

Governor Proclaims Adult Education Week, GED Pride Day

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AACAE Conference

More than 275 attended the Arkansas Association for Continuing and Adult Education (AACAE) annual conference October 1, 2008, at the Wyndham Hotel in North Little Rock.

The theme of the conference was "Renew, Restore, and Recycle with Adult Literacy". Senator Bill Walker, DWE Director, and Jim Smith, Adult Education Deputy Director, started the conference with an enthusiastic welcome. Featured speaker was John Corcoran, author and professional speaker, who graduated from college without being able to read.

"It was an exciting time for AACAE because of the change in venue from two days to one day. I was very pleasantly surprised at the turn out and appreciate all the positive comments shared by attendees" stated AACAE President Sandra Miller.



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

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STATEWIDE ACTIVITIES HIGHLIGHT 2008 ADULT EDUCATION WEEK, GED® PRIDE DAY

ADULT EDUCATION TAKES LEARNING TO HIGHER LEVELS

The Adult Education staff at South Arkansas Community College hosted a balloon launch on October 6, 2008 to celebrate Adult Education Week. The event promoted education and the services provided through adult education at South Arkansas Community College.

Mayor Mike Dumas proclaimed October 6 as Adult Education Day in El Dorado. Following the Proclamation former WAGE and GED students were recognized for their achievements. Former educator George Smith, father of Adult Education/WAGE™ instructor Bette Kennedy, will be honored for his contribution to education. Dr. Smith was an educator in the Junction City area for over thirty years working to serve as a teacher, coach, guidance supervisor, grant writer, and director of Federal Programs for Union Parish, Louisiana. As an author and educator, Dr. Smith influenced the lives of many children and their families and was a great promoter of education. He was the author of many books including *Bayou Boy*, which later became a Walt Disney movie and won 37 literary awards.

Following the program, attendees were given inflated balloons to release in a ceremony in front of the Workforce Education Building.

Ms. Bette Kennedy donated a copy of one of Dr. Smith's books, *Bayou Boy and the Wolf Dog*, to the first 20 individuals who retrieve a ticket from a launched balloon and return it to the Adult Education Department on the East Campus of South Arkansas Community College.

STUTTGART WAGE™ PROGRAM SPONSORS BUSINESS AFTER HOURS DURING ADULT EDUCATION WEEK

The Stuttgart Chamber of Commerce, WAGE, and the Arkansas Workforce Center hosted a Business After Hours on October 9. WAGE stands for Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy. The public and businesses learned about the adult education center that provides training to enhance the workforce skills of local residents. Business After Hours is a way for business people to gather and network in an informal setting.

FOSTERING WAGE™ PARTNERSHIPS

Ft. Smith Adult Education Center/WAGE held their Advisory Meeting on October 8, 2008 following the Adult Education Week cookout for students, staff, and community leaders. Mayor Ray Baker gave a proclamation, and State Rep. Jim Medley spoke to the students about the importance of continuing their education. Some of the Advisory member attendees were from Channel 40 and Channel 5 news and included Mrs. Janice Beran, UA Fort Smith Board; Dr. Brenda Sellers, Assistant Superintendent of Personnel and Human Resources, Fort Smith Public Schools; Mr. Evan Breedlove, Human Resource Manager, Riverside Furniture; Vickie Spice, Manager of DWS; Alex Cardenas, SW Times Record.

The meeting focused on how to promote the program around the community utilizing partners in education and advisory members' resources.



Students Sabrina Duncan, from left, Laurie Denham and Guadalupe Sandoval applaud after receiving roses from Mayor Ray Baker at the Fort Smith Adult Education Center. To enhance their job skills, the three sought additional training through the Adult Education Center after Duncan and Denham were laid off from Whirlpool and Sandoval was laid off from Flanders. They say the WAGE classes have been a great help.

DISTANCE LEARNING PILOT SITES

Arkansas State University
Newport

Arkansas Technical
University Ozark

Conway Adult Education

Cossatot Community
College of University of
Arkansas

Fayetteville Adult
Education

Fort Smith Adult Education

North Arkansas College

Northwest Arkansas
Community College

Ouachita Technical
College

Rich Mountain Community
College

Stuttgart Adult Education

University of Arkansas
Monticello College of
Technology - Crossett

DISTANCE LEARNING SITES CHOSEN

Twelve Adult Education Centers have incorporated a new distance learning component to serve students. The sites chosen to pilot are currently engaged in a class called Distance Learning 101 created by Project Ideal. Programs in the pilot phase will offer classes after January 1, 2009. The pilot program is slated to last six months; more sites will be added in the future.

The Adult Education Distance Education Policy defines distance education as a formal learning activity where students and instructors are separated by geography, time or both for the majority of the instruction period. Learning materials are delivered through a variety of media such as print, audio recording, videotape, broadcasts, computer software, web-based programs or other online technology.



Pictured above (l-r): Martha Bozman, Director of Partner Outreach, GED Testing Service, Washington, DC and Janice Hanlon, Administrator for the Arkansas GED Testing Program.

GED Testing Program Holds Annual Training

The Arkansas GED Testing Program held its annual training October 16, 2008, at Pulaski Technical College. The theme "*Working Together for a Brighter Future*" targeted conference activities and topics on utilizing various resources to strengthen the program.

Teachers support learners through communication via mail, telephone, email, face-to-face meetings onsite, or online technology and software.

The Arkansas model for distance education is a blended one that combines distance learning with face-to-face interaction. Intake, orientation, pre-test and post-test will occur in a face-to-face setting.

Resources approved as curriculum include:

- Crossroads Café
- English for All
- GED Connection
- MHC GED Interactive Online
- Aztec
- Skills Tutor
- Key Train

Martha Bozman, Director of Partner Outreach for the GED Testing Service in Washington, DC, conducted sessions on national initiatives. GED Testing state staff provided training on 2008 Examiner's Manual and customer service techniques. An emergency planning session jointly presented by state staff and examiners, case studies to promote best practices, and networking opportunities completed the one-day training.

Bozman also recognized Arkansas GED Testing Administrator, Janice Hanlon as the 2008 recipient of the national Distinguished Service Award winner and commended Hanlon for exceptional leadership and dedication.

Approximately 170 attended the conference including examiners, administrators, and state staff members. This annual training is mandatory for examiners to maintain certification in the upcoming year.

