

STUDENTSPOTLIGHT: CARL HUGHES

Sight has always been a problem for Carl Hughes. He was always seated in the back of the room and couldn't see the board. In elementary school big letters were used in instruction, but when he got into high school, he couldn't see the letters and explanations written on the board. He dropped out of school in the 9th grade.

Right:
Carl
Hughes



Carl Hughes is dedicated to learning--so dedicated that he rides a bicycle to the Stuttgart Adult Education Center every day. Starting out in ABE classes, Carl has progressed to the point of being in GED® classes. He says he likes science and that he's not good in math.

Since he has been attending Stuttgart Adult Education, he is more aware of "why" certain things are difficult to learn.



Stuttgart Adult Education students.

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Staff and Students Demonstrate Dedication at Stuttgart Adult Education

Adult Education Center Director, Gail Shrum's philosophy of wanting people to know that the Stuttgart Adult Education Center is there to help them improve is apparently paying off. This year the goal of the center was to serve 300 and that goal has been reached! Because there have been many layoffs in the area, "We're encouraging people to stay on top of their skills and continually improve" states Shrum.



Gail Shrum, Director
Stuttgart Adult Education

Shrum does not sit back and wait for students. She actively recruits through a number of methods – participating in various activities such as outreach to parents during kindergarten registration and being active in numerous community groups including the Ministerial Alliance and Partners in Health. Her involvement with the Ministerial Alliance has resulted in four churches volunteering to run vans to the adult education center.

One of the newly developed programs was a class started for senior citizens. The class has been a great success and has evolved into a multi-generational group. Most of the students had been out of school for a number of years and teachers at the adult education centers have assisted them in improving their confidence level.

Many of the students at Stuttgart Adult Education are so dedicated that they won't miss a day. Doris Crosson is one of those dedicated students. Doris is 71 years old and is currently enrolled in the ABE classes. Doris left school when she was 14 years old.



Doris Crosson

Arkansas Department of Career Education

formerly the



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

Visit <http://dwe.arkansas.gov/adult.html> for links to previous issues of the *Adult Education Newsletter*.

Adult Education State Staff Attend National Reporting System Training



Above: Philip Less and Tracy Andrews

The National Reporting System (NRS) held its 9th Annual Regional Training. Arkansas Adult Education state staff members Tracy Andrews and Dr. Philip Less attended the training in Madison, Wisconsin, June 23-25, 2009.

Participating states included Arkansas, Alabama, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, North Carolina, Virginia, Wisconsin and Louisiana.

The training focused on identifying barriers to, and motivators for, local programs to use data in developing learning communities. States were grouped together to brainstorm on steps to establish and sustain a data use learning community. Technology was an essential part of the training.

Five New Distance Education Programs Approved

At the Arkansas Adult Education Program Administrators' meeting held in May, all Adult Education programs were invited to submit proposals for joining distance education, phase 2 of the pilot project for Arkansas. Applicants were asked to submit an abstract outlining: need, benefit, class schedule/load, instructors and qualifications, curriculum, and program capacity to manage learning. Five proposals were submitted, reviewed and accepted by the state.

There are twelve existing distance education programs that the new programs will join in delivering services. The new programs will participate in a kick-off meeting of Distance Learning 101 as well as a 6-8 week online course. The five new distance education programs are: National Park Community College (Hot Springs); Shorter College (North Little Rock); Arkadelphia Public Schools Adult Education; Crawford County Adult Education; and South Arkansas Community College (El Dorado).

Between January and May of this year, 120 students of adult education were served by distance education with more than 10,381 hours of instruction. Distance education teachers are utilizing the following instructional materials and software: Crossroads Café, English for All, GED Connection, MHC GED Interactive Online, Aztec, Skills Tutor, and Key Train.



Members of Adult Education Distance Education Proposal Reading Panel

First Lady Kicks Off National Volunteering Conference

Grace Morrissey and Belinda Sanders, with Arkansas Literacy Councils, Inc., attended this year's National Conference on Volunteering and Service held in San Francisco June 22 -24. The opening session featured many notable celebrities and elected officials who are committed to the service initiative such as Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, California's First Lady Maria Shriver, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Actor Matthew McConaughey and a performance by Musician Jon Bon Jovi.

First Lady Michelle Obama was the featured speaker at the opening session. She began her day in San Francisco by helping California's First Lady Maria Shriver and other volunteers build an intergenerational playground. This playground will provide space for people of all ages to come together and play. Later that day, Mrs. Obama welcomed attendees to the opening general session and set the stage for a very historic conference. She spoke, with compassion to the crowd of over five thousand volunteers from all over the country about the importance of service in our communities. She noted that the Obama Administration doesn't just "see service as something that transforms individual lives or individual communities but as a force with the power to transform this nation!"

Mrs. Obama launched the United We Serve Initiative which will run for 81 days. This initiative began on the opening day of the conference and will end on September 11 with a Remembrance of that day and the beginning of a new National Day of Service.

The conference provided a number of sessions designed to redefine civic engagement for the 21st century. Some of the sessions offered to participants were Grant Writing, Networking, Fundraising, National Resources and Budget Management. The conference participants came away inspired, refreshed, energized and even more ready to serve in their communities.

For more information on the United We Serve initiative, visit www.serve.gov.

