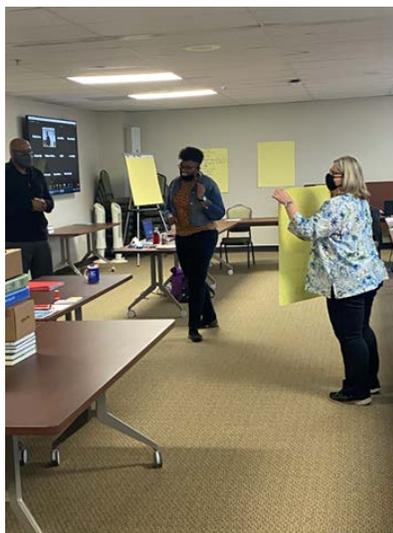
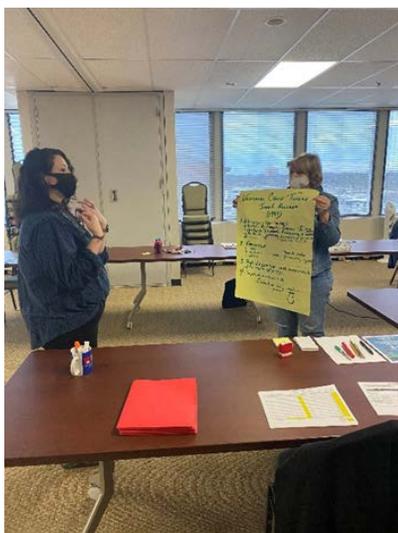


New Career Service Providers *Spring Forward*

ADULT EDUCATION Newsletter

March
2021

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The Spring 2021 training for new Career Service Providers began on March 5. Fourteen TANF and SNAP E&T coordinators, career coaches, life coaches, and adult educators are attending the training sessions both virtually and in person. Once the participants successfully complete training on June 25, they will qualify as Career Service Providers (CSP). Each adult education program and literacy council is required to have a CSP or Career Coach to assist students with transitioning into the workplace or postsecondary education or training.

Career Coaches play a vital role in providing services and resources that help student growth. For instance, coaches help students with anything from increasing their self-confidence, creating an outstanding resume, and easing their concerns about interviewing to developing and executing a job search strategy.

The “Facilitating Career Development Training” is facilitated by Kimberly Freeman (Program Specialist) and LaTasha Dale (Career Coach) of the Arkansas Adult Education Section. Participants in the photos above were exploring and discussing career development theorists. In the first of three group sessions, the discussion covered:

- Theories about career choice and development as it relates to their adult learners.
- Predicting future events as satisfactory/dissatisfactory kinds of work.
- Explanations of factors involved in the career planning process and how the factors work together.

Look for announcements and dates from the Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center for the next “Facilitating Career Development Training” session (<http://aalrc.org/adminteachers/workshops.html>).

Around the State

Arkansas Adult Education Centers continue to be student-centered even in this unprecedented time. Directors and staff members are working in creative and often collaborative ways to serve our students.

Fort Smith Adult Education Director Selected for Fellowship

Congratulations to Kathleen Dorn, Director of Fort Smith Adult Education Center, in her recent selection for the State Advocates for Adult Education Fellowship (SAAEF) program. In this role, Kathleen will join other adult education professionals in a nationally concerted, ongoing effort to educate funders, the public, and stakeholders on the value of the work of Adult Education.

We are excited about this opportunity for Kathleen as well as the knowledge and skills she will gain that can be utilized for advocacy in the state of Arkansas. We realize the importance and value of adult education each time we help a student reach a milestone in their life. It is equally important for others—especially those who make funding decisions—to know our value as well.

Kathleen will help lead us in how to advocate and assist in telling our story to legislators, state leaders, employers, and other stakeholders.

It's always good to see Arkansas represented on a national level. We are doing some great things in the state.

Meet the Todd Family From UACC Morrilton (Conway) Adult Education

Christopher, Sandra, Cleo and Christy Todd all make the hour and a half trip from Des Arc to Conway to attend adult education classes at UACC Morrilton's Faulkner county center as often as possible. And, their explanation for going such a long distance is simple: "The people there are great! We just love it."



Although they are all at different stages of their studies, they attend as a group. In pre-COVID times they attended weekly. These days some of their studies are done remotely, from home.

Christopher (dad) has recently suffered a mini stroke and is progressing toward taking the GED Ready test. Sandra (mom) is making use of the WAGE classes and certifications. Cleo (son) has hopes of someday landing a job with Apple that involves computers; he's already passed two of his official GED tests. And, Christy (daughter) – a nature photographer and soon-to-be published author – is working her way through the Ready test. The two younger Todds were homeschooled, but like many homeschoolers, earning an Arkansas High School Diploma will be a credential on top of completing their curriculum.

The trip to Conway and classroom time is time away from their family farm and quilting business. But they all agree that the investment of time is worth it. This creative bunch makes time for education and family togetherness. What an awesome support system they are for each other!

Around the State (continued)

Little Rock Adult Education Lifelong Learner



Ms. Laura Guerra is a 64-year-old Adult Education student at the Little Rock Adult Education Center. Ms. Laura has attended the Adult Education Center off and on for almost 25 years. During her years of attendance, Ms. Laura has had to miss periods of time due to having two strokes and battling cancer. The strokes forced her to basically start her education over.

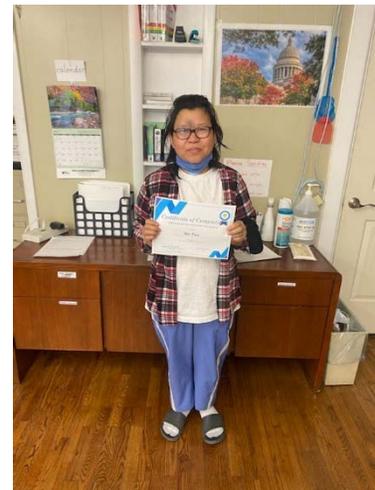
On February 9, 2021, Ms. Laura earned her certificate from Arkansas College of Health Careers to be a Nursing Assistant. Ms. Laura stated, "This was the hardest thing I have ever had to do, I stayed up late studying for the exams." She continued by stating that "Passing this made me realize I can pass the GED Test." It's important to remember that Ms. Laura's strokes caused her to drop education levels both times.

Recently, Ms. Laura has once again begun to make EFL gains due to her hard work and desire to become a high school graduate. We know with her determination and dedication, Ms. Laura will be successful at becoming a future Arkansas High School Diploma graduate.

NorthArk Adult Education Students Celebrate Successes

Pictured are some of the Tyson Team Members at the Berryville and Green Forest plants who received a certificate for completing a Burlington English level. Each of these adult learners were celebrated by their instructors and recognized for their achievement.

Amy Roberts and the North Arkansas College Adult Education team are doing great things at the Tyson plants!





**Hosted by
Dan Bingaman & Jon Lee**

Effective & Efficient is the destination for all things Arkansas Adult Education. Join co-hosts Dan Bingaman and Jon Lee as they talk with subject matter experts, Program Directors, employers, and state staff members about what they do, why it matters, and how it can benefit listeners.

Listen to the mid-March episode featuring none other than Chief Executive Officer of COABE, Sharon Bonney. Sharon was kind enough to stop by to discuss all of the different initiatives and advocacy campaigns that the Coalition on Adult Basic Education is spearheading, what it was like to re-configure and deliver a conference the size of annual COABE event due to COVID, the direction she sees adult education moving across the country, and so much more (31:40). But first, Jana Jenkins (Adult Education Program Advisor) drops in to share information participants can look forward to walking away with (3:55) from the COABE conference and her breakout session in particular. Remember, COABE conference presentations are archived for six months for those who registered.

You can also find all episodes of *Effective and Efficient* on iTunes, Spotify, or wherever you get your podcasts.

And, if you have student success stories, innovative practices or exciting news you would like to share, reach out to Dan or Jon; they would love to feature you, your program, and your students on future episodes.

Resources & Reminders



ARKANSAS ADULT LEARNING
ResourceCenter

Spring is a busy time for professional development. The Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center has published the 2020-21 Professional Development Catalog and posted the latest training opportunities. Find requirements and scheduling information on this year's workshops and trainings at <http://aalrc.org/adminteachers/workshops.html>.



COABE Capitol Hill Days: March 24 – April 6, 2021

COABE has announced an extension to their Virtual Capitol Hill Days to last two weeks to ensure all adult education advocates can make their voices heard virtually on Capitol Hill. Policymakers are making critical decisions right now about emergency funding for adult education programs due to the pandemic, and for longer-term appropriations funding. We must let Members of Congress know that our adult educators and our adult learners are among the most vulnerable workers, and they are in dire need of additional support!

Visit <https://coabe.org/capitol-hill-day/> for full details. Watch the webinar to learn how to make appointments with legislators and engage in Virtual Capitol Hill Days. For more guidance including how to contact your legislator, how to have a successful meeting, logging your appointments, and completing the feedback form, please review the resource entitled "COABE on the Hill Master Guide." Contact advocacy@coabe.org with any questions.

SHARE YOUR NEWS

Have news, success stories or a best practice from your Adult Education Program to share with others? Let us know! Submit your information to AdultEd@Arkansas.gov.

GED® Testing Updates

Vouchers Available

The state office supply of \$4 vouchers which cover the test taker cost for the official GED test has been replenished. Please spread the word at your Adult Education center. Unfortunately, these funds are not unlimited; however, adult learners may apply for them as long as they are available.

The application process is simple. Just use the application titled "Adult Education Voucher" which was distributed to all centers. To qualify, students must be within the 200% of the current poverty levels. If you need copies of the application or the poverty level chart, please contact the Arkansas GED Testing Office at GED@Arkansas.gov or call 501-682-1980.

Online Retakes

Students can now schedule to retake GED test subjects through the O.P. test after a failed attempt. After their second failed test attempt, they'll be required to wait 60 days before scheduling another online proctored retake. A 60-day wait will be required between each subsequent online proctored retake. A GED Ready "Green" score is only required within 60 days of scheduling their first test in that subject. It is not required for a retake on that subject. Students can learn more about eligibility and available testing options through their GED.com accounts or on the GED.com website.

Save the Date

The annual GEDTS "GED Grad Day" celebration returns the week of May 17th! Last year GEDTS debuted a graduation video that shared congratulatory messages from adult educators and student success stories personally submitted by GED graduates. The video's "keynote speaker," Dr. Kira Burt shared how the GED credential was the first step to her becoming a PhD graduate, physicist, and college professor. The video was well received with over 110,000 views. And, nearly 7,600 attendees participated in the celebration via Facebook event page. More than 20,000 views of the GED Grad Day Facebook event page leading up to and the day of the event. Over 1,000 posts were shared on Facebook

Tuesdays for Teachers Webinar Series

Tuesdays for Teachers is a free professional development webinar series designed for educators. This bi-monthly webinar series takes a deeper dive into classroom strategies and techniques related to the GED test. Registration for each webinar opens approximately two weeks before the webinar date. To be notified when registration opens, please sign up for the In Session educator newsletter by visiting <https://ged.com/in-session/>.

ADULT EDUCATION Newsletter

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501-682-1970

ARCareerEducation.org



Adult Education Stats At-A-Glance

Year-to-date statistics for the Arkansas Adult Education programs continue to show progress. The statistics below summarize the data for the current fiscal year through the end of March 2021.

Note: Information in parentheses represent changes from the previous month.

July 1, 2020 – March 24, 2021

Reportable Individuals: 10,359 (+957)

Participants: 5,375 (+602)

- 3,956 ABE (+455)
- 228 ASE (+24)
- 1,191 ESL (+123)

Retention Rate: 52%

- Table 4b: 2,284 (+400)**
- 42% post-test rate (+3%)
 - Of those post-tested, 73% have made an EFL gain (+2%)

Highest Measurable Skill Gain Age Group

- 16-18-year-old
- 1,111 Participants (+150)
- 60% Table 4 average (+2%)

Largest Age Group

- 25-44-year-old
- 2,339 Participants (+262)
- 35% Table 4 average (+3%)

Highest Measurable Skill Gain EFL Group

- ESL Level 5 has retaken the lead! (Previous month was ABE Level 5)
- 61 Participants
- 57% Table 4 average

Largest EFL Group

- ABE Level 3
- 1,390 Participants (+184)
- 38% Table 4 average (+3%)

Benchmarks Met: 4 out of 12 (+1)

Current Overall Table 4 Average: 41% (+3%)