

## Lonoke & Prairie Counties Adult Education Center Increases Number of GED® Tests

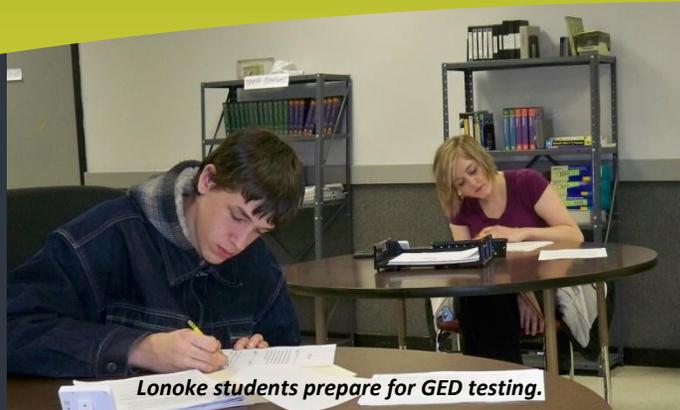
Examiners at the GED Testing Program at Lonoke & Prairie Counties Adult Education center served more individuals in the calendar year 2008 than in 2007.

Area GED test-takers recognize the worth of earning their *Arkansas High School Diploma*. For many having a high school credential creates more opportunities for finding employment, getting better employment and enrolling in postsecondary education or job training programs.

	Tested	Passed	Pass Rate
2007	117	113	97%
2008	153	146	95%



GED Examiners for Lonoke & Prairie Counties Adult Education Center: Steven Lilly, Nancy Pinson, and Nita Wilson.



Lonoke students prepare for GED testing.

## This Issue

Lonoke & Prairie Counties Adult Education	P.1
Advisory Council	P.2
Say Go College	P.2

## Lonoke & Prairie Counties Adult Education Dedicated to Serving Students and Community

The needs of students are a primary focus for the Lonoke & Prairie Counties Adult Education Center. The center provides a wide range of programs including:

- Adult Secondary Education
- Adult Basic Education
- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy (WAGE)
- Citizenship classes
- GED testing services



Steven Lilly

Although funding for the center is lower than in previous years, Steven Lilly, Adult Education Director, says the center is "still serving the community. We have fewer satellites, but we're making the effort to do what's needed."

The center currently operates satellite programs in Cabot, Carlisle, England, Hazen, Des Arc and the county detention center. With four full-time and twelve part-time staff members the center serves approximately 375 individuals yearly.

Being a component of a school district affords the center with opportunity to tailor services to suit the entire community. Not only are literacy and education services provided for adults in the area, but support is incorporated for families in general. The ESL classes are an example of this joint delivery; while parents polish their English-speaking skills, children are tutored and helped with homework.

Nancy Pinson related that staff members have a special connection to many of the students. Some teachers are re-teaching students they taught in elementary or secondary school, and some students are children or grandchildren of former students. Staff members describe the center as a happy, congenial place where everyone is made to feel welcome.

The center is successful in their attempt to be a support center for the community as Lilly recognizes, "the most effective way of publicizing the center is word of mouth from students we've served."



Left: Lonoke & Prairie Counties Adult Education Center.

Below: Student John Harris benefits from use of instructional aids; Francis Doyle works with teacher Debrah Shelton to achieve educational gains and improve academic skills.



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

## ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS



Ben Aldama, Chair  
(Northwest)

Jim Allen (Literacy)

Sherry Brown (Northwest)

Marie Bruno (Literacy)

Diane Cary (Southeast)

Steve Clayton  
(AAAAE/Northeast)

Ralph Edds (WAGE)

Eddy Kay Hanson (Literacy)

Lloyd Huskey (Southwest)

Steven Lilly (Northeast)

Sandra Miller (AACAE)

Jolla Robinson (Southwest)

Bill Schultz (Southeast)

Gail Shrum (Southeast)

Flora Simon (Southeast)

Kathy Spigarelli (Northwest)

Jim Smith, Deputy Director  
Arkansas Adult Education/  
Department of Workforce  
Education

## Arkansas Adult Education Advisory Committee

The Arkansas Adult Education Advisory Council met January 22-23, 2009, in Lonoke. The Council continues its mission of identifying issues and needs of adult education and literacy and making recommendations to the Department of Workforce Education. Comprised of administrators from adult education centers, literacy councils and administrators from the five geographical regions of the state, the Council considers and acts on matters that affect Adult Education on the whole. The Adult Education Section Program Advisors, special guests, and local programs within the region where the meeting is being held are invited to share ideas and concerns during the meeting.

The vision of the Arkansas Adult Education Advisory Council is to have perfect communication of and total support for all adult education and literacy issues and needs. Council meetings are held every other month. For more information on Council activities and complete contact information for members visit <http://aalrc.org> and follow the links.



*Advisory Council members and guests attending the January meeting.*

## Say Go College Week

Arkansas ranks 49th in the number of residents holding bachelor degrees or higher, but a new federal, state, and local grant program administered by the state Department of Higher Education has some exciting plans to help address that shortcoming beginning early in 2009. The highlight of the program will be Say Go College Week, February 16-22, 2009. Educational institutions in Arkansas are asked to participate in Say Go College Week by hosting daily activities during the week to encourage students to go to college.

Say Go College is a statewide campaign designed to educate students, parents, and the general public about the value of a post-secondary education. Schools will be provided with toolkits produced by a Little Rock advertising agency, Stone Ward. The toolkits will contain items such as posters, banners, and buttons promoting the value of a college experience. All Adult Education Centers will receive a toolkit by mail. Each kit will include:

- ✓ Leader's Guide
- ✓ Banner and Markers
- ✓ Posters
- ✓ Activities Flyer Templates (color & black/white)
- ✓ Myth Busting Worksheet Template
- ✓ Myth Busting Teacher's Guide
- ✓ Buttons for Teachers
- ✓ Stickers for Students

The campus activities and media campaign are part of the two-year College Access Challenge Grant program which is designed to encourage underserved students to pursue a post secondary education. The activities are designed to lead up to College Goal Sunday, Feb. 22, 2009. More information can be found at <http://arkedu.state.ar.us/commemos/custview.cgi?filename=4087> or <http://saygocollege.com>.

