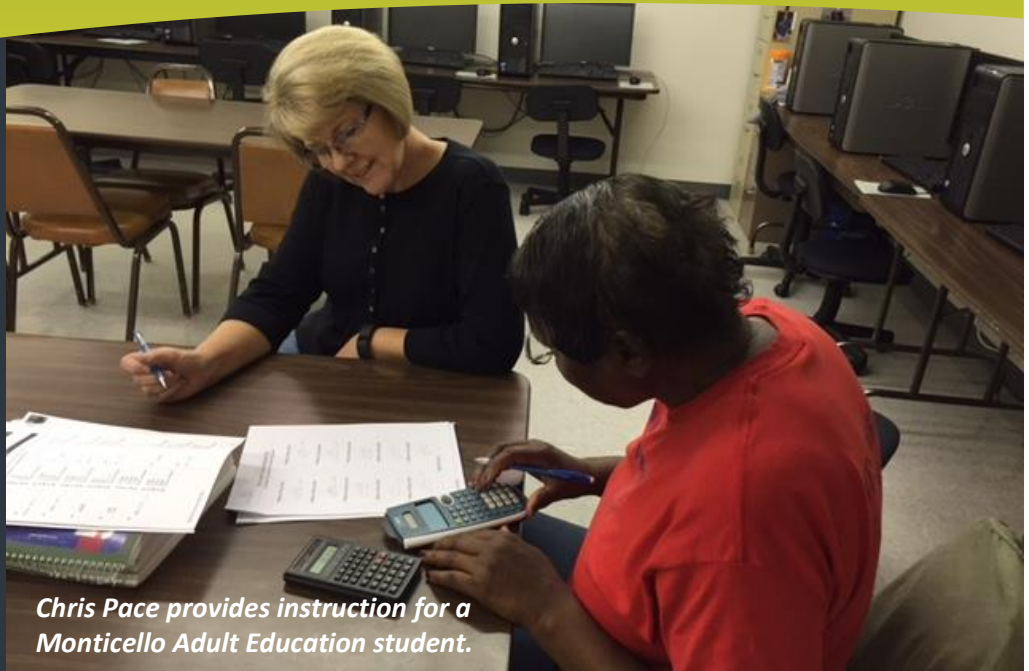


Professional Development Opportunities for Adult Educators

A group of 30 adult educators attended the AERIS 101 training on February 19th at the Adult Learning Resource Center (AALRC). Program Advisors Bridget Bullard, Todd Hunter, Laura McNeel and Randy Morris served as workshop leaders.

Visit AALRC.org for more professional development opportunities as well as resources, news and information.



Chris Pace provides instruction for a Monticello Adult Education student.

Monticello Adult Education Center

Monticello Adult Education is an integral part of the Workforce Center in Drew County which offers clients a range of services for employers and job seekers. Offering the educational piece of the puzzle for those needing to earn a GED[®] credential or improve their basic skills, the adult education center is an important part of the center.

ABE, GED[®], WAGE[™], ESL, and career coaching are all offered by the adult education center. Classes have also been offered in the Selma and Wilmar communities and the county detention center. "Seeing students succeed is the most rewarding part of my job", states Faye Branch, long-time director of the center. Monticello Adult Education partners not only with programs in the Workforce Center but has united with churches in the community as well, both Methodist and Baptist. One of the Baptist churches provided a place for an ESL class and offered transportation and snacks, too.

Although most of the people in the Drew County community are aware of the Adult Education Center, the center is continuously publicized through flyers sent to schools and churches, *Monticello Live*, the community's online news source, and their Facebook page.

Pictures from Monticello Adult Education - Students working in lab; WAGE[™] program successes; and Faye Branch, Director.



Pictured above: Todd Hunter and AERIS workshop participants in AALRC computer lab.





Career Pathways Initiative

Michelle Carson (Carson Consulting & Training) facilitated a recent planning/instructional session on implementing Career Pathways for local Adult Education center administrators. The session was one of a series planning of the integration the Career Pathways initiative and its framework.



Participants reported on regional activities, saw program models, and practiced mapping/identifying employability skills in existing curriculum.

Marketing Adult Education

Arkansas Adult Education meets once a month with The Design Group of Little Rock to suggest and review various initiatives which have focused on a "Move Ahead" theme. A television spot featuring several adult education programs has been used along with digital advertising including YouTube, Google Adwords/ Mobile Apps, Facebook and Instagram. A 50th Anniversary celebration for Arkansas Adult Education is in the planning stages. The celebration events will be held in the fall.

Included in the picture from the recent committee meeting are Dr. Trenia Miles, Kathy Edgerton, Janice Hanlon, and Marsha Taylor. Chundra Smith and Romanitha Jones are from the Design Group.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Chelsey Kuykendall
Crawford County Adult Education Center



Chelsey began studying at CCAEC in October 2015. She has since completed GED® official tests in Social Studies, Reasoning through Language Arts, and Science. With one test left, Chelsey is focusing on Math by attending class daily.

After she earns her GED® diploma, Chelsey wants to go to college to get a degree in Information Technology. She hopes to begin a career as a software analyst. Chelsey has two children, ages 7 and 5, and is expecting her third child in May 2016. In her free time, she enjoys being outdoors and going to church. Her words of wisdom are, "Put forth the effort and finish what you set out to do."

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Arkansas Adult Education was started July 1, 1965, with funding from the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. The original staff of four consisted of Homer Waldrum (director), Luther Black (area supervisor), Dorothy Washington (bookkeeper), and Mary Anne Crabtree (administrative assistant). Though the staff was small, the mission was the same as it is today. The first local adult basic education program was started October 3, 1965, as a part-time program at Pine Bluff High School. Paulette Martin was the director, and instructors were paid \$3 per hour.

