

Insight to a Success: The GED Testing Program at ASU-Newport

One of the obvious measurements of success for the GED Testing Center at ASU-Newport has been the increase in the number of GED graduates. From July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009 the program graduated 71 individuals – an increase of 15 over the previous year.

As chief GED Examiner for the testing center at ASU-Newport, Martha Taussig believes that the best marketing tool is “word of mouth”. She encourages the test-takers to “be GED ambassadors”.



Jacob Daughtry (pictured above) is currently studying to take the GED Tests at ASU-Newport. He plans to enroll in the high voltage lineman class, a one-year course offered by the college.

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.



ASU-Newport Adult Education teacher, Gwen Wells, with students Alexa DeLoach and Jacob Daughtry

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ASU-Newport Adult Education Center Helps Students Achieve Goals

“To assist individuals in discovering and rediscovering their goals and putting the pieces in place to help them get there” is Martha Taussig’s philosophy at ASU-Newport Adult Education. She has only been the adult education director at the center for two years and is constantly striving to improve all aspects of the program. Taussig reports that the adult education staff of two full-time teachers, Linda Moon and Laura Nodine, seven part-time teachers and one paraprofessional is flexible, resourceful, and adaptable in teaching ABE, GED, ESL, and distance education classes.



Martha Taussig,
ASU-Newport Adult Education
Director and GED Examiner

A presence at job fairs, information tables at Wal-Mart, developing brochures and flyers, newspaper ads, radio PSA’s and reinstating the GED® graduation are some of the methods used by the center in educating the public about the many ways adult education can help a person achieve their career, educational, or personal goals.

Working with the academic side of ASU-Newport is an important aspect of the program. Tuition scholarships are now available for any GED graduate who scores at least a 620. One individual plans to take advantage of the scholarship this fall.

A variety of satellite classes are also available through ASU-Newport Adult Education which include McCrory, Augusta, Possum Grape, Swifton, Newport Village Mall, First Baptist Church, and the Branch Community Center. “Project New Start”, a program for substance abuse and minor crimes, has proven to be a successful initiative that feeds clients into adult education. One of the requirements is that their clients take the GED Tests if they don’t have a high school diploma.

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

ARKANSAS LITERACY COUNCIL TUTOR TRAINING PROJECT

The Clinton School for Public Service has accepted a proposal from Arkansas Literacy Councils, Inc. (ALC) for the coming academic year.

Clinton School students will assist ALC and literacy councils in putting together a tutor training system template for all councils. This template will be designed with the help of literacy councils that have integrated online tutor training courses with a shorter "face-to-face" training session. Several councils have also asked that potential volunteer tutors shadow a tutor and student as part of training. Sample intake sheets and tutor policies will also be part of the template. The online tutor training courses can be found at <http://literacynetwork.verizon.org/TLN/courses>. They are free of charge and a certificate is available for printing once the course is completed.

The Verizon Foundation is the creator and sponsor of the online training and ALC is hoping to involve the company in the project. The project will be funded in part by a grant of \$3,000 in federal leadership funds from the Adult Education Division to assist the students with mileage, lodging, and supplies that will be necessary to successfully complete the project.



English as a Second Language Institute Held

On July 20-22, 2009, the Adult Education Division of the Arkansas Department of Career Education held its 9th annual Adult Education English as a Second Language (ESL) Institute. Fifty ESL instructors from across the state attended the three-day workshop which was held at the Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center and organized by Dr. Philip Less of the Adult Education Division. Dr. Gail Weinstein, Professor of English at San Francisco State University, was the workshop trainer. Dr. Weinstein is widely published in TESOL and adult education. Her publications include professional titles such as *Learners' Lives as Curriculum* and textbooks for ESL learners such as *Stories to Tell our Children* and *Collaborations*. Dr. Weinstein was Chair of the Adult Education Interest Section of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), President of the Penn-area Affiliate of TESOL, and served on TESOL's Board of Directors.

The ESL Institute participants were also treated to a guest presentation by Ms. Laurel Pollard, ESL textbook author from Tucson, Arizona and an Arkansas ESL Institute trainer in 2005 and 2007.

ESL Institute participant, Jill McClaren, Crawford County Continuing Education Center.



The ESL Institute was aimed at adult ESL practitioners who want to bring learner-centered principles into the fabric of their teaching, curriculum, and program design. Dr. Weinstein provided a framework for using learners' stories to teach language while addressing themes in immigrant life through project-based work. Specifically, the focus was on the roles of immigrant adults as parents, workers, citizens, and managers of their own and their families' health. Participants began the process of developing lesson plans and thematic units that can be used in their programs.

STATE STAFF ATTENDS 2009 GED ADMINISTRATORS CONFERENCE

Janice Hanlon and Tandra Nicholson attended the 2009 GED Administrators Conference in Savannah, Georgia, July 6-9. The conference theme was "From Many Path, One Purpose". Sponsored by the GED Testing Service® (GEDTS, a program of the American Council on Education®), the conference focused on program updates and preparation for the introduction of the GED Test, 5th Edition scheduled to be released January 2012.

More than 170 attended the conference. Training and information session topics included: test development, marketing and public relations, accommodations, training strategies, technology update, along with program management and improvement strategies. Janice Hanlon, winner of the 2008 GED Distinguished Service Award, presented this year's award to Debra Kimbler (GED Administrator, West Virginia).

Marketing, training and awareness of issues will be keys to success as the Arkansas GED Testing Program prepares for the release of the 5th Edition. "Our participation in the national conference gave us the opportunity to learn from sessions conducted by the national GED Testing Service and other GED administrators. Networking and exchanging ideas are always highlights which invigorate us for the upcoming year." says Hanlon.



Above (l-r): Martha Bozman (Director, GEDTS Partner Outreach), Debra Kimbler (GED Administrator, West Virginia), and Janice Hanlon (GED Administrator, Arkansas).

Below: Tandra Nicholson attending one of the 22 sessions offered at the 2009 GED Administrators Conference.

