

SPOTLIGHT: Rachel Mullins UACC Morrilton

Rachel Mullins was home schooled the first year it became legal in Arkansas. In order to document a high school diploma, she took and passed the GED tests at Conway Adult Education Center. One of the staff members there saw that she had earned a high score and encouraged her to attend college. She took the entrance exam at what was then Petit Jean College and is now UACC Morrilton. She scored high enough to get a scholarship. In May of 2001, she earned her Associate's Degree in Business/Office Technology.

Mullins has been working at UACC Morrilton since 2001 starting as a secretary for the front office. Since that time, she has earned--through distance education and online classes--her Bachelor of Science in Education in the area of Human Resource Development from the University of Arkansas. Working her way through the ranks, she is now the Coordinator of Student Recruitment and encourages students to go to college to earn more money and do the job they want.

Mullins is currently working on a Master's Degree in College Student Affairs from UALR.



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

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS STARTS WITH THE STAFF AT UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE MORRILTON

According to the two full-time adult education instructors at University of Arkansas Community College (UACC) Morrilton, everyone can learn. "We don't give up on anyone," says Genita Whiting who teaches all adult education levels on the UACC Morrilton campus. "No matter what their hesitation, I think they can" adds Jenni Martsof who teaches the classes in Bigelow.

The Adult Education program at UACC Morrilton receives support from the top down. On a recent Friday afternoon Nathan Crook, Chancellor of UACC Morrilton took time out of his busy schedule to meet with the Adult Education staff along with Diana Arn, Vice Chancellor for Instruction; Kim Darling, Adult Education Center Director; Genita Whiting and Jenni Martsof, adult education instructors. The purpose of the meeting was to set goals for increased enrollment resulting in serving more individuals.

Kim Darling is the recently hired Adult Education Center Director. Her enthusiasm is evident as she describes her personal objectives in increasing enrollment, establishing and growing the English as a Second Language (ESL) program and identifying their clients' true intentions and personal aspirations. Darling has "hit the ground running" by hiring a part-time ESL instructor, Debbie Maxwell.



Above: Rachel Mullins, Coordinator of Student Recruitment



Left: Kim Darling, Adult Education Center Director



Group: (Back Row) Diana Arn, Vice Chancellor for Instruction; Nathan Crook, UACC Morrilton Chancellor; Kim Darling, Chair, Division of Community Education and Adult Education Center Director; (Front Row) Genita Whiting and Jenni Martsof, Adult Education Instructors.

An Adult Education Success Story



Bobbi Yarbrough became a mom in high school and needed to leave school. Realizing her job opportunities would be limited and needing to advance her educational level, she took classes at Russellville Adult Education Center, then took and passed the GED tests. Not stopping there, Yarbrough earned her Associate's of Applied Science in Business at UACC Morrilton and is currently working on her Bachelor's Degree on-line from the University of Arkansas. Yarbrough is employed full-time as the Administrative Assistant for the Vice Chancellor of Instruction at UACCM and serves as an alternate GED examiner.

Inspired by her daughters who are fifteen and ten, Yarbrough finds strength from within to "prove I can do it!"

MidSouth Community College Graduation



On December 7, 2009, a commencement exercise was held for 87 students who earned their General Educational Development (GED) diploma at MidSouth Community College in West Memphis. The ceremony was held in Magruder Hall of the Wilson Conference Center. Rev. David Moseley served as the keynote speaker for the graduates and a standing-room-only crowd.



State Adult Education Program Administrators Meet

Administrators and directors of the 50 Adult Education Programs in Arkansas met on January 27, 2010. The meeting was held at the Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center in Little Rock. A variety of issues concerning program administration were addressed by state staff members. A presentation was made on the Administrator's Manual by Emily Barrier (Education and Instruction Coordinator); Dr. Philip Less (Education and Instruction Coordinator) led a discussion on program achievements; and Janice Hanlon (GED Testing Program Administrator) gave updates from the national and state level.

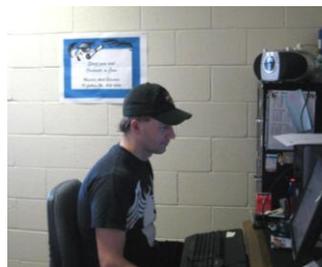
Other meeting highlights included:

- Olivia Dedner, Advantage Communications, presented information on success of the current Adult Education media campaign. Centers were given discs with master copies of radio and television ads that can be used locally.
- Sonja Wright-McMurray, Associate Director of the Department of Career Education, gave an overview of Arkansas Works. Arkansas Works is Governor Beebe's initiative that helps streamline resources for Arkansans as they search for jobs or explore education and training. The program is a multi-agency undertaking that is designed to increase the knowledge, skills, and educational attainment for all citizens of the state.
- Information was presented on behalf of the Arkansas Association of Continuing and Adult Educators' Legislative Committee (Patricia Bates, South Arkansas Community College) and the Adult Education Advisory Committee (Ben Aldama, NorthWest Arkansas Community College).



James H. Smith, Deputy Director, Adult Education Division/Department of Career Education, discussed funding issues and direction for the programs.

Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy (WAGE™) Program Introduces Web-based Testing and New Certification Area



Bo Roberts completes the final online component for his WAGE Industrial Certification.

WAGE now offers web-based testing in four areas at the state's 19 WAGE Centers. Bo Roberts, a student with Magnolia Adult Education's WAGE Center, is the first in the state of Arkansas to complete his WAGE Industrial Certification using the new computerized test. Certificates are offered in the areas of Industrial, Employability, Clerical, and—as of January 2010—Banking.

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