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CENTRAL/SOUTHEAST ABLE RESOURCE CENTER

Central/Southeast E-News

Technology Fills Ohio's Tutor Training Needs

The Literacy Center at Ohio University which includes the Central/Southeast ABLE Resource Center, AppalCORPS, (an Americorps program of volunteers who tutor children in schools), Appalachia Reads, and America Reads, was faced with a challenge: how to cost-effectively provide comprehensive tutor training to a large number of small programs that are geographically scattered throughout southeastern Ohio. Traditionally, training consisted of an 18-hour face-to-face program that required travel to specified sites, an arrangement that was time consuming and expensive. In addition, because most literacy programs require tutors and instructors to be certified, the Literacy Center received many requests to provide comprehensive tutor training throughout the year.

Jeff Fantine, director of The Literacy Center, recently solved this problem using technology to deliver training across The Literacy Center's service area. "We decided to use Thinkfinity Literacy Network (TLN) online courses in combination with a six-hour video-conferencing workshop broadcast to each of the

four regional campuses where tutors and instructors can actively participate. "It is a cost-effective solution to providing tutor training in a large rural region of our state," states Fantine.

Prior to the video-conference workshop, each participant is required to complete 10 hours of courses through Thinkfinity. The required courses are "Orientation to Volunteering in Literacy," "Principles of Adult Learning," and "Graphic Organizers: Tools for Instructors and Students."

During the workshop, participants review the courses and learn the basics of goal setting, lesson planning, and learning disabilities. Depending on the audience, training in English-language learning, adult learning, and families and children is also included. After the workshop, each participant is required to complete 6 hours of elective TLN courses. Once participants complete the 22 hours of tutor training, they receive their certification. Julia Riffle, a literacy tutor who participated in the combined face-to-face workshop/TLN courses states, "I believe I learned more in



this course and through the Verizon Thinkfinity online courses than I did in my educational program courses attended at a university!"

"We have now offered this training approach twice through Ohio University, and training evaluations are positive with regard to both content and convenience," Fantine reports.

"Approximately 60 literacy instructors from the various literacy programs in southeastern Ohio, including volunteer-based community programs, Even Start centers, faith-based programs, community college adult education programs, and a large Americorps contingent, have been involved in this training." The Literacy Center will continue to offer this training next year on a quarterly basis.

Fantine states, "Without Thinkfinity Literacy Network, we would never have been able to provide this type of tutor training to so many in a cost-effective way," and looks forward to serving additional programs in Ohio.

This article is featured on the Thinkfinity Website at <http://tinyurl.com/2j58dq>

OAACE Membership Time!!

WHAT: Renew your membership or join for the first time.

WHO: Anyone working in adult education

WHEN: Join between October 1 and November 30 (Check out the offer of the Institutional Membership as there's a "deal". Memberships are allowable through the ABLE grant.)

WHERE: Check the website for membership documents - www.oaace.org

If renewing, you should receive materials in the mail.

WHY: OAACE is the oldest professional organization in Ohio for adult educators. Not only do you get reduced conference rates and access to the News and Views publication, there are a variety of benefits available. Check out the OAACE website for more information.

Joe McGowan, the director of The Work Station/ABLE Lab in Athens, is the OAACE representative for the Central/Southeast Region. If you'd like to know more about the organization, please contact him at centralsouth-east@oaace.org or mcgowj@odjfs.state.oh.us

Health Literacy Discussion and Student Writing Activity

The following message is from Julie McKinney, the Moderator of the NIFL Health Literacy List. This not only sounds like a good opportunity to get your adult learners writing, but it also gives you a chance to do some modeling of the writing process for them. Read on.

The health literacy list is in the middle of a discussion about communicating clearly between patients and health care providers (including doctors, nurses, radiologists, nutritionists, pharmacists and many others.) I have always believed that health care providers could learn a lot from teachers who work with adult learners, and from adult learners themselves.

So I want to invite you all to share your thoughts and experiences in communicating about health and medical care, and propose an activity to do with your classes to explore these communication issues.

We would like to share stories from adult learners with the health professionals on the discussion list. These can be about experiences communicating with health care providers, or challenges in navigating the health system and environment. We will at some point have a follow-up to this discussion and highlight more student/patient stories.

We are also collecting them for the Health Page on the ALE Wiki. You can see what we have so far at this link:

http://wiki.literacytent.org/index.php/Health_Literacy (Click on "Stories from learners and patients")

Here is a link to information about this week's discussion and guest speakers:

<http://www.nifl.gov/lincs/discussions/healthliteracy/07healthcommunication.html>

You can find out more about the health literacy discussion list, read the recent discussion, and subscribe for free at this link:

www.nifl.gov/mailman/listinfo/healthliteracy

Below are some questions to ask yourselves and your learners, and some guidelines for a writing activity. Please feel free to send in your thoughts or stories to this list, or you can join the health list briefly to join the discussion. The discussion went through Monday the 22nd, but as I said, we will have a week of follow-up at some point, so let me know if you are working on this with your class, and I will give you more information.

Thanks so much,

Julie

These are questions to think about:

1. When you walk out of a doctor's office after an appointment, how do you feel about what the doctor told you?
2. What makes it hard for you to understand what your doctor is saying?
3. Do you ask the questions that you want to ask your doctor? Why or why not?
4. How well do you understand the written brochures that you get from doctors? Do you use them by looking at them later? Why or why not?
5. What helps to make all of these things easier?
6. If you could make a list of suggestions for your doctor, or for the clinic or hospital, what would you say? (These are suggestions for how they could make it easier for you to understand what is happening with your health, and what you need to do to stay healthy.)

Here are some guidelines for a class writing activity for anyone who is interested:

To write a story:

1. Introduce yourself. You can decide what to say, but here are some ideas of what you could include:
 - .. where your home is
 - .. what you do
 - .. who lives with you
 - .. why you care about your family's health
 - .. how long you have been studying English or reading and writing.
2. Think of an experience when you were in an appointment, and you walked out feeling like you did not really understand what happened, or what you were supposed to do. It could be a doctor's appointment, or some other specialist. (For example, getting some kind of test or x-ray, or meeting with a nutritionist.) Write about what happened, and why you feel that the information was not clear to you. This doesn't have to be long, and you can have your teacher or someone else help with the writing, but it should be your writing and your own words. It doesn't have to be perfect! (No one will check the spelling and grammar. We just want to hear about your experience.)

Here are some ideas for teachers to write about:

1. In what ways can you, as an ABE or ESOL teacher, help your students to communicate more effectively in an encounter with a health professional?
2. Have you ever addressed health communication (or vocabulary, etc.) in your classes?
3. How do students respond to health as a content area?
4. Have you ever collaborated with a health care professional or a community health clinic or hospital? If so, how did it go?
5. What advice would you give to others who are less used to communicating with people who are learning English or literacy skills?

Thanks again! Please let me know if you do this activity and how it went!

Julie McKinney
 Discussion List Moderator
 World Education/NCSALL

New Connections for Overcoming Dyslexia

Using new software developed to investigate how the brains of dyslexic children are organized, University of Washington researchers have found that key areas for language and working memory involved in reading are connected differently in dyslexics than in children who are good readers and

spellers. However, once the children with dyslexia received a three-week instructional program, their patterns of functional brain connectivity normalized and were similar to those of good readers when deciding if sounds went with groups of letters in words. The findings could provide insight into the de-

velopment of new teaching methods geared toward students who are dyslexic.

Source:
<http://uwnews.washington.edu/ni/article.asp?articleID=36405>

Survey on Professional Development Needs/National Institute for Literacy

Adult education teachers and administrators: Have you ever wished you could have some input into decisions that are being made nationally on professional development opportunities? If so, here is your chance to express your opinion and share your thoughts.

The National Institute for Literacy is conducting a survey on the professional development needs of adult education practitioners across the country. We need your help to gather information that reflects your own needs in the area of professional development as well as how you think professional development should be offered. We are asking for only 10-15 minutes of your time.

Follow this link to take the survey at <http://www.nifl.gov/lincs/needssurvey/>.

Information collected from the professional development needs survey will be used by the Institute and the LINC Regional Resource Centers to (1) give us insights on how Institute-produced materials and training can be disseminated and (2) identify areas where the Institute might want to develop additional materials and trainings. The Regional Resource Centers will use the data to develop a regional dissemination plan that will include how to best disseminate and present Institute-sponsored resources and training in partnership with the state organizations.

The National Institute for Literacy, a federal agency, provides leadership on literacy issues, including the improvement of reading instruction for children, youth, and adults. In consultation with the U.S. Departments of Education, Labor, and Health and Hu-

man Services, the Institute serves as a national resource on current, comprehensive literacy research, practice, and policy.

The National Institute for Literacy is committed to the dissemination of high-quality resources to help practitioners use evidence-based instructional practices that improve outcomes in adult learners' literacy skills. LINC is the backbone of the Institute's dissemination system, providing information on a wide variety of literacy relevant topics, issues, and resources through regional resource centers, collections of resources, and discussion lists. For more information about the National Institute for Literacy and LINC visit <http://www.nifl.gov>.

Visit the Central Southeast ABLÉ Resource Center Library!



www.able-ohiou.org

Click on Resources
1-800-753-1519



National Literacy Summit.3

On October 15, 2007, the Verizon Foundation and its national partners hosted the National Literacy Summit.3 - Competitive Literacies for the Global Economy: Building Learning Communities. Featuring Dr. Fareed Zakaria, editor of Newsweek International, the Summit convened global thought leaders to discuss and demonstrate the definition of literacy and learning required in a competitive global economy and how local literacy programs can be more effective in building learning communities.

"It's the last third of the American public, the bottom third that is getting a substandard, perhaps third world education, that is often functionally illiterate, that does not have access to decent education or decent

health care, said Dr. Zakaria. "In other words, our real competitiveness problem is an inequality problem."

As part of the Summit, Verizon and the National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL) unveiled an innovative online tool designed to help local literacy organizations evaluate their programs and make changes to produce better results and help increase national literacy rates. The tool, called the Verizon Literacy Program Self-Assessment Tool (VLP-SAT) was created by NCFL and funded by the Verizon Foundation. It is the first time a comprehensive online literacy evaluation

tool has been made available to all literacy programs for free at one location, Thinkfinity.org.

"Thousands of people give their time and effort daily to advance the cause of literacy but unfortunately, despite those great efforts, literacy rates in our country are still not where they need to be," said Sharon Darling, president and founder of NCFL. "This self-assessment tool provides a roadmap with more scope and depth than any other tool currently available."

Click here for more information and to view the archived Webcast of Summit.3

<http://literacynetwork.verizon.org/LitSummit06.156.0.html>

Utility Assistance Brochures

The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel just received a new shipment of utility assistance brochures including:

- PIPP Made Easy
- HEAP Made Easy
- LifeLine Made Easy
- PIPP Arrearage Forgiveness - Gas

These are easy to understand bro-

chures that can be given to your clients. If you would like bulk copies of any or all of these brochures, please let me know.

(If you have already placed a bulk order, you should receive it this week.

If you do not receive it, please let me know.)

Linda Walls Rominski

Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel

(614) 466-9571

Opportunities with VALUE

VALUE is publicizing the following two opportunities:

1) Seeking Volunteers

VALUE, a small national nonprofit literacy organization, is seeking volunteers or individuals for an unpaid internship to assist in drafting/revising promotional information for our web site. VALUE, www.valueusa.org <<http://www.valueusa.org/>>, is the only adult literacy organization in the U.S. governed and operated by current and former literacy students. We are seeking individuals who can help us make our information both concise and compelling to potential funders/contributors, policy-makers, and information-seekers. Marketing or public relations experience is a plus but not essential. Writers' byline will be included our web site. Both the time commitment and work schedule are flexible;

project deadlines are negotiable. Interns/volunteers will work from home and correspond by email and telephone. If interested, please send a resume and writing sample to office@valueusa.org.

sample to office@valueusa.org.

2) Paid Internship

VALUE, a small national nonprofit literacy organization located in Chester PA, is seeking individuals for a paid internship to update a national study on student involvement in the adult literacy field.

VALUE, www.valueusa.org, is the only adult literacy organization in the U.S.

governed and operated by current and former literacy students.

Interns will correspond with state and local literacy organizations around the country via email, conduct telephone interviews, and

draft a report comparing current findings with findings from the earlier study.

No general administrative/clerical duties. Flexible hours within normal workday, M-F, 9AM to 5PM; \$1,000 stipend for equivalent of two days per week for one semester (16 hours x 12 weeks). Previous experience conducting research via telephone is desirable. Must have good telephone, organizational, and analytical skills; experience with Microsoft office; and ability to work independently.

Jon Randall

VALUE, Inc.

www.valueusa.org

<<http://www.valueusa.org/>>

617-876-7625 office

301-588-5304 direct

Nominate a Family Literacy Teacher of the Year

The National Center for Family Literacy and Toyota are accepting applications for the 2008 Toyota Family Literacy Teacher of the Year.

For the first time, the application process is online at www.famlit.org/ToyotaTeacher.

[The deadline to submit nominations is Dec. 5, 2007.](#)

The winner will be chosen by a panel of family literacy specialists at NCFL, who will review nominations for high-performing teachers from across the

United States.

The selected educator will receive a cash prize for his/her program and a free trip to the 2008 National Conference on Family Literacy, where he/she will be honored at the opening general session on March 30th, 2008, in Louisville. In addition, several finalists will be honored.

Here are the guidelines:

- The online nomination form should be completed by the program director or coordinator
- It must include a statement of sup-

port for the nominated educator written by a parent/adult student

- Programs may nominate up to two educators
- Programs and nominated educators do not have to be associated with
- Toyota-funded programs
- The nominated educator cannot have been a finalist in the past three years

For award information and additional guidelines, go to www.famlit.org/

Videos of Adult Education Classrooms

The Media Library of Teaching Skills (MLoTS) project, a free Web-based library of short digital videos of adult education classrooms and tutorials, now has three MLoTS-created reading and numeracy videos and over 30 other videos, including those from:

- NCAL/ILI Professional Development Kit (ESOL and basic literacy tutoring)
- NCAL/ILI Captured Wisdom (integrating technology),
- OTAN (integrating technology) and

• CLESE (an informal assessment to capture what low-literate ESOL learners can and cannot do with literacy)

<http://www.mlots.org/>

Grants and Scholarships

“Verizon Foundation: Building More Literate Communities”

Verizon Foundation Literacy grants are available to organizations committed to basic literacy skills in the United States. Verizon has invested in a network of collaborative literacy partners, offering a wide variety of programs with a focus on e-learning. Verizon’s leadership in technology and communications provides the distribution network. Maximum Award: Varies. Deadline: November 30, 2007.

“Grant to Support Job Skills and Education”

The Staples Foundation for Learning provides funding to programs that support or provide job skills and/or education for all people, with an emphasis on disadvantaged youth. Maximum Award: \$25,000. Deadline: December 7, 2007.

The Barbara Bush Foundation

Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy is pleased to announce the 2008

national grant competition. The Foundation’s grant-making program seeks to develop or expand projects that are designed to support the development of literacy skills for adult primary caregivers and their children. A total of approximately \$650,000 will be awarded; no grant request should exceed \$65,000. To download the application, go to the Barbara Bush Foundation website at: <http://www.barbarabushfoundation.com/wn.html>

“Grants to Assist Nonprofits in Developing Strong Leadership”

The American Management Association (AMA) and Leader to Leader Institute scholarship program is intended to assist social sector nonprofit organizations in developing strong leadership. The AMA Scholarship is designed to provide nonprofit leaders with an opportunity to step out of the day-to-day, interact with peers across the sectors and develop practical skills they can apply immediately within their organizations. Maximum award: one-year scholarship. Deadline: November 15, 2007. Learn more at: [\[leadertoleader.org/collaboration/ama/index.html\]\(http://leadertoleader.org/collaboration/ama/index.html\)](http://</p></div><div data-bbox=)

“Research Grants for Adult Education Math Practitioners”

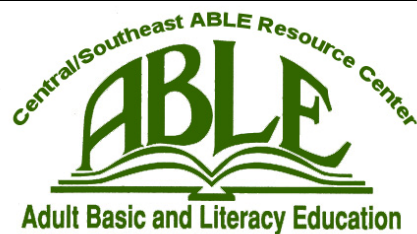
The Adult Numeracy Network (ANN), a national organization of adult education math teachers, has released the application for this year’s adult education math practitioner research projects. The Adult Numeracy Network will support two opportunities for teachers of adult mathematics to conduct research. These grants provide a chance for teachers of adult math to conduct some quality classroom research. To learn more, visit the OTAN Website at:

<http://www.otan.us/index.cfm?fuseaction=ShowMoreNews&newsid=3504&catid=3027>

Upcoming Professional Development

To register for the following events—go to the ABLE Training Calendar at www.able-ohiou.org and click on Training Calendar.

Friday Closed	11/16/2007	Ohio TESOL Conference	Hilton Hotel at Easton Town Center
Friday	11/16/2007 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Central/Southeast Assessment Fundamentals	Ohio University - Athens
Friday	11/30/2007 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM	WRT 102: The Writing Process: Assessing & Instructing	TBA
Friday	11/30/2007 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM	The Portfolio Connection: Connecting Teaching and Learning	Ohio University - Athens
Friday CLOSED	12/07/2007 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM	TIAN Bundle Training - Columbus	Delaware Hayes Municipal Building
Wednesday	01/16/2008 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	PowerPath Level 2	Columbus, OH
Wednesday	02/06/2008 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	PowerPath - Level 3	Columbus, OH
Saturday	02/23/2008 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM	New Teacher Orientation Part II	TBA
Friday	03/14/2008 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM	Advanced ABLELink	Southern State Community College
Saturday	03/15/2008 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM	Advanced ABLELink	Southern State Community College
Wednesday	04/16/2008 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM	BEST Plus Training	Columbus, OH



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The staff of the Central/Southeast ABLE Resource Center wishes you a good month! .

Jeff, Brian, Kate, Sharon, and MB