

## 50 Faces of Adult Education

2016 marked 50 years of Arkansas Adult Education helping millions of Arkansans earn their high school diplomas, graduate from college, master the English language and reach new heights in their careers. Our students have achieved much success through the GED®, WAGE™ and English Language Learners programs. With that in mind, our goal is to not only celebrate our students' accomplishments and bright futures, but to inspire all who want to change their lives through education.



**Cynthia Landaverde**

South Arkansas Community College

"I'm a go getter. Like many people who enroll in Adult Education classes, I've dealt with some personal struggles. But the one thing we all have in common is that we can visualize our life beyond the hardships we currently face. Recently, I earned my GED® and I'm currently working on my WAGE™ Industrial Certificate. The instructors at South Arkansas Community College have been amazing and supportive. Something I take for granted, being bilingual, is a quality they believe will help me when I enter the job market. I had the opportunity to speak during my graduation ceremony. Amy Sturdivant, the director at South Arkansas Community College, said my speech was 'heartwarming' and 'inspiring'—words I wouldn't use to describe myself. But her feedback and the reception from my fellow graduates let me know there are people who want to see me succeed."



NWACC graduates assemble as they prepare for graduation ceremony.

## NWACC Adult Education Graduation Ceremony

The NorthWest Arkansas Community College Adult Education Program conducted their first fall graduation ceremony on December 16. The adult education program annually celebrates graduation in May but many students completing in the fall are unable to participate. In an effort to celebrate the academic achievement of all adult students, the program received approval to conduct graduation ceremonies in the fall and spring semesters.

Forty eight adult students, 30 GED® and 16 ESL, participated in the ceremony held at the college's Shewmaker Center for Workforce Technology.

Rose Sparrow, Arkansas Workforce Center employee and member of the program's advisory committee, opened the ceremony by singing the national anthem. Dr. Evelyn Jorgenson, NWACC president, gave the graduation address. The standing-room only crowd cheered for the graduates as they walked across the stage in their regalia.

"We were so excited to be able to provide this special celebration for our fall graduates, many of whom are enrolling the NWACC class this spring", stated Ben Aldama, Dean of Adult Education.

All adult education graduates receive one free three-hour credit course at NWACC.

An informal reception was held following the ceremony.



Arkansas Department of  
**Career Education**

Adult Education

## New State Staff Member



*Cara Summerfield*

The Adult Education state staff recently welcomed its newest team member, Ms. Cara Summerfield. Cara, a native of New Orleans, Louisiana, has lived most of her adult life out west in Arizona, New Mexico, California, and most recently, Colorado. Cara has taught Freshman Composition and Developmental English in Higher Education for 10 years in a face-to-face environment as well as online environment. In addition, she has designed and developed online coursework and websites for small businesses, facilitated workshops for small businesses to help them in marketing their own websites, and instructed them on how to do their own search engine optimization.

Cara has a M.Ed. in Instructional Technology and M.A. in Composition and Rhetoric. Cara is currently attending the MFA Creative Writing program at Regis University and is working on a spiritual memoir. Cara loves animals and enjoys writing.

Cara will serve as the Northeast Program Advisor and as the lead person in Distance Education.

## Adult Education Division Bidders Conferences Held

The Adult Education Division of the Arkansas Department of Career Education is in the midst of the grant application period for interested and eligible providers applying for funds to provide Adult Education services throughout the state for 2017-19.



Identical technical assistance briefings were held in the Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center (AALRC) auditorium on January 18 and 19, 2017. The briefings were designed to give potential grantees the chance to ask questions regarding the Adult Education Request for Proposal (RFP).

Questions regarding the RFP and/or the process must be e-mailed to [adulted@arkansas.gov](mailto:adulted@arkansas.gov). Responses will be posted online weekly at <http://ace.arkansas.gov/adultEducation/Pages/default.aspx>.

## Constructed Response Resource Guides and Scoring Tools

*Constructed Response items give students a chance to demonstrate important critical thinking abilities by developing an argument and using evidence to support it. The 2014 GED® test has two Constructed Response items for the Reasoning Through Language Arts test (RLA) test, and two Short Answers on the Science test.*

*The free tools, created by the test developers at GED Testing Service, will help you understand how Constructed Responses are scored. Use these tools to guide you as you score student responses and provide feedback to help them improve their writing skills.*

To download the free tools, visit <http://www.gedtestingservice.com/educators/constructedresponse>.



## Adult Education Training Provided

Adult Education center directors, instructors and data entry personnel attended *AERIS 201* training on January 27<sup>th</sup> at the Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center. The Adult Education Reporting Information System (AERIS) is Arkansas' web-based online reporting tool for the National Reporting System or NRS.

This training includes information on promoting data quality, research program data in AERIS, and organizing data in a useful manner for program improvement. The training is a follow up to *AERIS 101*, which includes basic AERIS navigation, entering student intake information, and reporting overviews.

The Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center (AALRC) offers a full slate of professional development opportunities for adult educators throughout the year. For more information visit [AALRC.org](http://AALRC.org).