

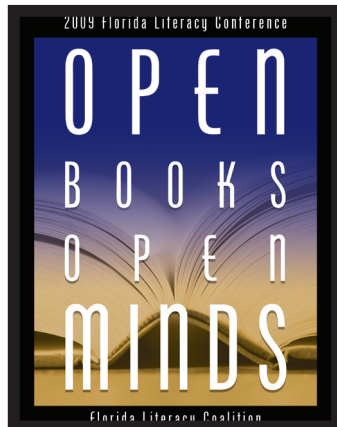
LITERACY NEWS



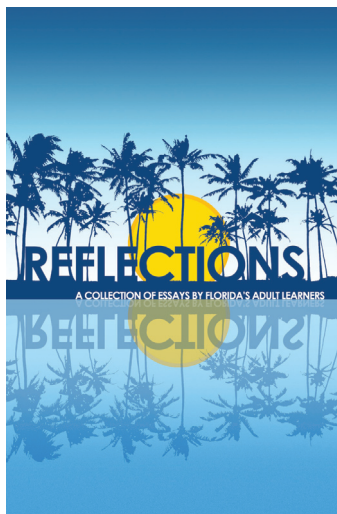
FLORIDA'S NEWSLETTER FOR LITERACY TUTORS,
TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS AND SUPPORTERS

Number 123

SUMMER 2009



Conference highlights (see page 4)



New Release- 2009 Adult Learner
Essay Book (see page 8)

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Local Health Literacy Grants Made Available Through the Support of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Inc. and the Florida Literacy Coalition, Inc. would like to congratulate the following ten organizations which were awarded a one-year \$5,000 grant for the implementation of a health literacy program to benefit Adult ESOL and/or family literacy students.

Adult Literacy League
Volunteers of America (Monroe County)
Literacy Volunteers of Lee County
United Methodist Cooperative Ministries
Haitian-American Organization for Women
Manatee Technical Institute
Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition
Florida Community College at Jacksonville
South Florida Community College
TECO-ALCO

These grants will provide resources to teach English in the context of health education. The focus is to help students acquire information and resources that will help them navigate the medical system and make informed health decisions regarding their health and nutrition.

Continued on page 8

Update on the FLDOE Ad-Hoc Committees

The work of the Florida Department of Education Ad-Hoc Committees has come to a close. Established in 2008 to research, evaluate and make recommendations on a variety of special focus areas, these practitioner groups made substantial progress in helping to move adult education and literacy forward in Florida.

Below is a list of some of the products and recommendations produced by the Ad-Hoc Committees:

Assessment & Accountability Committee

- Reviewed and recommended TABE Class -E test be included in the list of state-approved assessments.
- Reviewed materials completed by CASAS as part of its project to design a test for low-literacy level adult ESOL students.
- Reviewed the state guidelines on certification of test administrators, and advised the state to change its guidance on two-year recertification for test administrators from a required practice to being a recommended practice.
- Revised and updated the citizenship standards to align with the new test.

Curriculum & Standards Committee

- Recommended identifying anchor standards/supporting benchmarks for selected levels in current curriculum frameworks.
- Recommended creating a matrix format for clustering standards/benchmarks by concept and skill areas for selected levels in current curriculum frameworks.

Continued on page 8

Social Networking... A New Tool to Promote Your Program!

Social Networking – you may have heard this term in the news lately, but may not have understood what it really means. Social network services focus on building online communities of people who share interests and activities. Although such networking is possible in person, the Internet has made it easier to connect with many individuals all over the world.

Social networking web sites can provide a number of advantages for your organization. They are typically free to join and easy to use. Creating a profile requires very little effort in most cases. Social networking sites have proven themselves practical and effective promotional vehicles for non-profit organizations reaching individuals outside of an organization's traditional demographic. The Internet never closes, so advertising through these sites has the potential to reach a large number of prospective volunteers, donors and interested stakeholders.

One advantage that social networking has over more traditional websites is the ability to build a network of loyal clientele. Being included in multiple people's "friend list" gives organizations added credibility and can serve as an endorsement of your programs. Moreover, an online profile allows organizations to keep customers up to date on programs, specials and other useful information.

The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth's Center for Marketing Research recently conducted a nationwide telephone survey of those nonprofits named by Forbes Magazine to their list of the 200 largest US charities.

The survey indicated that social media is an important part of the marketing strategy for a growing number of US charities. Non-profits are often outpacing businesses and even academic institutions in their familiarity, use, and monitoring activity. These top organizations have found a new and exciting way to win the hearts (and maybe the dollars) of potential donors. Forty-six percent of those studied report social media is very important to their fundraising strategy. Seventy-five percent of the organizations studied are using some form of social media including blogs, podcasts, message boards, social networking, video blogging and wikis.

If an organization knows of other organizations, colleagues, or co-workers that are involved with social networking, they can try looking them up in the search features or just browsing through profiles of those people in their city. Perhaps the best way to find friends is to browse through the groups. On many sites, organizations can upload address books to search for contacts.

Invite people to become friends with your organization. A customized profile and joining a few groups isn't enough. The amount of time spent on social networking does not need to add up to a large amount. The more important thing for organizations to keep in mind is that the frequency

of posts, tweets and updates, needs to be consistent. This technology has tremendous potential to keep people connected and up to date on your work, a good formula for building a community of friends and supporters.

Become a "friend" of the Florida Literacy Coalition through Facebook, Twitter and Change.org. Go to www.floridaliteracy.org for more information.

Facebook.com



Find us on
Facebook

Facebook is the largest social network on the web. Facebook's mission is to give people the power to share and make the world more open and connected. Millions of people use Facebook everyday to keep up with friends, upload an unlimited number of photos, share links and videos, and learn more about the people they meet.

MySpace.com



MySpace is a free online community. A MySpace profile typically includes a photo and in-depth information about personal interests. The amount of detail included in the profile is up to the user and submitted voluntarily. Members routinely send each other messages and "network" or socialize within MySpace community.

Twitter.com



"What are you doing?" is the question that started it all. Twitter is a service for friends, family, and co-workers to communicate and stay connected through the exchange of quick, frequent answers to "What are you doing?". Twitter is the fastest growing social networking site.

Change.org



Change.org aims to address the array of social and environmental problems ranging from health care and education to global warming and economic inequality. Change.org raises awareness about important causes and empowers people to take action with leading nonprofits.

LinkedIn.com



LinkedIn focuses on experienced professionals networking and building relationships with other individuals so that doors of opportunity may open. It is an interconnected network of experienced professionals from around the world. The mission of LinkedIn is to connect the world's professionals to accelerate their success.

Start Planning for International Literacy Day and Florida Adult and Family Literacy Month

It's not too early to start planning for your International Literacy Day (September 8) and Florida Adult and Family Literacy Month in September. Don't miss the opportunity to use these occasions to raise literacy awareness while celebrating your accomplishments.

The Florida Literacy Coalition, in partnership with the Florida Department of Education, has requested a proclamation from Governor Crist again this year recognizing September as Adult and Family Literacy month in Florida. This year's theme is **"Literacy-Building Community Partnerships."** A copy of the proclamation can be obtained through FLC if you are interested in approaching your own Mayor, County Board or City Council to issue a local proclamation as has been done in a number of Florida communities.

The Florida State Parks Department is also considering sponsoring their Read Around the Parks initiative again this year. In the first two years, more than 40 events were sponsored in state parks emphasizing the importance of reading with a special focus on the environmental, cultural, and historic significance of their geographic areas. Stay tuned for updates on what is planned this year.

Please let us know what you are planning. We would love to add your event to FLC's statewide calendar. Send your information to Samantha Sparks at sparkss@floridaliteracy.org.

International Literacy Day

Since 1967, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) has designated September 8 as International Literacy Day.

Each year, the UNESCO Secretary General issues a statement, and five prizes are awarded to honor outstanding local, regional, or national literacy programs.

Ideas for Literacy Month

- Sponsor a book collecting drive. Give books to nursing homes, schools, and adult learner centers.
- Sponsor a book reading with local authors reading their favorite book or host a book signing event.
- Host a read-a-thon where individuals get sponsors to raise money for a community literacy program.
- Take learners to the library to get library cards.
- Invite a newspaper editor to your program to discuss how news is reported.
- Host a community literacy fair.
- Sponsor a book signing with local authors.
- Take a field trip to a local literary landmark.
- Publicize and distribute lists of recommended books for readers of all ages.
- Give awards for reading achievement.
- Organize an essay contest about "A Book That Changed My Life."
- Have a Swap-a-Book. Have students swap books with another and explain why they liked it.
- Host a tutor/student celebration picnic.
- Identify opportunities for adult learners to speak to area organizations.

For more ways to celebrate literacy month in your community visit our website www.floridaliteracy.org and go to the Literacy Awareness section.

Submit Your News!

Has your organization received funding or planned a major public event? Do you know something that would benefit other adult and family literacy practitioners?

FLC invites you to submit short articles and other news items related to funding, events, staff, hot topics, research and more. Contact Yari Payne at payney@floridaliteracy.org.

Florida Literacy Conference Celebrates 25th Anniversary

The 25th annual Florida Literacy Conference, recently held in Clearwater, was attended by over 450 adult and family literacy practitioners, volunteers and students. With more than 70 sessions, events and keynote presentations, many participants shared how the conference gave them a great opportunity to network and learn from one another.

The opening general session speaker, Toni Cordell, shared her story of how she faced numerous challenges because of her poor education compounded by Dyslexia. As both an adult learner and nationally known health education advocate, Toni shared her unique perspective on the important role adult educators can play in addressing health literacy.

Adult Learner Day was attended by over 60 students. This year's Adult Learner Committee did a great job in helping to coordinate 7 sessions offered for students. During this year's adult learner track, students were able to explore their creative side and take part in a "Power-Ride to Learning on the Arts-Train".

The Florida Literacy Awards Banquet provided a great opportunity to recognize the outstanding contributions of businesses, programs and individuals working in support of literacy. The keynote speaker for the evening was New York Times best-selling author Tim Dorsey, who resides in Tampa.

The following individuals, companies and organizations were recognized at the Florida Literacy Awards Banquet for their outstanding contributions to literacy.



Award Winners Image Left to Right: Patricia Brooks, Donna Winchester, Karen Wells, Sister Margaret Exworthy, Kaye Johnson. Front, Santiago Garcia

Florida Literacy Awards

Outstanding Business Partner:

Florida Crown Workforce

Nominated by Columbia County Vocational, Adult and Community Education

Florida Crown Workforce Board (FCWB) is in the business of supporting and matching job applicants in need of competitive and sustainable work with employers seeking qualified, skilled labor.

The partnership that Florida Crown has developed with Columbia County Vocational, Adult and Community Education (VACE) as well as other community agencies, has helped to insure high quality and well integrated services in their community.

Florida Crown has enthusiastically provided support in areas such as: 1) underwriting the costs for an adult education instructor, 2) providing regular orientations to help students understand career options, 3) supporting the Florida Ready to Work Credentialing Program, and 4) helping adult education and literacy students obtain jobs and employment skills. When young adults have hit brick walls in locating jobs, Florida Crown has been able to help these individuals connect with potential employees.

The support provided from Florida Crown Workforce Board has also been instrumental in helping Columbia County VACE realize increased enrollment, larger numbers of students getting a GED, and a higher rate of GED graduates transitioning to postsecondary institutions.

Florida Crown's professional connections with community members, business partners, social service providers, and school district personnel have fostered the development of strong and committed partnerships which have greatly benefited the citizens of Columbia County.

Accepting the award for Florida Crown Workforce Board was Kaye Johnson.

Outstanding Media Partner:

St. Petersburg Times

Nominated by Pinellas County Schools Even Start

The St. Petersburg Times has been a leader in supporting literacy efforts in the Tampa Bay community.

The Times provides free newspapers and lesson plans to K-12 classrooms and adult education programs in Pinellas County through their Newspapers in Education Program. Adult Education teachers use the newspapers to improve reading, comprehension, and writing skills.

The St. Petersburg Times currently holds a corporate membership with READ Pinellas and has since 1987. For many years, it sponsored the READ Pinellas adult spelling bee, Spelldown. For 16 years, the newspaper has presented the Times Festival of Reading, a free community event that draws nationally recognized authors and celebrates the importance and joy of reading.

The Times has donated its venue for the Literacy Council of St. Petersburg annual celebration at no cost for the past four years. It also has provided the venue for the Even Start Family Literacy Program celebration, at which it presented the St. Petersburg Times Reading Comprehension Award.

The Times has also played an active role in raising community awareness about literacy and education issues. One recent article in the Times concerning rising GED costs, stirred the hearts of readers who donated more than \$4,000 in scholarship money to assist adult education students in paying for the GED exam.

Accepting the award was Donna Winchester.

Outstanding Literacy Volunteer: Karen Wells

Nominated by Women's Center of Jacksonville Expanded Horizons Literacy Program

Since 2007, Karen Wells has volunteered 200 hours working with ESOL students at the Expanded Horizon's Literacy Program, an initiative of the Women's Center of Jacksonville. The women she works with enter the program with varying levels of skill in English, but Karen accepts them all, and rather than being overwhelmed, calls it "fun."

Karen goes to the Women's Center one to two days a week to work with anywhere from 5 to 13 students. She is dedicated to helping these individuals gain independence and self esteem along with English language skills. She builds civics lessons into her teaching as well as health and life skills instruction. In the words of one of her students, "Through the class I am studying not only English, but also American politics and history." Another student says, "I come to her class because I enjoy learning from her and also because she contributes to my life in many ways."

"Karen is the volunteer all organizations dream of because she is intelligent, competent, flexible, caring, independent, and totally reliable," says Sharrie Hillmer, of the Women's Center. She plans her own lessons, is open to suggestions, and is willing to try different approaches to resolve learning obstacles. She is also the person called on when the Center needs someone to present their programs to funders or the public.

In addition to her work at the Women's Center, Karen also volunteers at Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) where she has earned her 500 hour badge in less than two years. In short, she is the consummate volunteer.



Keynote speaker Toni Cordell

Excellence in Education: DePorres P.L.A.C.E.

Nominated by Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition

In 1996, DePorres Place Adult Literacy Center in Riviera Beach, Florida was the vision of a handful of Adrian Dominican Sisters and lay people. Their dream was to fulfill a need in the community for a literacy center serving adults who could not read, write, or speak English. Sisters and volunteers would provide free one-to-one tutoring to those in need.

Now, over twelve years later, the Center is a thriving adult literacy program serving approximately 150 students in classes each year and over 1,150 people since its inception. This is made possible through the dedicated efforts of volunteer tutors, staff, and Literacy AmeriCorps Volunteers who annually donate more than 3,500 hours of their time.

Since the year 2000, Sister Margaret Exworthy has directed the DePorres Place Program. A 40-year veteran catholic educator, Sister Margaret has an innate sense of what curriculum and programs will best suit the needs of their students. DePorres Place is one of the few community based adult literacy centers in Palm Beach County that provides individual and small group tutoring. The staff makes sure that the focus is always on the students' needs and they provide support and sponsor activities that will help students feel included. These activities have included dances, holiday parties, conversation groups, trips to local restaurants, and cultural points of interest.

One student shared "My journey in English started here. This school has been more than a place where I learn a second language; it has become a family where I can talk about my day and my experiences in America." The word "family" is frequently used by DePorres Place students in describing their experience with this exceptional program. Accepting the award for DePorres Place was Sister Margaret Exworthy.

Flight for Freedom Award:

Patricia Brooks

Nominated by Women's Center of Jacksonville Expanded Horizons Literacy Program

Although Patricia Brooks wanted to complete her education in high school, she unfortunately faced many barriers including abuse, poverty, learning challenges, and becoming pregnant as a teenager. After dropping out of high school in 11th grade, she spent many years hoping to get her GED. However, with four children, she was too busy trying to survive and provide for her family.

Today, Patricia is determined to let nothing get in the way of obtaining her GED. She doesn't want her children to go through the same hardships she did, so she is determined to stop the cycle. She says, "You can't go anywhere without an education in life."

Since she began taking GED preparation classes with Expanded Horizons two years ago, Patricia has experienced many additional challenges including the loss of her job and temporary homelessness. Yet despite all her troubles, Patricia comes to class on a regular basis and has kept up with her schoolwork.

One of the most amazing attributes that Patricia displays is perseverance. She knows that it might take a while to achieve her goals, but she will do what it takes to pass the GED exam and then move on to become either an advocate for abused women or a counselor. She goes to class an average of 7.5 hours a week and can often be seen spending time in the computer lab or doing her homework on days she doesn't have class.

Patricia has become a spokeswoman for adult literacy, sharing her story with students, volunteers, funders and the media. Her commitment and perseverance has inspired many.

Mary J. Brogan Leadership Award:

Santiago Garcia

Nominated by Miami Dade College

Santiago Garcia has dedicated most of his professional life to helping others. Since 1974, when he received a Master's Degree in Adult Education from Indiana University, Mr. Garcia has served as a teacher, administrator, and leader in adult and migrant education in both Indiana and in Florida.

As the Adult Education Program Coordinator at the Homestead Campus of Miami Dade College, a position he has held since 2003, Mr. Garcia has developed a model literacy program by partnering with other agencies in the community. When this program started in 1999 it served a small number of GED students. Today, under Mr. Garcia's leadership, the program enrolls over 350 students per term and transitions 40% of the GED graduates and 50% of the ESOL students into post secondary education and

vocational programs each year. He also offers a citizenship preparation class to assist ESOL students who have applied for U.S. Naturalization. Through the efforts of this special class, over 100 individuals have obtained their U.S. Citizenship in the last two years.

Mr. Garcia continues to identify new opportunities and ways of expanding the services as well as providing technical assistance to other organizations interested in developing literacy services for low income, underserved farm worker groups.

After being diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Santiago became a self taught advocate for persons and families with children with disabilities. His ability to use his condition in a positive manner has led him to be an effective trainer for personal and educational advocacy work with parent groups at the local and national levels. And if that is not enough, in his spare time Santiago conducts voter education classes and serves as a volunteer to help low income individuals prepare their taxes.

***A special thanks to the conference
planning committee, volunteers,
presenters, and the following
sponsors for their support
and generosity.***

Platinum Level

Florida Department of Education, Division
of Workforce Education
Dollar General Literacy Foundation
BlueCross and BlueShield of Florida
Publix Super Market Charities

Gold Level

Florida TechNet
Orlando Magic

Silver Level

VLC Enterprises

Bronze Level

Pinellas Public Library Cooperative
CLS Design & Renovation LLC

Literacy Pioneers



Susie Baker King Taylor
1848 - 1904

Born a slave in Georgia in 1848, Susie Baker was raised by her grandmother who sent her and one of her brothers to the home of a free woman to learn to read and write, a practice that was strictly

prohibited by state law. Susie was an excellent student and within a short amount of time, she became a skilled reader and writer.

In 1862, Susie fled with her uncle's family to Union-occupied St. Simons Island, Georgia. Since most African Americans did not have any formal education, word of Susie's knowledge and intelligence spread among the Army officers on the island.

Baker was soon offered books and school supplies by the area Union Commander if she agreed to organize a school for local children. Baker accepted the offer and became the first black teacher to openly instruct African American students in Georgia. By day she taught children and at night she instructed adults. Susie soon met and married Edward King, a black non-commissioned officer with the 33rd Regiment, U.S. Colored Troops.

During the Civil War the Union Army initiated the practice of enlisting freed African-Americans. It soon became apparent that it was difficult for officers to communicate

with illiterate former slaves. This made it especially difficult for the African-American soldiers to be considered for advancement and promotion. In response, some officers initiated programs of education for the former slaves.

Beginning in 1863, Susie Baker King traveled with her husband's regiment throughout Georgia and Florida, working as a laundress while teaching black Union soldiers how to read and write. She also served as a nurse, helping camp doctors care for injured soldiers.

According to Taylor, "I taught a great many of the comrades in Company E to read and write when they were off duty, nearly all were anxious to learn. My husband taught some also when it was convenient for him. I was very happy to know my efforts were successful." In 1866, the Kings established a school for freed black children in Savannah. In that same year, Edward King died only a few months after their first son was born.

By the early 1870s, Susie moved to Boston where she met her second husband, Russell Taylor. With nursing being a passion of hers, Baker soon joined and then became president of the Women's Relief Corps, providing assistance to soldiers and hospitals.

In 1902, Susie published her autobiography, *Reminiscences of My Life in Camp: A Black Woman's Civil War Memoirs*. Susie Baker King Taylor died in 1912 in Boston at the age of sixty-four.



Save the Date!

26th Annual Florida Literacy Conference

May 5-7, 2010

South Seas Island Resort, Captiva Island

Local Health Literacy Grants Made Available



**BlueCross BlueShield
of Florida**
An Independent Licensee of the
Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

(continued from cover)

The award was officially presented on May 6th during the 25th Annual Florida Literacy Conference in Clearwater, Fla. During this event, Blue Cross and BlueShield of Florida sponsored a first-ever conference literacy track on health literacy.

“This initiative reflects Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida’s commitment to helping adult learners become informed health advocates for themselves and their families,” said Greg Smith, executive director of Florida Literacy Coalition. “We look forward to working together with these organizations to raise awareness about health literacy.”

If you missed the opportunity to apply this year, visit our website again in January 2010 to find out how to apply for the next grant cycle. In the meantime, we invite you to join our online community at www.floridahealthliteracy.ning.com. This Ning site will be used as a forum for health literacy practitioners and stakeholders to come together, access resources, and share challenges and successes.



From Left to Right: Greg Smith, James Norman, Joyce Whidden, Irina Zimmerman, Sharon Hackney, Tess Murphy, Loida Puno, Irma Mercado, Darlene Kostrub, Melissa Padgett, Nelly Ford, and Cuckita Bellande. **Missing from photo:** Jan Setzekorn, Tracey Tyber, and Jordana Frost

Update on the Ad-Hoc Committees

(continued from cover)

- Recommended adapting Basic Skills for post TABE testing & CPT for continuing education and targeting “life skills” for those enrolled in postsecondary settings.
- Recommended using existing data resources to identify targeted areas of instruction for Adult High School Students taking the FCAT.

Postsecondary and Workforce Committee

- Recommended the creation of linkages between adult education and career and technical education to implement career pathways.
- Recommended the establishment of traveling math instructors and a math hotline.
- Recommended having a Transition Specialist on site at adult education programs.
- Requested modification of RFP to add/require transitions.

Resource Services Coordination Committee

- Researched and designed an online database for the collection and dissemination of resource developed through state leadership funding.
- Researched and recommended the creation of a social service menu with a comprehensive list of support services for adult education students.
- Created a “Quick Guide” to Learners’ Rights for adults with Learning Disabilities.
- Created Best Practice Guidelines for Recruitment and Retention.

Professional Development & Teacher Credentialing Committee

- Expanded and supported the STAR initiative by developing certified STAR trainers and supporting pilots at the 10 sites trained in 2008.
- Developed a checklist and recommended process for certifying Regional Trainers.
- Developed teacher credentialing process with training outcomes for a 12-hour professional development activity
- Recommended additional trainings targeting standards based instruction for ABE/GED.

FLC Releases Fifth Annual Adult Learner Essay Book

Congratulations to the writers, teachers and programs that have had essays selected for publication in *Reflections, A Collection of Essays By Florida’s Adult Learners*, released in May at the Florida Literacy Conference.

Each year adult students are encouraged to submit original short stories, poems or autobiographical narratives to be included in this annually published book. The goal of this book is to encourage students to build confidence while improving their reading, writing, and critical thinking skills, and to provide recognition for efforts in ongoing education. Organizational representatives can use this book as a way to promote how their programs can have a positive influence within their communities.

This year’s publication is comprised of 300 entries and is available to download on-line at our web-site, www.floridaliteracy.org. A limited number of hard copy books is also available. If you would like to have a copy as a resource in your program, please contact Judy Bodnar at bodnarj@floridaliteracy.org.

This book was made possible through a grant from the Florida Department of Education Division of Workforce Education





Fundraising Ideas: Reading Between the Wines

The Adult Literacy League (ALL) organized a unique fundraiser that brought together the love of fine wine, good food and great books. Reading Between the Wines was an author event that featured wine and food tasting with a eclectic silent auction. The event featured NY Times' best-selling author Michael Connelly and Florida humor mystery-writer, Bob Morris. Guests enjoyed food from a variety of restaurants and seven different wineries offered a great variety of spirits.

The concept of this themed fundraiser was brought to life through the efforts of volunteers and a committee of board members. Lisa Warren, ALL Communications Manager and Coordinator of the event said, "the committee felt strongly that the event should have a literary component which ties to our mission: To Develop Readers to Build a Strong and Literate Community."

The event was \$100 per person, and corporate sponsorships were \$5000, \$2500 and \$1000. Securing major sponsors was a big obstacle this year. "We had to work harder to minimize expenses and get significant in-kind donations to maximize the funds generated for literacy," said Warren. Even the corporations that traditionally supported ALL in the past did so on smaller scale.



Celebrity authors Michael Connelly (left) and Bob Morris (right) entertained audiences at Reading Between the Wines with insight into how they write their award-winning novels. Together they took questions from the audience.

Lumina Foundation Offers Grants

The Lumina Foundation believes that education provides the basis for individual opportunity, economic vitality, and social stability. Grants vary in size depending on scope with the average grant being \$250,000.

Organizations classified at 501 (c) (3), operating in the United States and its territories are invited to apply. The application process begins with a letter of inquiry. Please visit www.luminafoundation.org for more details.

In addition to attracting existing volunteers and supporters, the event drew in new supporters who were followers of the featured authors. ALL also worked very hard to solicit new corporate sponsors who brought new and different guests to the event.

Adult learners were a major component in this event. Student ambassadors volunteered at the event by serving refreshments and passing out wine glasses for the tasting. They wore ALL name badges identifying them as student ambassadors and were recognized from the podium. In addition to volunteering, a student/tutor pair made a presentation during the program and shared their story. At three separate times during their talk, the audience applauded the student's courage, determination and success.

Warren offered words of wisdom to other organizations interested in planning a themed fundraiser: "Planning events is very time-consuming and complicated to manage. We had a large committee of 20+ volunteers who took on important responsibilities. Efficient management of the committee and constant communication about the event's progress is critical. I think it is also very important now that events relate to the organization's mission."

Food was donated by local restaurants Houlihans, Tijuana Flats, and Shin Japanese Restaurant. One hundred and fifteen items were auctioned and the event raised \$55,000 for literacy in Central Florida.

Florida Awarded Adult Education Incentive Grant for Good Performance

Florida is one of eleven states which has qualified for a share of \$9.7 million available for incentive grants under the *Workforce Investment Act (WIA)*.

Florida is eligible to receive up to \$933,944 under this initiative. Other states to receive grants include: Illinois, \$1,000,916; Indiana, \$869,269; Iowa, \$779,429; Kansas, \$788,155; Kentucky, \$851,748; Minnesota, \$801,528; New York, \$1,099,410; North Carolina, \$876,709; Ohio, \$998,255; and South Dakota, \$761,088. Grants are available to use through June 2011, for the support of innovative workforce development and education activities authorized under WIA.

Learn to Read of Northwest Florida Receives ProLiteracy Accreditation

FLC congratulates Learn to Read of Northwest Florida for achieving re-accreditation from ProLiteracy Worldwide! Accreditation is designed to give local organizations a structured approach to planning and evaluation based on nationally-recognized standards. By sharpening their focus on outcomes and performance measures, accredited organizations improve the quality of their services and the success of their programs. For more information on ProLiteracy's accreditation process, visit www.proliteracy.org.

Farewell and Thanks to Dr. Alex Penn-Williams

As of the end of June, Dr. Alex Penn-Williams will be leaving her position as Bureau Chief of Adult Education at the Florida Department of Education due to budget cuts in the Department.

We wish Alex all the best and thank her for her leadership and support in adult education.

An Incentive to Save Program Offers a "Matched Savings" Opportunity

Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) are a special purpose savings account available to select low-income individuals and families to help them achieve an identified financial goal. This program has helped Floridians acquire a first home; capitalize a small business; or enroll in postsecondary education or training. The participant's amount of savings is matched from \$1 to \$8 for each \$1 saved, by community based Assets for Independence (AFI) Projects.

These projects receive grant funds from the AFI Program that is administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Five-year grants of up to \$1,000,000 are offered to nonprofit organizations and agencies that provide financial education and coaching in asset building in addition to IDAs.

Information on the AFI Program, eligibility, and a list of programs in Florida can be found at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/afi>

Tutor Tips

SENTENCE GAMES

Purpose: To explore and discover the "rules" of sentence formation.

Preparation time: None

Materials: White board and markers

Procedure:

- 1) Write a simple sentence on the board, such as "It's a book". One by one, students suggest one or two words, or a phrase, which can be added to the sentence.
- 2) Each student writes in the new word or words and then reads the new sentence aloud. The class then decides if it is grammatically correct.
- 3) The level of the students will determine the complexity of the sentence. Beginning level might be:
It's a book.
It's a big book.
It's a big, red book.
It's Maria's big, red book.
It's not Maria's big, red book. Etc.

Variations:

- Start with a longer sentence and students remove a word or words to make the sentence shorter. Continue until you can't reduce the sentence any more.
- Replace words in the original sentence to change the sentence completely. The meaning of the sentence can change, but it must remain grammatically correct. As above, each time the sentence is changed, the student reads it aloud and the class decides if it is correct.

Source: Minnesota Literacy Council, Reprinted from http://www.themlc.org/Sentence_Games.html

Obama Administration Proposes Elimination of Even Start and National Institute for Literacy

President Obama's proposed budget recently recommended the elimination of Even Start and National Institute for Literacy (NIFL). The Administration contends that NIFL's activities have had limited value in providing national leadership on literacy issues. Under the proposal, the Office of Vocational and Adult Education would take primary responsibility for the adult literacy agenda at the Department, and would absorb the resources now appropriated to NIFL to fund national program activities.

Established in 1988, the Even Start family literacy program has experienced substantial funding cuts in recent years. Largely following the position of the Bush Administration, the Obama White House cited several evaluations that they contend show the program to be ineffective. The study methodology and conclusions have been challenged by a number of national literacy advocates.

The FY 2010 state grant funding includes restoration payments for states that were underpaid allotments due to an administrative error in state grants awarded from 2003 to 2008. States that were unintentionally overpaid will be held harmless. The budget increases to \$75 million the amount reserved to help states and communities provide limited English proficient adults with expanded access to English literacy programs linked to civics education. That figure is \$7.1 million more than in FY 2009.

Glenn Cummings Appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Vocational & Adult Education



U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recently announced the appointment of Glenn Cummings as Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Vocational & Adult Education. In this position, Cummings will help administer and coordinate programs within adult education and literacy, career and technical education and community colleges. Cummings, the former Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives, led a bi-partisan effort to increase higher education appropriations. He has a Masters

in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, and a Master of Arts in Teaching from Brown University.

Pro Bono Work Valued At \$120 hour

A new study estimates that the standard pro bono services provided by corporations to nonprofits are valued at an average of \$120 per hour. Taproot Foundation's Pro Bono Action Tank (PBAT) and the Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy (CECP) released the standard.

For more information, visit: <http://www.nptimes.com/09Mar/news-090330-1.html>

Resources

Program Managers Toolkit

The Florida Literacy Coalition is proud to announce the new Program Managers Toolkit. Aligned with the ProLiteracy Program Accreditation standards, this unique resource offers a variety of sample documents, forms, policies and procedures. Its primary purpose is to serve as a central repository for practical, hands-on documents to be shared across programs. Our thanks to the Florida Department of Education, Division of Workforce Education for supporting this project and to all the organizations who contributed to the collection.

To view the toolkit, visit www.floridaliteracy.org

Making It Worth the Stay: Findings from the New England Adult Learner Persistence Project

The New England Adult Learner Persistence Project partnered with area adult education and literacy organizations to study programs' interventions leading to increased student retention and persistence. Strategies were implemented and tracked by grouping them into four categories: 1) Intake and Orientation, 2) Instruction, 3) Counseling and Peer Support, and 4) Reengagement.

The study report provides detailed information on the strategies and their effectiveness.

To view the full study, visit <http://nelrc.org/persist/report09.pdf>

Media Library for Teaching Skills

The Media Library for Teaching Skills offers users a free, online library of videos to be used for professional development purposes in adult education. The project was started in 2007 and expands as new videos are added. Each video shows a particular approach to teaching whether it is a state-approved content standard, research-based practice, preferred approach, or specific teaching method or skill.

To view the library, visit <http://mlots.org/aboutmlots.html>



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For more information, contact Samantha Sparks, Resource Specialist at sparkss@floridaliteracy.org
or visit www.floridaliteracy.org and click on Become a Member.