



Arkansas
Adult Education
Move Ahead, So Life Won't Pass You By

Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center
801 S. Louisiana
Little Rock, AR 72201
Phone: 800-832-6242
501-907-2490
FAX: 501-907-2492
<http://aalrc.org>

Adult Learning Network

The Adult Learning Network is a quarterly publication of the AALRC.

The Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center provides equal access to all programs and activities.

Student Success Story – Ismael Hernandez Dimas NWACC Adult Education

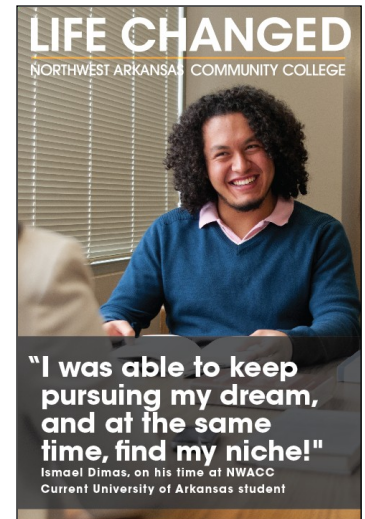
In the summer of 2009, Ismael Hernandez Dimas and his family moved from their home town of Morelia, México, to northwest Arkansas to join Ismael's father who had been living in the U.S. alone for more than 13 years. This was a crucial decision for the family; a decision that would come with many challenges.

First and foremost, saying goodbye to family and life-long friends to start over in a new country 1,500 miles away was very difficult. Life would be dramatically different in the U.S. Accustomed to widely available public transportation in México, Ismael's family did not own a car, so simply getting around proved to be a major challenge initially. However, the overarching challenge Ismael faced was a language barrier.

Ismael was hoping to continue his education without interruption in the U.S.; but language created an obstacle to education. College would have to wait. Determined to overcome the language barrier quickly, Ismael promptly enrolled in NWACC Adult Education's ESL program. He attended ESL classes twice a day and graduated from the ESL program within a year.

Ismael recalls having 5 different ESL instructors who each had their own way of teaching. This, he said, helped him learn English even faster. When it was time to enroll for college, NWACC Adult Education college transition advisor, Martha Cortes, helped Ismael learn about scholarships available and how to apply for financial aid and college entrance. As an ESL program graduate, he was also awarded a 3-hour credit class tuition waiver for NWACC to help get him started in college.

Ismael believes, whole-heartedly, in community involvement and volunteerism. His volunteer work includes membership in the Latin Cultural Club and International Student Club while at NWACC. He was also one of eight mentors for the student outreach L.I.F.E. (Learning, Improvement, Fun and Empowerment) program at NWACC. L.I.F.E. members mentor high school students, encouraging them to work hard and continue pursuing their dreams after high school. Ismael is also a member of The National Society of Leadership and Success, an organization that "serves as a powerful force of good in the greater community by encouraging and organizing action to better the world." He also served as a senator on NWACC's Student Government Association. To this day, Ismael is providing support and encouragement to individual students enrolled in the NWACC Adult Education program.



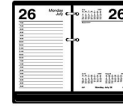
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Calendar
All events are at the AALRC unless otherwise noted.



Professional Development Events for July 2015:

Math Institute – Full with Waiting List – July 9-10th - Session ID: **256357**



ESL Institute – July 14-16 – Session ID: **256359**

College & Career Readiness: Integrating Technology -
 Tuesday, July 21st - Session ID: **257268**

Online Marketing - Wednesday, July 22nd - Session ID: **257270**

SMART Board 101 - Thursday, July 23rd - Session ID: **257271**

Social Studies: Teaching with Documents

Session IDs: Tuesday, July 21st: **257273**, Wednesday, July 22nd: **257276**,
 Thursday, July 23rd: **257281**

Diversity: The Key to Better Serving Students

Session IDs: Tuesday, July 21st: **257284**, Wednesday, July 22nd: **257285**,
 Thursday, July 23rd: **257286**

TABE – July 28-29 – Session TBA

LTA Refresher – July 30 – Session TBA

Leadership Excellence Academy 2015-2016

What?

A professional learning opportunity that will allow Adult Education Program Administrators to explore, adapt and apply leadership concepts and skills to help improve your adult education program.

Who?

All state-funded Adult Education Program Administrators interested in exploring leadership issues pertinent to adult education and literacy programs across the nation.

Why?

It's your chance to influence national policy and earn credits toward National Program Director certification.

The Academies are:

- Built upon a foundation of research, theory, professional wisdom and best practices;
- Given over time with opportunities for application via interim activities and projects;
- Delivered via face-to-face workshops and technology-based delivery systems like webcasts, discussion boards and online courses;
- Designed to provide the opportunity to earn National Program Director certification;
- Provide 60 professional learning clock hours.

Participants' responsibilities:

Overall: Be willing to make a 2-3 year commitment to the field of adult education

Year One

- Three 6-hour face-to-face workshops
- Two 1-hour online courses
- Three 1-hour Webcasts
- Complete and submit interim activities between face-to-face workshops.

Year Two

- Two 6-hour face-to-face workshops
- One 6-hour online courses
- Three 1-hour Webcasts
- Complete and submit interim activities between the courses and submit a culminating learning project.

Please contact Nancy Loftis at nancy@aalrc.org or call at 800-832-6242 at the AALRC for more information.

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Alan McClain

Adult Education
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Career & Techni-
cal Education
Sandra
Porter

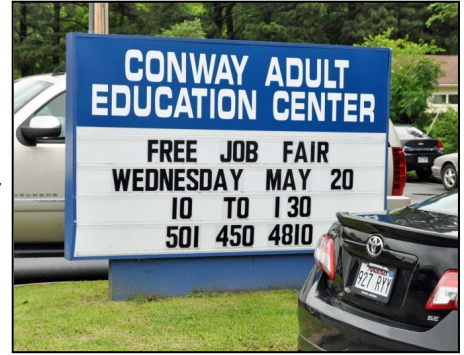
Communications
Kathy
Edgerton

Human
Resources &
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DeCarlia Dickens

Finance
Lorna Claudio

Conway Adult Education Center 2015 4th Annual Job Fair

More than 250 job seekers attended the 4th Annual Job Fair at Conway Adult Education Center on Wednesday, May 20, 2015. The job fair was organized by WAGE (Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Community) program coordinator, Kathryn Rasure. The event was open to students of Conway Adult Education Center and the general public. The annual event wraps up a year of successful student participation by earning GED® diplomas, by receiving WAGE certificates and by improving English language skills. The job fair helps students bridge their newly-acquired workplace skills with employment or transition to enrollment in higher education training programs.



This year there were 35 employer and agency participants and of that total, 26 were employers. Local colleges and community service agencies were also on hand.

Ms. Rasure estimated that between the 26 employers participating, there were 75+ open positions available the day of the job fair. Early reports indicate that 15-20 jobs have been filled by candidates who attended the job fair.

The job fair's growth through the years is due in large part to active participation from Faulkner and surrounding county employers' participation in the Conway Adult Education WAGE quarterly Advisory Board meetings. Participating employers mention that the Conway Adult Education Job Fair is a "must attend" event because of the consistently qualified employment candidate pool in attendance each year. Planning for the 2016 Job Fair has already begun. The Job Fair is scheduled for May 18, 2016. More information can be found at www.caec.org about Conway Adult Education Center, the WAGE program and all the educational offerings available.

Student Success Story – Ismael Hernandez Dimas

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After graduating from NWACC with an Associates of Science in Business Administration in May of 2013, Ismael enrolled in the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and is presently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Next, he plans to pursue a Master of Accountancy through the University of Arkansas Sam M. Walton College of Business. After getting his masters, Ismael plans to pursue a career with a Big Four accounting firm and travel while continuing to support others through volunteerism.



Ismael Hernandez Dimas
COABE 2015

Ismael was awarded the prestigious "Outstanding Adult Learner of the Year" award from the Commission on Adult Basic Education (COABE) for 2015. He was selected from many wonderful candidates from across the nation. We are so proud of Ismael, his accomplishments, and his ongoing support and advocacy for others!

Ismael's mother, Mrs. Lety Hernandez, is also a student. She is enrolled in the Fayetteville Adult and Community Education program. She is described as "an outstanding, hard-working, and bright student who diligently focuses on her goals." It must run in the family!

News from the Disabilities Project Manager

Literacy Student from Bentonville Featured on National Website

You may remember a previous article in the AALRC newsletter about Joe Arnold, a student at the Literacy Council of Benton County in Bentonville. (<http://aalrc.org/adminteachers/newsletters/Newsletter%20Summer%202011%208%20Finale.pdf>)

Joe was diagnosed with learning disabilities after several years of serious study with several tutors in the literacy program. Soon after his learning disabilities evaluation, he enrolled in the adult education program at Northwest Technical Institute in Springdale, applied for accommodations on the GED[®] test, and was able to pass the GED[®] test with an audio format.



The Learning Disabilities Association of America has posted a video of Joe talking about his success story at <http://ldaamerica.org/media-room/videos/>. Scroll almost to the bottom of that page and find his moving story under the title, "Adult Literacy: Joe's Story."

Joe was stuck at a second-grade reading level on the TABE test, but when he was given the TABE with audio input, his scores jumped to 12.9 across the board. The literacy council then worked with the NTI adult education program to arrange for Joe to do his testing at the adult education program, while keeping his literacy tutor to help him prepare for the GED[®] test.

This is a wonderful example of collaboration and the doors to success that can be opened for people with learning disabilities through the use of both assistive technology and direct, explicit instruction. It is also a testament to the power of resources working together, and the Literacy Council of Benton County and the NTI Adult Education program deserve recognition for their combined, successful efforts for this student.

And last but not least - good job, Joe!

Disability Disclosure in the Workplace

Should adults with learning disabilities disclose their disability to a potential employer? The answer usually depends on the potential employee and the potential employer, so this decision should always be made on an individual basis. There are some places that I would advise the person to disclose upfront just because I know the employer is familiar with learning disability issues and the fact that the person with the learning disability has significant strengths, not just challenges. Or, if the person has terrific self-advocacy skills, they can usually sell themselves on their strengths with a "sandwich approach" to advocacy: "I'm really great at following directions (strength), although it's sometimes more difficult if the directions are only given orally (challenge). But if I get those directions in writing (accommodation), I will follow your directions exactly every time (strength)." So they kind of sandwich the challenge between strengths. This works best if they can link the strength to an explanation of how this helps them meet the employer's goals.

News from the Disabilities Project Manager

I've seen this work really well for people who are afraid the employers will be mad if they disclose after they're hired, which unfortunately does sometimes happen. So they get the job, but if they don't prove how good they are really fast, it can be a bad situation.



The most comprehensive website that addresses this and other workplace disability issues is the Job Accommodation Network at <http://askjan.org/>.

Other online resources include:

<http://ldaamerica.org/about/ld/adults/index.asp#workplace>

http://ldlink.coe.utk.edu/jobseekers_employers.htm

http://ldlink.coe.utk.edu/ld_work_issues.htm (This one is an online tutorial.)

Free One-Page Information Sheets for Adults with Learning Disabilities



The Learning Disabilities Association of America has published a number of informative, printable information sheets for adults with learning disabilities on their website at <http://ldaamerica.org/adults/>. Scroll down about halfway on that page and you'll see a

section titled, "Support for Adults with LD." Below the title is a list of each printable information sheet that you can download as a .pdf and distribute to students who may have an interest or need in that area. The files cover the following topics:

- LD/ADHD Basics
- Assessment and Evaluation
- Post Secondary Options
- Adult Literacy
- Civil Rights
- Workplace Issues
- Mental Health
- Technology

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Marsha Taylor

AACAE Update

Greetings from the Arkansas Association of Continuing and Adult Education (AACAE) Executive Board!



As President of our organization, I wanted to personally thank all board members for their efforts in preparing for our 2015 Conference. It takes a tremendous amount of time and commitment to take on this daunting task, and I am continually amazed at the sacrifices board members make monthly to travel from all areas of the state to represent our members. Their strategic planning and dedication are much appreciated.

Following are the 2015-2016 Board Members:

- *Debbie Faubus-Kendrick, Van Buren, Past President*
- *Debbie Shelton, Lonoke, President*
- *Regina Olson, Ozark, Vice-President*
- *Blake Robertson, Springdale, Treasurer*
- *Laura Collins, Malvern, Assistant Treasurer*
- *Debra Baker, Little Rock, Secretary*
- *Shannon Olgesby, Mena, Parliamentarian*

Also attending our board meetings are Marsha Taylor, Nancy Loftis, Klaus Neu, Jim Smith, and Nancy Leonhardt. AACAE members will benefit from the united efforts of these individuals at our upcoming 2015 Conference, ***Moving on up...Progress, Partnership and Possibilities***. Be sure to reserve November 11th, 12th and 13th on your calendar, and plan to join us at the Embassy Suites in Little Rock. We are looking forward to a larger venue this year, and some outstanding professional development opportunities. Doug Luffborough, motivational speaker, trainer, and author will be our keynote speaker with insights from his journey from being homeless to graduating from Harvard. Jerry Balistreri, last year's keynote speaker, will be traveling from Alaska to share a 2 session presentation on Body Language, and a variety of "best practices" workshops will be available this year. This year's conference is an opportunity you won't want to miss. Registration forms are now available at the AALRC website, and reservations for Embassy Suites can be made at

http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/L/LITCPES-CAE-20151111/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

(to click on this hyperlink, please go to <http://aalrc.org/adminteachers/newsletters.html> and open the Summer 2015 newsletter).

For questions concerning registration, call Laura Collins, College of the Ouachitas, Adult Education, at 870-942-4402.

See you in November!

Sincerely, Debbie Shelton, AACAE President

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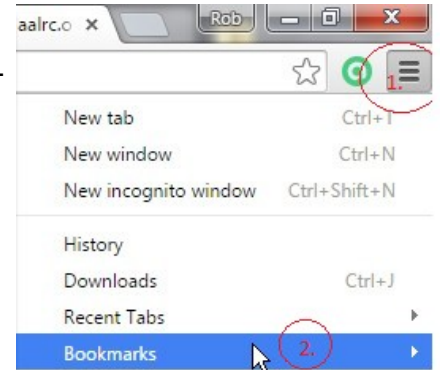
Talk

Note: To link to any web address (URL) in this newsletter, go to the AALRC's home page at <http://aalrc.org>, look up this newsletter, and then just click on the appropriate link.

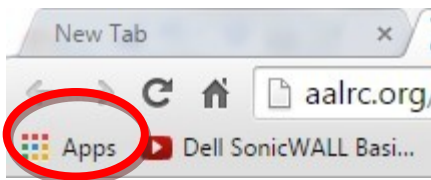
Google Chrome Tips

Show the Bookmarks Bar – It's too bad this is not enabled by default, because it is very handy to have your web shortcuts so accessible. To enable this feature:

1. In Chrome, click the Settings button in the top-right corner.
2. Hover over Bookmarks. After hovering over Bookmarks to expand the menu, make sure there is a check on "Show bookmarks bar".



Chrome Apps and Extensions - now that you have the Bookmarks Bar visible, click the Apps button in the top left of Chrome:



Next, click on Web Store. From here you can choose from Apps, Extensions, or Themes. There are thousands of free apps and extensions that you can add, and you can change the look of Chrome by adding a theme. The difference between an app and an extension is simple. After adding an app from the web store, the app will be available by clicking the Apps button at the top left of the Bookmarks bar. Apps are programs that can include games, photo editors, video players, and much more. Extensions also provide functionality, but unlike apps, there is little or no user interface component. Instead, they extend the functionality of Google Chrome and the websites being viewed in it. For example, they can extend Google Chrome by adding a new button to the address bar, such as an ever-present currency converter. Unlike apps, once an extension is installed you do not have to open it with the Apps button to use it.

Apps are programs that can include games, photo editors, video players, and much more. Extensions also provide functionality, but unlike apps, there is little or no user interface component. Instead, they extend the functionality of Google Chrome and the websites being viewed in it. For example, they can extend Google Chrome by adding a new button to the address bar, such as an ever-present currency converter. Unlike apps, once an extension is installed you do not have to open it with the Apps button to use it.

Tip: After you click on your Apps button, you can drag your installed apps to the bookmarks bar for easy access.

My two favorite Extensions are Avast Online Security for safer browsing and AutoPatchWork so you don't have to click on the next page button, you simply scroll down and it automatically loads the next page. Adblock Plus is also a favorite of many.

The amount of Apps and Extensions can be overwhelming. You might want to try Googling "chrome best apps" or "chrome best extensions" to get a feel for what is available. Also, be sure to Google best apps or extensions for teachers or students.

Chrome Software Removal Tool - This application will scan and remove software that may cause problems with Chrome, such as crashes, unusual startup pages or toolbars, unexpected ads you can't get rid of, or otherwise changing your browsing experience. I am impressed with this tool so far. It can easily fix malware related problems that were previously very difficult to deal with. <https://www.google.com/chrome/srt/>

ADULT LEARNING NETWORK

Walmart Scholarship Vouchers

Do you have students ready to take the GED® test? Help them eliminate the cost barrier with a Walmart scholarship voucher. Vouchers are available for students at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The requirement for documenting household income has recently changed, and students are now allowed to “self-report” their income status. Most students served by Arkansas Adult Education can qualify for the scholarship vouchers.

The scholarship vouchers are a product of a time-limited grant funded by the Walmart Foundation. The funds must be spent by November 2015, so center administrators and instructors are encouraged to help students take advantage of the scholarships.

Federal poverty rate levels are shown in the chart below:

Family Size	100% FPL	110% FPL	125% FPL	150% FPL	175% FPL	185% FPL	200% FPL
1	\$11,670	\$12,837	\$14,588	\$17,505	\$20,423	\$21,590	\$23,340
2	\$15,730	\$17,303	\$19,663	\$23,595	\$27,528	\$29,101	\$31,460
3	\$19,790	\$21,769	\$24,738	\$29,685	\$34,633	\$36,612	\$39,580
4	\$23,850	\$26,235	\$29,813	\$35,775	\$41,738	\$44,123	\$47,700
5	\$27,910	\$30,701	\$34,888	\$40,865	\$48,843	\$51,634	\$55,820

ALC Update

Arkansas Literacy Councils celebrated their past year with their annual luncheon at the Clinton Presidential Center in Little Rock on May 29th. The following people and organizations were recognized for their hard work and dedication to literacy:

- Student of the Year – Debra Cunningham, Ozark Foothills Literacy Project*
- Tutor of the Year – Donald Mankin, Literacy League of Craighead County*
- Outstanding Business Partner of the Year – Ouachita County Department of Human Services*
- Innovative Project Award – Twin Lakes Literacy Council*
- Win Paul Rockefeller Leadership Award – Dr. David Agnew, Arkansas State University*
- Legislative Champion for Literacy Award – Representative James Sturch*

The keynote speaker for the luncheon was Rob Shindler of Chicago and author of *Hot Dogs and Hamburgers*. Rob provided an entertaining and motivational story of his work as a literacy tutor at Literacy Chicago.

In other ALC news, on June 16th we welcomed Cicily Tubb-Warlington to our staff as our Administrative Assistant. Cicily has a BA in English and a MA in Linguistics, Teaching English as a Second Language. She is currently working on her dissertation for her PhD in Organizational Leadership, Higher Education. Cicily is fast becoming a contributing member of our team. Next time you are in the AALRC building, stop by the 3rd floor and say hi to Cicily.



Rob Shindler, author of Hot Dogs and Hamburgers