in employment. What a great feeling to know you were a part of a student overcoming learning differences and the inability to read. The pride of accomplishment you witness when you watch them walk proudly across the stage to receive that earned "Arkansas High School Diploma". The unintended consequences of receiving an earned GED are benefits for the student's family and extended family.

We all are a part of that success and the redirection of the student toward a successful and more productive life.

Student Spotlight: Tiffany Shelton

NorthWest Arkansas
Community College



As a stay at home mom with a busy life keeping her child and other children at her home, Tiffany Sheldon did not “feel complete” because she didn’t have a high school diploma. With support from her eight year old child and her husband, Tiffany started attending classes at NWACC Adult Education. She studied hard and according to her instructor, Linda Harris, was an excellent and dedicated student.

Earning her GED® credential was a true accomplishment for Tiffany but not the end of her goals. In the future, she plans to take on-line classes at NWACC and expand her current job keeping children to a full-service day care.



Old Things Are Made New

Two very old houses on the Arkansas Baptist College (ABC) campus in Little Rock soon will have new roles serving ABC students and the surrounding community. One of the structures, built in the latter part of the 1800s, will provide assistance to those seeking a GED credential. The GED program is designed for adults who dropped out of school or who function below the desired level on the Tests of Adult Basic Education, according to Arma Hart, ABC Academic Affairs Liaison to the President; Hart will help administer the program. The program’s goal is to recruit adults into basic education and provide classes and educational opportunities for their continued success. Students who complete the program will be encouraged to register at ABC and eventually earn a bachelor’s degree.

According to Hart, the program will expand to include additional courses for adults seeking to improve other skills. The program is a partnership with the Little Rock School District and the Arkansas Department of Career Education.

The GED center will give people who do not have high school diplomas a second chance to further their education. ABC President Dr. Fitz Hill explained the need during a press conference for the Delta Classic 4 Literacy football game by saying that when he approaches people about going to college, he can work with them if they have children to raise or have work responsibilities, but he doesn’t have an easy answer if they lack

a high school diploma. With this center, tutors will help them correct their deficiencies. “You get off (work) at six? We’ll be there at seven,” he said.

-Arkansas Baptist College Vanguard

MARKETING TOOLS INTRODUCED AT SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS COMMUNITY BASED EDUCATION CENTER (SEACBEC)

SEACBEC has new marketing tools aimed at encouraging Adult Education students and others to earn

their GED credential. One of the tools created by Felecia Doster is a poster displaying famous and public figures who earned a GED diploma. The idea is to help eliminate any negative ideas people may hold about the GED program. And it works! After seeing the poster, one individual decided to participate in the center’s graduation exercise. Often the GED diploma is a second chance and could be a step toward greater things in life.



Teen Students Give Back to Community

Teen students from the Crawford County Adult Education Center visited senior citizen residents at the Van Buren Healthcare and Rehabilitation on December 17th. Students volunteer for the activity as a part of their community service learning project conducted during the holiday season. Students gave out hand-made cards, candy canes, and warm wishes to the residents of the facility.

Instructor Shannon Eversole said, “the senior citizens welcomed the teens and were very happy to see these young people giving back in such a nice way.” The civic service is meant to encourage respect and compassion toward other residents in the community.



Students pictured with their teacher while visiting the senior citizens at the Van Buren Health and Rehabilitation