

Extra Mile Award Presented



Above: Jim Smith and Mike Burris

Representative Mike Burris was presented with the "Extra Mile" Award at the Fall Adult Education and Literacy Council Administrators meeting in Hot Springs on September 17, 2009.

James Smith, Deputy Director of the Adult Education Division of the Arkansas Department of Career Education, presented the award to Representative Burris in recognition of his ongoing support of Adult Education locally and statewide. In the past legislative session Representative Burris was instrumental in the efforts of Adult Education to secure additional funding.

As Representative Burris accepted the award he humbly stated "I appreciate your kindness, but I was just doing my job." He further said about the state's Adult Education programs, "I believe in what you're doing. I've seen the success. I know the value."



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



Governor's Proclamation Ceremony: (l-r) Dr. Philip Less, State ESL Coordinator; Ashley Stripling, Program Director, ASU-Technical Center Adult Education; Ruth Ann Williams, Program Director, Conway Adult Education; Governor Mike Beebe; William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., Director, Arkansas Department of Career Education; Tandra Nicholson, Administrative Specialist, Arkansas GED Testing Program; Janice Hanlon, GED Administrator, Arkansas GED Testing Program; and James H. Smith, Jr., Deputy Director, Adult Education Division, Arkansas Department of Career Education.

ADULT EDUCATION WEEK PROCLAIMED BY GOVERNOR

Governor Mike Beebe signed a proclamation declaring September 21-25 as Adult Education Week in Arkansas and September 23 as General Educational Development (GED®) Pride Day. The proclamation ceremony was held September 22 in the Governor's Conference Room at the State Capitol.

"It is timely and appropriate that attention be focused on the special efforts and dedication of Arkansas's adult educators who prepare individuals for productive employment and enriched lives," Governor Beebe's proclamation reads. "I encourage my fellow citizens to become familiar with the services and benefits offered by adult education courses and to support and participate in these programs."

Adult education services provide academic skills instruction and GED preparation for adults who lack a high school diploma. English as a Second Language (ESL) and English Literacy/Civics Education serve immigrant adults who want to become more fluent in English, pass U.S. citizenship tests, and acquire basic employability skills. Additionally, workplace classes are offered onsite at businesses so current and prospective employees can improve their basic reading, math, team-building, and communication skills – as well as their GED readiness. The Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy (WAGE™) program provides academic and employability instruction to meet the needs of unemployed and underemployed individuals.

A variety of activities—including radio interviews, luncheons, balloon launches, student recognition programs, and other events--were held by the 52 Adult Education Programs and 28 Literacy Councils statewide to highlight the week.

Policy and Procedure Training Conducted

Members of the Adult Education state staff conducted an intensive training session on policies and procedures in Little Rock at the Adult Learning Resource Center (AALRC) September 29-30.

James Smith, Adult Education Division Deputy Director, approximates that 40% of the current program administrators had not formally been provided initial training with this level of detail.

Each participant was given a manual which included current policy, forms, and procedures. The manual should become a "go-to document for administrators," says Smith.



Smith indicated that there are plans to provide this type of training every two years.

ADMINISTRATORS' MEETING

The Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center facilitated the fall Adult Education and Literacy Administrators Meeting on September 17-18 at the Clarion Hotel in Hot Springs.

Meeting highlights included:

- ProLiteracy Leadership Academy of Excellence certifications presented to eleven program administrators.
- Overview of the statewide Adult Education marketing campaign presented by Markita Steele of Advantage Communications, Inc.
- Modeling of programs and strategies targeting Adult Education students transitioning to postsecondary education and training by Priyanka Sharma with the National College Transition Network (NCTN) at World Education, Inc. in Boston, Massachusetts.
- Discussions on tutor training/reporting, grant writing and fundraising for Literacy Councils.
- Updates from Adult Education state staff members.



PHILLIPS COMMUNITY COLLEGE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS – HELENA-WEST HELENA PROMOTES BENEFITS OF ADULT EDUCATION

In celebration of "Adult Education Week" in Phillips County, Cindy Grove (pictured right), a network technology instructor on the DeWitt campus of Phillips Community College University of Arkansas (PCCUA), inspired adult education students on the PCCUA-Helena-West Helena campus when she told them how she, too, got her GED diploma and then went on to receive two associate degrees through PCCUA, a bachelor's degree through the University of Arkansas at Monticello, and a master's degree through the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Grove encouraged the students to set goals and work toward them.



Helena-West Helena Mayor James Valley spoke to adult education students at PCCUA-Helena-West Helena last week, encouraging them to complete their GED credential and go on to college. "We can go as far as we are determined to go," he said, telling them that he came from humble beginnings and went on to graduate from law school.

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