

LITERACY NEWS



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

Number 117

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Adult Learners at the 2007 Florida Literacy Conference. (See Conference article page 4)



Save the Date:
2008 Florida Literacy Conference
May 6-9
Grosvenor Resort in the
Walt Disney World® Resort

FLC Launches New Trainer Coach Program

The Florida Adult and Family Literacy Resource Center, a program of the Florida Literacy Coalition (FLC), is launching a new free resource for tutor trainers and program administrators-- a corps of coaches for tutor trainers. This all-volunteer group of experienced trainers will be available to work with volunteers and administrators at community based organizations which are interested in becoming trainers or enhancing their current training workshops.

Over 200 tutor trainers currently volunteer in Florida's adult and community based programs. With an increasing number of experienced trainers retiring, many organizations struggle to sustain well-trained and effective tutor training teams.

The Trainer Coach will be asked to work with an organization's potential or existing trainer or training team. This work will be provided on a volunteer basis, with travel assistance from FLC as needed. Trainer Coaches will not be asked to provide on-going tutor training workshops for programs lacking in-house trainers.

The tasks and duties of a Trainer Coach will vary, depending on the background of the trainer, the organization's stage of development, as well as the history of the trainer/training team. The following tasks are some of the areas in which trainer coaches may be of assistance:

- Familiarizing trainers/training teams with resources used for designing workshops and learning activities

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The Lions of Literacy: Sustaining Motivation for Adult Literacy Learners

In January of 2007 I went to Dublin, Ireland to present a speech at a conference of adult literacy tutors sponsored by the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA). The theme of the conference was Sustaining Motivation for Adult Literacy Learners. As I thought about this theme, and how I might frame remarks that would fit with it, I glanced at the bulletin board by my desk. There I noticed the photos of the grand, main building of the New York Public Library (NYPL) that I have tacked to the board.

I have long admired the NYPL located on the south-west corner of the intersection of 42nd Street and 5th Avenue. I am particularly fond of the two massive sculptures of lions that guard the main entrance to the library. During the great depression of the 1930s, New York Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia dubbed the two sculptures of lions with the names Patience and Fortitude. Mayor LaGuardia told the citizens of New York that patience and fortitude were the qualities they would require to survive the economic depression gripping the nation and New York City.

This led me to think that these great lions, Patience and Fortitude, also represent the qualities that adult literacy tutors require to persist in helping adult literacy learners maintain their motivation in what can often be a long and difficult struggle for literacy. In many ways, the adult literacy tutors are the Lions of Literacy. They help guide adult learners into the great library of books of the world, which provide access to the collected knowledge of the ages.

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New Partners Join Statewide Americorps VISTA Program

The Florida Literacy Coalition is proud to announce the expansion of the FLC Americorps VISTA program to include 5 new program partners, primarily located in the Panhandle. Most of these programs have been involved with VISTA before and come to us with a dedication to VISTA and a track record of success.

New Americorps VISTA Project Partners:

- Literacy Council of Manatee County
- Literacy Volunteers of Washington County
- Literacy Volunteers of Gadsden County
- Calhoun County Public Library Literacy Program
- Jackson County Public Library Literacy Program

For more information on the Americorps VISTA program and how you can apply to receive a full-time Americorps VISTA volunteer, contact Samantha Sparks at 407-246-7110 x 202.

Tom Pattison Joins FLC Staff



The Florida Literacy Coalition is pleased to announce that Thomas Pattison has joined us as our new Americorps VISTA member. Tom recently graduated from Hartwick College with a double major in history and education. He is already hard at work and has successfully coordinated the Adult Learner Day portion of the 2007 Florida Literacy Conference. When asked about what he hoped to accomplish with his year of service to the Florida Literacy Coalition, Tom said, "I hope to be of use to everyone, especially the programs that work directly with the students." When Tom finishes his year with us he plans on continuing his education and hopes to pursue his teaching certificate.

Opening Events Present Opportunities To Raise Funds

Do you have any restaurants, retail stores or businesses scheduled to open a franchise in your community? Florida certainly has its share of malls and retail outlets and with them may come opportunities to raise funds for your organization.

It's a growing trend for companies to designate a charity to receive a donation in connection to the grand opening of a new facility. Recently, the **Adult Literacy League (ALL)** in Orlando partnered with Bubba Gump Shrimp Company, a restaurant at Universal Studios. The chain has a practice of donating half of its opening event proceeds to a local charity.



All made a contact at a public relations/communications company that works with local companies to do promotions. This company recommended ALL to Bubba Gump. It was thought that this would be a good fit given that Forrest Gump had difficulty learning to read. To help support the effort, ALL held a family literacy event with a Forrest Gump impersonator (see above photo) who read *Curious George* to ALL's students and their children. The partnership resulted in a donation of \$24,500.

In another venture, the **Florida Literacy Coalition** was selected by Starbucks' to receive a \$500 donation in connection with the opening of one of its stores. It all started with an email to Starbucks' regional office introducing the Coalition and inquiring about partnership possibilities. Starbucks' focus on literacy helped to pave the way.

Seeking out relationships with PR/Communications companies, getting to know local restaurant and retail managers, and keeping informed of new businesses coming to your area are just a few ways your organization may benefit from companies interested in making a good first impression in the community.

If you have a good fundraising idea that you would be willing to share, please contact Samantha Sparks at sparkss@floridaliteracy.org.

Upcoming Literacy Events

National Conference on Volunteering and Service
July 16th - 18th, 2007
Philadelphia, PA
For more information, visit www.volunteeringandservice.org

Families Building Better Readers, Train the Trainer Workshop
August 7, 2007
Just Read Conference
Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel, Orlando
For more information, call 850-245-0503

Just Read Conference
August 5-8, 2007
Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel, Orlando
For more information, call 850-245-0503

International Literacy Day
September 8, 2007
For more information, visit www.un.org/depts/dhl/literacy

17th Annual ACE Conference
September 24th- 27th, 2007
Omni Orlando at Championsgate
Championsgate, FL
For more information, call 850-222-2233

Family Literacy Day
November 1, 2007
National Center for Family Literacy
For more information, visit www.famlit.org

Proliteracy's Worldwide Conference 2007
November 7th - 10th, 2007
Hilton Mark Center
Alexandria, VA
For more information, visit www.proliteracy.org/conference

International Volunteer Day
December 5, 2007
United Nations
For more information, visit www.un.org/events/calendar

TESOL 2008 Convention
April 2-5, 2008
New York Hilton & Sheraton New York
New York, New York
For more information, visit www.tesol.org

24th Annual Florida Literacy Conference
May 6-9, 2008
Grosvenor Resort in the Walt Disney World® Resort
For more information, visit www.floridaliteracy.org/con2008.html
or call (407) 246-7110 x 203

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? Share it with us!

FLC invites you to submit short articles and other news items related to funding, events, staff, hot topics, research and more. Contact Kelley Jain, Education & Training Coordinator, at jaink@floridaliteracy.org or (407) 246-7110 x 203.

Florida Literacy Conference Inspires and Educates

The 23rd annual Florida Literacy Conference, recently held in Lake Mary, was attended by nearly 500 adult and family literacy practitioners, volunteers and students. With more than 80 sessions, events and keynote presentations, many participants shared how the conference provided them with a great opportunity to network and learn from one another.

The opening general session speaker Sabrina Kurtz-Rossi helped to kick things off with an in-depth look at health literacy, including the 2003 NAAL Health Literacy Assessment, on-line health literacy resources and lessons learned in the field. Visit www.floridaliteracy.org/con2008.html to download Ms. Kurtz-Rossi's PowerPoint presentation.

Adult Learner Day was a great success with over 50 students in attendance. This year's

McGrawHill/Contemporary.

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 Elizabeth Thomas, published poet and teacher, who shared a 'found' poem entitled, "Literacy Speaks." Thomas gathered and compiled the lines of her poem from participants in each of her two workshops, earlier in the day.

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



Teresa Bestor, Joe Pankowicki, Gail Cramm, Mark Hoskins, Paola Fabio, Gatwech Guandong, Ellen Lauricella, Demming Cowles, and Sartira Shuman

Adult Learner Day Committee did an outstanding job of coordinating 14 presentations on ESOL, computer skills, citizenship and writing. Adult Learners from the Palm Beach Library's Adult Literacy Program presented the inspiring session, "Make Your Dreams Come True!" Students had time to listen to three adult learners read their essays from the new student essay publication Living Our Dreams, while enjoying lunch sponsored by

Florida Literacy Awards

Outstanding Business Partner: *Target Corporation*

Target Corporation sponsors several literacy initiatives nationwide that strive to reduce illiteracy. One of those is with the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative, which has established a multi-year relationship with local Target stores.

Literacy Speaks

This found poem, arranged by Elizabeth Thomas, was developed through a collective writing experience conducted at the Florida Literacy Conference. Part one reflects the voices of teachers and part two reflects the voices of participating students.

Part I: To Teach

I am the color brown –
milky sweet coffee
in the morning,
the soft earth after a thunderstorm.
I am full brown foliage
heavy from summer rains,
renewed by young minds,
tentacles of tree tusks
probing.

I am green
bursts of spring
spreading the fragrance of education.

I am a yellow flower,
bright, beckoning –
dancing buttercups
begging for play,
sunflowers stretching to be taller.
I come alive in the classroom.

I am red.
I want to go, to know,
to lead, to show.

I am pinkalicious!
An expanding bubble ready to POP!
A pink highlighter
trying to get your attention,
lighting the path
to self esteem and respect.

I am the blue
robes of the Virgin Mary,
the sky above.

I am orange,
the perfect melting
of passion and sunshine,
a burst of citrus flavor – with pulp.
Orange, like an evening sunset,
ready to sleep.

I am a blank white slate.

Part II: To Learn

If I were an animal
I would be a chameleon,
blending, muting, watching,
but rarely seen.

I am from a home
where education was a struggle.

I'd be an eagle
building my nest in the tallest tree,
to raise my children well and safe.

I am from an era that said,
"You're a girl. You can't do this!"

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With critical grant funds from Target, the Library's Born to Read Program has been able to expand its resources, partnerships, and participants in this initiative that promotes reading and education among at-risk families. Target has donated bicycles for families participating in Prime Time Family Reading time. In addition, Target is a sponsor of Deaf Literacy Center Arts programs, demonstrating again a willingness to take the lead in unique programming that increases literacy through non-traditional methods. This year, for example, Target is supporting a Deaf Arts Festival, which will include workshops for hearing and deaf students, and public performances by professional artists.

Outstanding Media Partner: WEDU

WEDU has been a long time supporter of literacy and education in the community. In fact, WEDU has dedicated a significant portion of its attention to helping the most at-risk members of the community, and is an organization willing to invest in its citizens.

For more than a decade WEDU, which is based in Tampa, has sponsored the PBS Ready to Learn program, offering free books and literacy workshops to west central Florida families in need. It has provided workshops for Head Start, such as "Lullabies to Literacy" and "Make Storytelling Fun." WEDU has developed a strategic plan to further literacy goals of key community providers, by identifying best practices that can be shared by all local early childhood organizations. To do this WEDU has solicited corporate supporters, brought in the Hillborough County Public Library as a strategic partner, and offered literacy initiatives connected to reading for all members of the community. Most important, WEDU continues to promote reading in ways that challenges and stimulates the imagination of young learners.

Outstanding Literacy Volunteer: Ellen Lauricella

Ellen Lauricella took a Basic Reading Tutor Training Workshop in the early 1990s, and it launched her into a 10+ year mission to reduce illiteracy—one person at a time.

Through her involvement with Literacy Volunteers of Leon County, Ellen has served literacy in countless and immeasurable ways: tutoring learners; training trainers; creating new programs and initiatives; fundraising, particularly in generating grant monies; and, providing her expertise both at the local and state levels, serving on boards, committees, councils, task forces, and coalitions.

Over the past 10 years Ellen has provided training for approximately 800 volunteers. During that time, through Ellen's leadership, Literacy Volunteers of Leon County has served close to 1500 learners. She has also trained volunteers at Madison Correctional, Jefferson Correctional and Florida Correctional Institute.

Excellence in Education: Lake Wales Family Literacy Coalition

Just two years old, the Lake Wales Family Literacy Coalition is making its mark in its efforts to reduce illiteracy. Formed to identify community needs and impediments to education, and to develop strategies for its working groups to implement to meet the literacy and social service needs of families, the Coalition currently has 62 active organizations and individuals. Coalition members such as The Care Center, The Lake Wales News, and Warner Southern College all are doing their part to provide comprehensive education and educational support services to those in need.

The activities of the Lake Wales Family Literacy Coalition have had a dramatic impact on its community—from literacy to

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I'd be a polar bear –
soft and cute on the outside,
strong and fearless within.

I am from washing clothes in tin tubs
with a rub board and lye soap,
from sisters sharing
discarded church hats.

I'd be a cuddly cat
sitting in my owners lap,
fastidiously cleaning my fur,
seemingly oblivious.
A Florida panther,
gliding through cypress trees,
jumping into ravines,
resting in pine needles.

I'd be a lion king,
a bird singing out a melody,
a giraffe
as tall as she is graceful,
a dragon reigning over the land
to see and conquer
what is in front of me.

I would be a watch dog
carefully guarding,
always protecting.
A true friend,
a guide dog for the blind,
a fire dog riding in the fire truck
hoping to help.
Man's best friend
on the front seat of an old Chevy pick-up
going down a shady country road.

I am from rural Florida, orange groves, tall
rows of corn,
from the blue bonnets that fill
the medians of Texas highways in spring,
from a traditional Columbian family,
from France, from Nova Scotia,
from La Frontera,
from a language that nobody else
spoke at school.

I am learning to shine,
to leave the dark denseness behind,
embracing a new life,
getting to know
the world.

Part III: Together

We are the sound of applause,
cheering each other on,
celebrating success,
a job well done,
I knew you could do it all along.
We are not silent.
The clapping is sometimes thunderous,
other times sporadic, uncertain,
but always powerful
always uplifting –
The echo of confidence
ringing in our ears!

housing and healthcare. Currently the family literacy programs enroll more than 75 and 115 children with an average attendance rate of 80%. By joining forces, the Coalition's members are making a difference in the quality of life for many families.

Flight for Freedom Award: *Gatwech Guandong*

At the age of 30 Gatwech Guandong and his family escaped his native country of Sudan because of the escalating civil war there. Today, on the cusp of becoming a U.S. citizen, Gatwech Guandong is living proof that a better life can be attained through courage and determination.

Gatwech Guandong enrolled at Learn to Read Jacksonville in August 2005. At that time, Gatwech was reading English at a second grade level. Through hard work and determination, he has made great strides in improving his English reading and speaking skills.

Gatwech has achieved such remarkable progress, despite working full time and supporting a family of seven, by going the extra mile with his schoolwork. Whether with his tutor, in group classes, or working in the computer lab, Gatwech is never late and always has a smile on his face. Gatwech won this honor because of his commitment to learn, his enthusiasm for the process, and his desire to create a better future for his family and his community.

Mary J. Brogan Leadership Award: *Paola Fabio*

As an immigrant unable to speak or read English, Paola Fabio came to Learn to Read Jacksonville eager to learn and serve her community.

At the same time she enrolled in her first Basic English class, Paola began to volunteer at the Learn to Read office. From the beginning, no job was too dirty for her; she simply looked for what needed to be done and did it. Quickly Paola's skills improved, so she started assisting Learn to Read staff to teach the Basic English class, helping create lesson plans and providing instruction by giving examples and explanations to the students.

Paola Fabio's goal upon coming to the U.S. was to obtain a college degree. Now as a full time student in her third semester at University of North Florida, Paola works to support herself and still makes time to volunteer at Learn to Read. Paola completed the Basic Tutor Training and ESL Tutor workshops, and now she is the instructor for ESL Basic English class, coming full circle from student to teacher.

2008 Florida Literacy Conference

The 2008 Florida Literacy Conference will be held at the newly renovated Grosvenor Resort at the Walt Disney World® Resort on May 7th to 9th.

Visit www.floridaliteracy.org/con2008.html to check for further updates.

The Florida Literacy Coalition thanks the 2007 Conference Planning Committee and the presenters.

The Florida Literacy Coalition thanks the 2007 conference sponsors for their generosity.

Platinum Level

- Dollar General Literacy Foundation
- Florida Department of Education, Division of Workforce Education

Gold Level

- Florida TechNet
- Publix Supermarket Charities

Silver Level

- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida
- EsproFinanical
- Orlando Magic

Bronze Level

- Cingular
- McGraw/Hill Contemporary
- ProLiteracy America

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As I studied the photo of Patience and Fortitude, I came to the thought that there was something that bonded these two qualities and sustained them. Then I thought of Aretha Franklin and her musical hit song, RESPECT. It occurred to me that respect is what builds the bond between tutors and learners, a bond maintained by patience and fortitude on the part of both tutors and learners.

For my presentation in Dublin, I built on these thoughts and developed the idea that the seven letters of the word RESPECT could serve as a mnemonic for seven factors that taken together can help sustain motivation for the work of teaching and learning literacy.

R.E.S.P.E.C.T.

R : Relevance to the learners' lives

E : Engagement with the learning experience

S : Social capital development for learners

P : Participation by learners in choosing goals, curriculum materials & methods

E : Educational opportunities across the life span & across multiple life cycles

C: Community support for adult literacy education

T: Teachers/tutors who care about adults, literacy, & learning

Following a brief overview of these seven factors, I focused on R, for Relevance. I recounted the stories of four great adult literacy educators who focused on the relevance to the lives of their students of the materials they were using to teach adults to read.

First, the story of Harriet Jacobs, the former slave girl of the mid-1800s who taught an old black man to read using the Bible, which was what he wanted to learn to read. Next, an account of the work of Cora Wilson Stewart in 1911 to start the Moonlight Schools of Kentucky and the materials she wrote in books called the Country Life Readers. These books taught reading in the context of farming, home making,

health for the family, community development and other topics of relevance to the lives of the country folks who came to class on moon lit nights.

Then the work of Paul Witty during World War II was used to illustrate once again the professional wisdom of early pioneers in adult literacy education and their focus upon making their materials relevant to the lives of their learners. Witty invented the fictional Private Pete and his buddy Daffy, who were themselves learning to read and write in the Army, so that soldiers could identify with the stories about the Army and the military context through their relationship to the fictional soldiers they read about.

Finally, there is the Queen Mother of the civil rights movement in the United States during the mid-20th century, Septima Poinsette Clark. She started Citizenship Schools to teach African-Americans to read and write so they could vote. This was the relevant goal for these American citizens who were being denied voting rights and hence social justice because of illiteracy. Septima Clark knew the importance of developing literacy and power by making the materials of education relevant to the lives of her students.

To sustain the motivation of adult students in the often arduous task of learning to read and write adult literacy tutors need both patience and fortitude. But above all, they need to have RESPECT for their students. And the primary letter of that word, R, stands for Relevance. Over a century of professional wisdom, by those on whose shoulders we stand, confirms the importance of relevance in adult literacy education.

Today's adult literacy teachers and tutors carry on the important work of respecting adult students and providing relevant literacy education sustained by both patience and fortitude. They are the Lions of Literacy in the 21st century.

By Tom Sticht

International Consultant in Adult Education

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- Updating existing tutor training workshop outlines
- Assisting with the design of ESOL, basic literacy, and combined tutor-training workshops that meet the needs of the organization
- Assisting with the design of workshop evaluations
- Modeling portions of tutor training workshops
- Familiarizing trainers/training teams with ProLiteracy America Trainer Competencies
- Familiarizing trainers/training teams with the ProLiteracy America Trainer Certification process
- Observing tutor-training workshops
- Performing the duties of the Trainer Observer for the ProLiteracy America Trainer Observation Tool
- Facilitating post-workshop feedback sessions
- Facilitating discussions between the trainer/training team and training committees, executive directors, program coordinators

As evidenced by the tasks listed above, the role of the Trainer Coach can extend over a period of time, or be as simple as a one-time request to fill out an observation tool.

In conjunction with the project, FLC will also introduce a discussion list for tutor trainers.

To request a trainer coach, or if you know an experienced trainer who may be interested in volunteering as a coach, please contact Kelley Jain, Education & Training Coordinator, at jaink@floridaliteracy.org or (407) 246-7110 x 203.

Special thanks to the Florida Department of Education, Division of Workforce Education for helping to make this program possible.

Students Authors Featured In Statewide Essay Book



The Florida Literacy Coalition's 3rd annual adult learner essay book was released at the Florida Literacy Conference, to the excitement of both teachers and their adult learners. This year's book, titled *Living Our Dreams*, contains essays from one hundred and forty seven student authors studying in adult education and literacy programs throughout Florida.

The essays touch on a wide variety of subject matter; topics include adjusting to life in the U.S.A., happiest moments, overcoming adversity, and unique perspectives on recent global events.

Some students included poetry or reflections on their lives and the world around them.

"For many students, writing is one of the most challenging aspects of their educational experience," says FLC Director Greg Smith. "We are so pleased that teachers are using this book and corresponding lesson plans to encourage their students to become excited about expressing themselves through writing."

Polly Spring, a teacher with the Golden Gate Adult Learning Center, had eight authors included in the book. Her class worked on writing essays as an exercise in preparing to pass the GED examination. "The essay book was helpful because the class could go through the process of writing: planning, writing, and revising. It gave the students something to work on for several weeks," said Polly Spring. Polly is planning to have a party which will celebrate both her students' completion of the program and inclusion in the adult learner essay book.

This book was made possible through the generous support of the Florida Department of Education, Division of Workforce Education. Special thanks are extended to FLC's Adult Learner Committee and all the contributing authors for their contributions to this effort.

A limited number of essay books are available to teachers and tutors who would like to use them as a classroom resource. Please contact Tom Pattison at pattison@floridaliteracy.org to place an order.

Resources Available from the Florida Department of Education's Practitioners' Task Forces:

Get Your Message Out! Gaining Recognition for Your Adult & Community Education Program

This web-based training, developed by the State of Florida Adult Basic Education Committee of the Practitioners' Task Force, will provide you with the basic skills needed to promote your adult and community education program.

- Basic tools and techniques of public relations/marketing
- Being on the air - broadcast opportunities
- Student and volunteer recruitment procedures
- Planning and marketing special events
- Communicating effectively with the community and businesses
- Creating a media handbook

www.floridatechnet.org/inservice/marketing/

LD Desk Resource

Developed by the Florida Practitioner's Task Force on Adults with Learning Disabilities, this two-page guide is the perfect item for teachers and tutors to laminate for quick reference.

Topics include:

- What is a learning disability?
- Characteristics of a learning disability
- Accommodations
- Sample accommodations

www.floridatechnet.org/ld/

Adult ESOL Online Lesson Plans

Equipped for the Future Project-Based Classroom Activities are now available online thanks to the State of Florida ESOL Practitioner's Task Force. Among the twelve projects, teachers and tutors can find lessons on recycling, healthful eating and conducting interviews with inspiring community role models.

www.floridatechnet.org/Lesson%20Plans.html

Family Literacy Lessons

Based on standards for Florida's Even Start Programs, teachers and tutors can find over thirty-five family literacy lessons within the Practitioners' Task Force on Family Literacy website, including how to keep a literacy journal, understanding child temperament, and phonics for toddlers.

families.owc.edu/lessons/standards.htm

Additional Literacy Resources

MOUNTING PRESSURES FACING THE U.S. WORKFORCE AND THE INCREASING NEED FOR ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY

National Commission on Adult Literacy
National Center for Higher Education Management Systems

Drawing on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the National Center for Education Statistics, the U.S. Bureau of Justice, the U.S. Department of Education and GED Testing Service, this publication calls for a dramatically expanded and more effective adult education and literacy enterprise in America. A short introduction and executive summary by the authors accompanies their compelling presentation.

The full publication is available at www.caalusa.org.

Review of Adult Learning and Literacy, Volume 7, edited by John Comings, Barbara Garner, and Cristine Smith.

This newest volume in the annual series from NCSALL presents chapters on the persistence of adult education students, adult education program quality, assistive technology, individualized group instruction, health literacy, research on professional development and teacher change, adult literacy and numeracy development in Australia, adult basic education in South Africa, and annotated bibliography on workplace education. For chapter summaries, visit the NCSALL Web site at <http://www.ncsall.net/index.php?id=1175>.

To order the paper edition of the Review of Adult Learning and Literacy, Volume 7 visit NCSALL's Web site at www.ncsall.net/?id=1002.

Great Readers Make Great Leaders Essay Contest

Suave, **Dollar General** and *American Idol* Fantasia Barrios have partnered to promote education and literacy by sponsoring an essay contest. To enter, adult learners are asked to submit stories about mentors who helped them in their quest for literacy. There are over 2000 prizes available including a \$10,000 educational grant or savings bond and a trip to New York City to meet Fantasia backstage at *The Color Purple* on Broadway. For more information about the program, visit www.suaveessaycontest.com.

Get Creative: Teach Immigrants English in New Ways

The Ray Solem Foundation was set up in memory of Richard Ray Solem, who strongly believed in helping immigrants become successful in the workplace. A \$10,000 grant is being offered to a nonprofit organization that is finding creative ways to help immigrants improve their English literacy skills, including oral, verbal and comprehension abilities. Applications must be received by July 31, 2007. For more information, visit www.raysolemfund.org/grants.html or contact Marianne Emerson, 202-625-6448, r-raysol@aol.com.

Tutor Tip: Tic - Tac - Toe

Tic-Tac-Toe (for beginning to intermediate ESL students)

Draw a nine-square grid on the board and write one word in each box. Divide the class in half and designate one half as X and the other half as O. The students on each team collaborate in coming up with grammatical sentences using the vocabulary. When they use a word in a correct sentence, mark either an X or an O over the word. Three in a row wins! Use this game to review general vocabulary, parts of speech, and verb forms. It can be played for an hour without the student seeming to tire. *Source: Laubach Litscape, Fall 2001*

Reducing Waiting Lists in Adult Education and Literacy Programs

This ProLiteracy publication tackles the on-going issue of student waiting lists by identifying best practices and effective methods for reducing such lists while maintaining program quality.

Download the PDF online at www.proliteracy.org/proliteracy_america/w1_resources.asp

ProLiteracy Revises Program Accreditation Service

ProLiteracy America Accreditation is the only national accreditation service in the adult education and literacy field. It is designed to raise the credibility- and visibility of literacy organizations in their communities, as part of the greater adult education system. The program is an important component of ProLiteracy's support of local organizations' capacity building and quality improvement efforts. The system is built upon a flexible, yet comprehensive set of quality standards for literacy services and organizational management, which are designed to promote planning, evaluation, and data-based decision making.

The new program, revised with the help of fellow adult literacy practitioners, is stronger, flexible, more economical, and streamlined. The accreditation standards were re-ordered to put organizational planning as number one on the list. A higher emphasis is now placed on strategic planning.

ProLiteracy also did a lot of work on the governance standards, making it easier for agency-based groups to understand these standards and therefore meet them. The training standards underwent a significant re-write and are now inline with ProLiteracy's Trainer Certification Standards. The Guide to ProLiteracy America Accreditation is now free as a benefit of group membership.

ProLiteracy affiliates that elect to participate in the accreditation process undertake a rigorous self-evaluation; implement program improvements; document how they are meeting each national quality standard; and host an on-site review. In the new system, currently accredited programs will be able to have site reviews for re-accreditation conducted from a distance-over the phone or with an online document sharing program.



What are the benefits of accreditation? First, it provides a structured approach to planning and evaluation based on recognized national standards. Second, it increases your organization's focus on the outcomes and performance measures that are key to securing funding and to communicating with community stakeholders. Third, accreditation strengthens your organization's structure to ensure program stability and continuity when key staff members leave or board members change. Fourth, it reduces liability risk as decision-makers become aware of weaknesses and problem areas. Finally, it entitles your organization to promote itself as "An Accredited Pro-Literacy America Affiliate."

"The program accreditation process provides a good blueprint for organizations interested in increasing their effectiveness and positioning themselves for growth," stated Greg Smith, Executive Director, Florida Literacy Coalition (FLC). Currently there are five accredited adult literacy programs in Florida. FLC congratulates Brevard County Libraries Literacy Program on being the most recent program to be accredited.

Put Your Literacy Program on the Map

The **Google Literacy Project** offers a satellite map, accessible online, that shows literacy-related organizations in North America. You can visit the map at www.google.com/literacy and click on the Maps link. Then click the tab North America. To add your program, send the following information to literacyproj@gmail.com:

- Program name
- Mailing address, including city, state and zip code
- Phone number, including area code
- Web address

Programs with the capacity to do so may also upload video clips or create Web logs (blogs) about literacy.

Sponsored by LitCam, Google, and UNESCO's Institute for Lifelong Learning, the site offers additional resources for anyone interested in literacy.



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