

The Literacy News

Florida's Newsletter for Literacy Tutors, Teachers, Learners, and Supporters

Number 100 July—August 2002

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Literacy Month

in Florida! What's Happening around the State (pages 2 - 4)!

The Governor and First Lady Host Gala Event for the Governor's Family Literacy Initiative **Award Recipients!** (page 6 - 7).

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Meet the New Director of the Florida Literacy Coalition

Greg Smith was recently appointed to the Executive Director position of the Florida Literacy Coalition.

Greg comes to the Coalition from the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia (LCNV), where he served as Executive Director of the oldest and largest literacy organization in Virginia for the past 12 years. LCNV's services included volunteer tutoring programs, family literacy and ESL classes and computer learning centers.

In announcing the appointment, Coalition President Linda D'Olympio said, "Greg's background and experience are ideally suited to the Coalition's needs. We welcome Greg and look forward to further growth and future development of FLC programs and services under his direction."

Originally from Rhode Island, Greg received his BA in Political Science and Public Administration from Providence College and an MS in Adult and Continuing Education from Virginia Tech.

Greg has been active with a number of state and national literacy organizations serving as President of the Virginia Literacy Leadership Council, Legislative Chairman and Board member of the Virginia Association of Adult and Continu-

ing Education and as a member of Virginia Board of Education's Adult Education and Literacy's Advisory Committee and the National Program Accreditation Task Force of Laubach Literacy Action and Literacy Volunteers of America.

"The Florida Literacy Coalition offers an impressive range of programs and services. It's a privilege to join the Coalition's efforts in support of the many outstanding adult and family literacy initiatives located here in Florida." reports Smith.

Greg and his wife Sharon are the proud parents of two children, Ethan age 9 and Kathryn age 5.



Greg Smith, Executive Director of the Florida Literacy Coalition

Literacy Month in Florida

Adult Literacy League, Inc. Spelling Bee and Tutor Support Seminar

- The Adult Literacy League will hold their annual Corporate Spelling Bee on September 12, 2002 at 6:00pm. This great grown-up spelling bee-fun for all will be at the Radisson Plaza Downtown Orlando. One ticket is \$50, a corporate table is \$600.
- 14th Annual Tutor Support Seminar Topics will include Equipped for the Future (E FF) and Tips for Tutors

Contact: Joyce Whidden, Executive Director 407-422-1540

jwhidden@adultliteracyleague.org

Bay County Library Volunteers for Literacy Sixth Annual Corporate Spelling Bee

 The Bay County Library Volunteers for Literacy will be holding the Sixth Annual Corporate Spelling Bee on September 9, 2002, from 6:00pm-8:00pm.

In addition to raising funds for their program, this also raises public awareness. This event will be publicized through radio, television, newspaper, and by personal invitation.

Word Master of the evening will be Carol Atkinson, of GAC Corporation, assisted by Amy Hoyt of WMBB, Channel 13 News as Mistress of Ceremonies. Their Keynote Speaker will be Karen Hanes, Publisher of The News Herald. Our Bay County Public Library Director, George Vickery, will be in charge of judging.

There will be a brief reception followed by a preliminary round of ten difficult spelling words called. Dinner will then be served, following dinner the teams who made the finals will be announced. The best speller will complete the final round. The evening will be full of fun, suprises, and awards for the best spellers and the teams they represent.

The event will be at the Springfield Community Center, 3728 E Thrid Street, Springfield, FL 32401.

Contact: Arlene Devereaux, ABE Coordinator 850-747-5828

devereaux@nwrls.lib.fl.us

September 12, 2002, 2:00pm-6:00pm This will be

Flagler County Adult and Community Education Adult Education Literacy Fair and special literacy promotion

the third annual literacy fair co-sponsored by the Flagler County Adult Education Literacy Advisory Committee and the Flagler County Library. It is an information sharing event with story telling, guest speakers, and refreshments. Publicity for the event will be done through flyers, posters, letters to charter members, and organizations.

 The Flagler County Adult and Community Education Family Literacy Center will be promoting literacy all month with many activites, i.e. Book reviewing, reading to 0-5 childcare children, oral readings, story telling, etc.

Contact: Mary Gilbert, Adult Education Supervisor 386-446-7162

gilbertm@flagler.k12.fl.us

Lifetime Literacy Coaltion & Learn To Read of St. Lucie County Family Reading Night "Turn Off the TV-Turn On To Reading" and special efforts

- Family Reading Night "Turn Off the TV-Turn On To Reading" on September 5, 2002, at 7:30!
 Publicity for the event will be done through newspapers, radio, TV, flyers, and proclamations.
- There will also be a bedtime story hour with the county library and our annual trivia challenge at Sam's Club. They will be soliciting books for each child at the Bedtime Story Hour.
- Library Card Registration combined with Voter Registration, school registration, and a 30 minutes TV show on local literacy programs.

Contact: Jim Wilder, Executive Director 772-464-2747 learntoreadslc@aol.com

Learn To Read of Northwest Florida, Inc. Annual Volunteer Recognition Meeting

Annual Volunteer Recognition Meeting on September 10, 2002, 5:30pm-7:00pm at Peoples First Community Bank, 940 Creighton Road, Pensacola, FL. Event includes election of officers and directors, annual report to membership and recognition of volunteers. They will be publicizing the event through mailings, newsletter, and internet. Contact: James Willaims, Program Director 850-432-4347 Itrfl@bellsouth.net

Literacy Council of Manatee County Literacy Awareness

- For the 2nd year, the Bradenton Herald will publish the Literacy pull-out section in their paper featuring all providers in Manatee County.
- Since we are partnering with the Governor's Front Porch Initiative, there may be a kick-off planned around that time.

Contact: Leona Braun, Executive Director 941-746-8197 mliteracy1@wmconnect.com

Literacy Volunteers of Gadsen County, Inc. The Learning Well and Tutor Training Workshops

- "The Learning Well" throughout Gadsen County in each Municipality. These activities will include storytime and will be publicized through newspaper, PBS, flyers, posters, etc.
- A Basic Literacy Tutor Training Workshop; an ESOL Workshop is a possibility.

Contact: Earnestine Barkley, Coordinator 850-675-8680 literacy@tfn.net

Literacy Volunteers of Washington County Tutor Training Workshop

Literacy Volunteers of Washington County will be holding Tutor Training Workshops on September 6, 9, 11, and 13, 2002 at the Washington-Holmes Vo-Tech Learning Resource Center. These workshops, as well as many other literacy volunteer opportunities, are being announced in newspapers, letters to all present tutors, and to those who have expressed interest.

Contact: Debbie Waugh, Coordinator 850-638-6317 salamandersprings@yahoo.com

Marion County Literacy Council Big Sun Chorus Benefit Concert

On September 15, 2002 and September 30, 2002 Marion County Literacy Council will hold the Big Sun Chorus Benefit Concert at CFCC Fine Arts Auditorium. There will be a prize drawing and the tickets are available from 8/1-9/30. The drawing will be held September 30, 2002. The event will be publicized by press, word of mouth, and the internet.

Contact: Barbara Woodson, Director 352-690-7323 barbnlyle@peoplepc.com

Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition Read-A-Thon, Lawyers for Literacy, AT&T Wireless Great Grown-Up Spelling Bee

- Read-A-Thon, August 24, 2002, 10:00am-2:00pm. Media celebrities will be reading to young children at Barnes & Noble CityPlace, West Palm Beach. Leona from National Public Television's "Between the Lions" will be a special guest.
- Lawyers for Literacy, September 6, 2002, 9:00am-11:00am. Twenty to twenty-five attorneys will talk to approximately twenty-five adult education classes at the Adult Education Center in West Palm Beach about how reading and literacy have affected their career paths.
- AT & T Wireless Great Grown-Up Spelling Bee to raise awareness and funds for literacy. September 28, 2002, 11:00am-1:30pm.

Contact: Darlene Kostrub, Executive Director 561-279-9103 dskostrub@aol.com

Palm Harbor Literacy Council International Literacy Day

 September 8, 2002 International Literacy Day at the Palm Harbor Library, 2330 Nebraska Ave., Palm Harbor, FL 34683. Spreading the word through the newspaper.

Contact: Vida James, Coordinator 727-784-3332 Ext 211 phlc1@hotmail.com

READ Pinellas, Inc. Dress Down Day

On September 9-13, 2002 all parochial schools in Pinellas County that wish to participate will hold a Dress Down Day for Literacy. Students are allowed to "dress down" i.e. wear clothes other than uniforms, on a day for literacy. They pay a small amount. This a good fund raiser and a way to build awareness of literacy needs. The schools will publicize in-house.

Contact: Mary Putnam, President

727-552-1568

Seminole Community College Adult Education Elementary School Open Houses and Literacy Awareness

- "Elementary School Open House", they are also working with local libraries to see where they can help, and partnering with agencies and SCPS for literacy as a back to school mixer. Publicizing through the local media.
- They are teaming up with their local wal-mart to do a mass international literacy distribution.
 Wal-Mart has just started a nationwide literacy call center and SCC has received many referrals from them.

Contact: Liz Lawson, Recruitment Specialist 407-328-4722 Ext 3368

lawsonl@scc.fl.com

Suwannee-Hamilton Technical Center Library, Literacy, and Reading

 All Suwannee-Hamilton Technical Center Adult Education and Child Care Classes are having a librarian visit, will go and visit the library, and will be reading together.

Contact: Dianne Wesrott, Principal

386-364-2751

dwestcott@suwannee.k12.fl.us

Taylor County CDC Pre-K Open House-Family Literacy Night

Open House-Family Literacy Night at the CDC Cafeteria-524 East Lafayette Street, Perry, FL 32347, to be held September 5, 2002 at 6:00pm. Promoting September as Florida's Family Literacy Month and September 8, 2002 as Literacy Day. Literacy reading materials will be handed out at the Open House. The special effort will be publicized through the local newspaper and radio station.

Contact: Salena Mrotz, Secretary 850-838-2535 salena.mrotz@taylor.k12.fl.us



Material Available in Spanish!

The Florida Literacy Coalition has recently received quantities of your favorite literacy promotional materials - in Spanish!

- Family Literacy Brochure
- Referral Pads
- '50 Ways to Fight Illiteracy' Poster
- 'Do It Now Improve Your Skills' Flyer

See the order form on page 10 to restock your supply of **free** literacy promotional materials!



Florida Literacy Coalition Program News

The Governor Hosts Family Literacy Celebration

On June 18th, Governor Jeb Bush announced the annual winners of the **Governor's Family Literacy Initiative** in Tallahassee. The Governor and First Lady hosted a breakfast for the funded organizations at the Governor's mansion. Guests enjoyed a southern breakfast in the Mansion's formal dining room then adjourned to the living room for the press conference where Governor Bush and Lt. Governor Brogan both spoke about their support of literacy initiatives. A surprise visit by Clifford the Big Red Dog capped off the event.

"Today, more than ever, literacy is the key to opening up the doors of opportunity and achieving success in life. If we are going to ensure that all our children are reading at grade level by 2012 then we must ensure that parents are able to read to them at home," said Governor Bush. "These literacy programs have made a tremendous difference in our communities and neighborhoods. They are dedicated to helping families understand that the home is the child's first school, the parent is the child's first teacher."

This year, 15 public and private non-profit education and community organizations will receive family literacy grant awards totaling more than \$700,000. Each organization was eligible for up to \$50,000 per program. The 15 winning grant recipients are a diverse blend of community- and school-based programs. Programs include partnerships with such groups as libraries, elementary schools, universities and community-based organizations. All programs incorporate components to teach adults improved reading skills and include measures that assist parents in teaching their children reading. Over the past two years, the Governor's Family Literacy Initiative, in conjunction with the Florida Literacy Coalition, has awarded \$2.25 million to start or expand 45 family literacy programs in our state.

Ms. Kelli Pitts, a student of the Families
Read On Grant (FROG) program - a family literacy program housed in the Franklin County public
library and funded last year by the **Gover-**nor's Family Literacy Initiative - spoke

Reprint

about the programs benefits to her family. "The literacy program has helped me and my son. I can't imagine a better gift than to know I am going to help my son be successful in school."



Also during the event, Carnival Cruise Lines presented The Florida Literacy Coalition with a check for \$100,000, the first installment of their multi-year commitment of \$1.2 million to continue family literacy grants and to assist with the distribution of "I'm a Reader" kits, through the Governor's Just Read. Florida! Initiative.

All eligible applications were reviewed by a panel of educators from the Florida Literacy Coalition, the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, and by the Executive Office of the Governor. The highest scoring applications were then forwarded to the Governor's review panel, a mix of business and literacy leaders in the state. The panel review members were: Scott Ellington, chairman, Governor's Family Literacy Initiative Committee; Ron Drew, vice president, Verizon Communications: Benita Somerfield, executive director, Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy; Doreen Outler, grant manager, South Florida Annenberg Challenge; Jack Newell, executive director, Region One Literacy Center, Leon County Schools; Teresa Hernandez, public relations consultant, Washington Mutual; and Stephania Feltz, a 2002 Governor's Family Literacy Grant recipient.





Florida Literacy Coalition Program News

New Family Literacy Programs Underway!

Meet the 15 recipient programs of the 2002-2003 cycle of The Governor's Family Literacy Initiative, a diverse blend of community and schoolbased programs from all over the state of Florida.

Anthony Pizzo Elementary School

Pizzo Family Literacy Initiative, Hillsborough County

The Pizzo Family Literacy Initiative proposes training parents, who are adult ESOL students, to promote reading with their children, increase their literacy development, and encourage intergenerational learning.

Aspira of Florida Aspira South Family Literacy Program, Dade County

The ASPIRA South Family Literacy Program will encourage Latino migrant parents and children and other minority families in rural South Dade to increase their literacy skills via individualized instruction and parent-child activities.

Communities in Schools of Jacksonville

Family Literacy Program, Duval County A full-time Family Literacy Coordinator will design and implement a Family Literary Program. This program will focus on opportunities for parents and children to enhance individual and interactive reading skills.

Coral Springs Middle School

FLARE - Family Literacy Achieves Reading Excellence, Broward County

The program will provide families with ongoing reading instruction by creating a partnership of home, school and community working together to promote literacy.

Florida International University

The FLASH at Finley Family Literacy Program, Dade County

The FLASH at Finlay Project will provide a family literacy initiative at Dr. Carlos. J, Finely Elementary School designed to improve the literacy and ESOL

language skills of parents /caregivers and their children.

Hialeah Reads

The Reading Rangers, Dade County Hialeah Public Libraries will enhance their literacy program with the new Reading Rangers, for children grades 3 - 5 and their parents, at four busy park facilities

Literacy Council of Bonita Springs

Family Literacy Programs, Lee County
For an hour during each class meeting at risk children will be taught to improve their reading skills while non-English proficient parents will be tutored in English. For the following half hour, the children and parents will read a book together. Parents will pledge to read with the children for an additional two hours per week.

Marion County Public Schools

3Rs - Reading, Relating and Resources, Marion County

The 3Rs – Reading, Relating and Resources will be provide literacy instruction and opportunities to explore reading to children and their adult caregivers.

Martin County School District

Family Literacy Centers, Martin County
Martin County Family Literacy Centers at J. D.
Parker Elementary and Port Salerno Elementary
schools will expand their currently successful family literacy programs to foster significant improvements in children's school readiness.

Mt. Vernon/Meadowland Elementary Schools Intergenerational READ 180 Program,

Pinellas County

This interactive reading-intervention initiative will be enhanced and expanded to include an intergenerational after-school instructional segment and an at-home reading segment for both children and adult participants.



Florida Literacy Coalition Program News

Continued from page 6

North East Florida Educational Consortium

Leadership Grant, Putnam County
Leadership Grant: NEFEC will develop a
module for teachers using the ten research
based components of the Florida Reading Initiative, and apply the curriculum to literacy programs throughout NEFEC districts.

Oakland Terrace Elementary School

Reading Intergenerational Continuum, Bay County

The intergenerational family literacy program at Oakland Terrace School will provide 30 biweekly 3 hour interactive parent/child sessions, oral language development, adult literacy, early reading intervention, a home library and childcare.

Santa Rosa Adult School

SAIL Away with Reading, Santa Rosa County S.A.I.L. Away With Reading will be a collaborative, family literacy experience. Using weekly meals and a prize of a cruise, to draw and retain families, the program provides adult basic education, direct reading instruction and Parent and Child Together Time.

Shadowlawn Elementary School

Partners in Literacy Project, Collier County Literacy experiences, provided in home, school and community settings will assist parents in developing the skills needed to facilitate the literacy development of their children.

University of Florida College of Education

Gainesville Reads Pleasant Place, Alachua County

The goal of Gainesville Reads at Pleasant Place is to enhance literacy skills among Gainesville's homeless, pregnant teens and

their children through the development of a sustainable vehicle for assessment, training and support of family literacy tutors.



LINCS is your gateway to free resources on the web! Start exploring LINCS today by signing up for My LINCS at www.floridaliteracy.org and click on the "My LINCS" button. Through this free service, you can get information on the subjects you want without having to sort through a pile of subjects you don't. Don't delay! Get to know your LINCS.

For more information about LINCS, contact Samantha Sparks, Resource Specialist, at sparkss@floridaliteracy.org.

Florida Literacy Coalition Training, through Florida's Literacy Resource Center, is customized to your organization's needs. Consider these workshop options:

Addressing Cultural Diversity Issues

Adult Learner Seminars

Board Development

Collaboration & Coalition Building

Creating Training Excellence

Equipped for the Future Standards

Free Web Resources for Literacy

Fundraising and Grant Writing (all levels)

Leadership Skills

Marketing and Public Relations

Project Development

Strategic Planning (Training and/or Facilitation)

Starting an Adult Student Support Group

Stress Management or Time Management

Team-Building

Train the Trainer (all levels)

Tutor Training (all levels)

Youth Asset Development

All professional development and technical assistance is offered free of charge to literacy provider organizations. The hosting organization helps with logistics. Interested? Contact Leah Takacs at (800) 237-5113 or via email at takacsl@floridaliteracy.org.

Literacy in Florida

JULY-AUGUST 2002

Country Oaks Summer Reading Program "COLOR YOUR WORLD WITH BOOKS" Washington County, FL

The first session of the Country Oaks Summer Reading Program, a community literacy event for all ages, was a huge success. Sixteen children from grades 1-6, two nursery age, four teenagers, and eight adults participated on June 6th. A great time was had by all. The goal of the Summer Reading Program is to keep the family learning together during the summer

Sponsors for this program include Americorp VISTA, Country Oaks Learning Center, Literacy Volunteers of Washington County, and the Washington County Public Library System.

Washington County Sheriff's Deputy Rick Young actively involved the children during his presentation on how they should react when approached by strangers in the schoolyard, home, and most everywhere else. He chose to read aloud one of the books available for participants to check out, *There's a Monster in My Bathtub...*the children were enthralled as well as the adults. DARE bracelets were presented to all in attendance.

Teenagers and parents from the community presented a skit about *FLYP* (a "*Wolf*" character representing the Florida Library Young Program) introducing his friend *Chris* to the library/learning center. They put a lot of effort into the extremely well received presentation.

The children were able to check out 5 books and were requested to write a book review on at least one. All were assigned library cards for the Country Oaks Learning Center. Contact: Mary Ann Pelletier, Program Director, at (850) 638-1231 for further information.

Mary Ann Pelletier Americorp VISTA Literacy Volunteers of Washington County (850) 638-1231 mpelletier@digitalexp.com

14th Annual Tutor Support Seminar September 28, 2002

Everyone is Invited!

- ▶ The Importance of Reporting Outcomes to Your Literacy Program
- ▶ Tips for Tutoring Success
- ▶ Round Table Discussions
- Q & A With Todd Evans, LLA
- ▶ Lunch!

1st United Methodist Church 142 E. Jackson Street (Wesley Bldg) Orlando, FL

\$15 fee (covers lunch and registration)

Contact Joyce Whidden, Executive Director Adult Literacy League, Inc. (407) 422—1540

Congratulations: Funding Award Sarasota County, FL

The Literacy Council of Sarasota received nearly \$12,000 from the Able Trust for improving their services to LD clients. The money will be spent on materials for handwriting, reading and computer programs, developing a tutor training module, a "manual" for helping the LD client and more!

For more information, contact Maria Spelleri at the Literacy Council of Sarasota, (941) 955-0421.

Florida Literacy Coalition is Partner in a New Family Literacy Initiative: Phone Line Story Time

As part of the Florida Literacy Coalition's family literacy partnership with the Governor's office, the Coalition helped organize a visit to the Orange County Public Library by Rod Paige, Secretary of Education, and Governor Jeb Bush. The Governor and Secretary Paige's visit was an opportunity for literacy to take center stage. Secretary Paige was in Orlando to present the State of Florida with a check from President Bush's Reading First initiative, the cornerstone of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Florida is the first of three states to be a recipient. Florida is receiving \$45.6 million the first year and a total of \$300 million over six years. The federal funds will go to improve reading practices in public schools for grades Kindergarten through third grade. Governor Bush took this opportunity to unveil his newest program to encourage families to read together -Phone Line Story Time! Governor Bush and Secretary Paige joined a group of young readers in the children's wing of the library to personally demonstrate Phone Line Story Time, the new statewide hotline featuring a different story read by a different all-star reader each month.

To kick off this newest component of **Just Read**, **Florida!** the Governor passed out the Barney book, *A Tent Too Full*, and dialed the toll free number. Together, Secretary Paige, Governor Bush and the 14 children all read along as they listened to Barney read the story. A mixture of local guests including Orange County Chairman Crotty, Orlando Mayor Glenda Hood, friends and staff of the library, and family members of the children watched the reading event. To the whole room's surprise, Barney himself made a special appearance!

The all-star reader himself gave a high five to the Governor's new Phone Line Story Time. Parents and children can call toll free to **Phone Line Story Time at 866-246-3272.**

For more information on Phone Line Story Time, visit the Florida Literacy Coalition's website or Lesa Kramer email kramerl@floridaliteracy.org.

Literacy Program Receives National Award Collier County, FL

The Collier County Public Library Literacy Program has been awarded a 2002 Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo). This award program recognizes counties for improving services provided by county government. In existence since 1970, it honors county government initiatives that improve service delivery, achieve cost efficiencies, improve customer service, and help to develop a better trained work force. NACo maintains a database of these successful initiatives to serve as a source of ideas for member counties.

The Collier County Library Literacy Program is proud to be recognized for its part in promoting responsive and effective county government.

Job Opening Lee County, FL

Student/Tutor Coordinator for Literacy Council of Bonita Springs

Responsibilities include assessing students, matching them to tutors, facilitating the matches, translating as necessary; overseeing use of computer lab; forming a student association; organizing social functions for tutors and students. Skills needed include being bilingual in Spanish and English and having strong organizational and coordination skills. Knowledge of ESOL curriculum pref. Hours 4-9pm; 20 to 25 hrs/wk; potential for growth into full time job in a year to year and a half. Salary commensurate with experience.

Send resume to PO Box 2703, Bonita Springs, FL 34133

Katie Verna, Program Director Literacy Council of Bonita Springs (941) 495-0999 literacycouncil@yahoo.com



AWARENESS AND PROMOTION MATERIALS ORDER FORM

Free Literacy Materials	Qty English	Qty Spanish
Poster: "50 Ways You Can Help Fight Illiteracy"		
Hotline Flyer: Promotes hotline for ABE, GED, and ESOL services in your area		
Student Recruitment Referral Pads (handy for caseworkers, those who have direct contact with potential adult students) 25 sheets/pad		
Brochure: "Family Literacy"		
Brochure: "Florida Literacy Coalition: An Introduction"		N/A
Poster: "Teach the World to Read"		N/A
Poster: "Families as Educators" (DOE Bears)		N/A
Bookmark: "Celebrating Volunteers in Literacy"		N/A
Bookmark: "Families as Educators" (DOE Bears)		N/A
Florida Literacy Directory and Resource Guide, 11th Edition. (August 2002)		N/A
Florida Data and Statistics Handbook (Sept. 2000)		N/A
State Newsletter: "The Literacy News"		N/A
Booklet: "Literacy in Florida" (overview of literacy statistics and need, designed for the reader not familiar with the literacy field)		N/A
Volunteer Recruitment Postcards		N/A

Please send my free materials to:

Name:		Title:	
Organization:			
Street Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	
Phone: ()	Email:		

Please return this order form by fax or mail to:
Florida Literacy Coalition
Attn: Karina Cuevas
934 N. Magnolia Ave. Ste 104, Orlando, FL 32803

Fax: (407) 246-7104 Toll Free Hotline: (800) 237-5113

Literacy in the U.S.

New Research: Using Multiple Intelligences Theory in Adult Literacy Education.

The National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy recently published the first systematic research study on the application of Multiple Intelligences (MI) theory in adult literacy education.

The study was prompted by four well-documented needs and conditions in the adult literacy field.

- A high incidence of learning difficulties among adult learners
- Low self-efficacy among adult literacy learners
- The need to improve learner retention rates
- Limited professional development opportunities for adult literacy educators.

Through classroom based research, the study documents how MI theory is a useful framework for developing lessons that offer students a variety of ways to learn and demonstrate their understanding. The findings suggest that teachers' MI focused instruction paid off with high levels of student engagement. Among MI inspired instructional practices, project based learning resulted in the highest levels of authentic instruction. Even when projects were limited in scope, they related directly to student experiences. The study also showed that MI theory also made topics not grounded in students' lives more meaningful because students were able to approach activities from their preferred and strongest intelligences.

The report entitled *Open to Interpretation: Multiple Intelligences Theory in Adult Literacy Education* is available on line at http://ncsall.gse.harvard.edu or by calling (617)482-9485.

National LLA and LVA: Merger Update

Washington, D.C. - As of this issue of The Literacy News, Laubach Literacy International and Literacy Volunteers of America, Inc., are within the final stages of formally completing the legal merger process. The formal announcement of the launch of the new organization, ProLiteracy Worldwide, is expected to be released in September.

With the formal announcement there will be exciting information regarding launch events at four regional trainings that are being sponsored by Verizon Communications.

Mark your calendars for the ProLiteracy Worldwide Conference to be held November 14 - 17, 2003 in Washington, D.C.

Check the next issue of *The Literacy News* for information regarding closure of the merger and launch plans!

For merger news and information: http://www.laubach.org http://www.literacyvolunteers.org

PBS - GED Online

The PBS site (www.pbs.org/literacy) offers a great online approach to students across the country without access to regular classes, a volunteer tutor, or who want support for the GED or workforce classes in which they are enrolled.

The online lessons are designed to supplement textbooks that go with the courses. The online instructor asks what computer skills the student has and explains what class assistance is available. Regular email correspondence is encouraged so that the instructor can highlight, underline, or emphasize important sections in lessons. In addition, email allows for exchange of photos, files, and websites.

Go to www.pbs.org/literacy for more information.



934 North Magnolia Avenue, Suite 104 Orlando, FL 32803

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Email: info@floridaliteracy.org

Florida Literacy Hotline: 800/237-5113

Non-Profit Org. U. S. Postage Paid Permit #1514 Orlando, FL

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Executive Director Greg Smith **Literacy News Editor** Leah M Takacs

Join the Coalition and Make a	Difference for	Literacy in	Florida!
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?	Individual Annual Membership \$20	I want to increase my impact of membership		
?	Organizational Annual Membership \$40	?	Supporting Donation:	\$5—\$99
	(please indicate primary contact person)	?	Sustaining Donation:	\$100—\$499
		?	Patron Donation:	\$500—\$999
Name _	Title		Email	

Company/Organization _______ ? ? ome ? Business

Address : One : Busines

City _____ State ____ Zip ____

Telephone (______ Fax (______ Please make your tax-deductible check payable to the Florida Literacy Coalition.

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the division of consumer services by calling toll-free within the state, 1 (800) 435-7352. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.