

# LITERACY NEWS



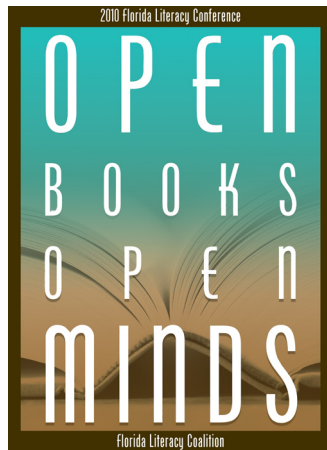
FLORIDA'S NEWSLETTER FOR LITERACY TUTORS,  
TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS AND SUPPORTERS

Number 124

FALL 2009



Essays wanted for 5th Annual Adult  
Learner Essay Book (see page 4)



2010 Florida Literacy Conference  
(see page 5)

## Inside This Issue

Literacy in Florida	2
Literacy Photo Contest	4
2010 Florida Literacy Conference	5
Funding Opportunities	9
Literacy in the U.S.	11

## Volunteering in America Study Released: Florida Ranks Low Among States in Volunteerism

The Corporation for National and Community Service recently released "Volunteering in America", a study of local, state and national trends in volunteering. The study shows that over 61.8 million Americans contributed 8 billion hours of volunteer service in 2008, almost one million more than 2007. Contrary to some predictions, the downturn in the economy has not negatively effected volunteering with 37% of programs reporting an increase in volunteers. Florida did not fare as well, ranking 49th among the states in the percentage of people who volunteer. Florida does slightly better in hours volunteered, ranking 44th. Compared to past years, Florida saw a small hike in volunteer rates and volunteer numbers in 2008, with roughly 300,000 more volunteers than 2007.

The majority of volunteers in Florida contribute their time to religious or educational organizations, accounting for 59.8% of volunteer work. Over the past 20 years, educational volunteer work has increased by 11.2 %, while volunteer work with religious organizations decreased by 2%. Fundraising appears to be the number one activity for volunteers, both on a national and state level. This is closely followed by food collection and distribution. Tutoring, mentoring, and teaching are the three most popular volunteer activities for college students. About 26.6% of college students tutored or taught, while 23.8% mentored.

*Continued on page 2*

## Don't Let Your Students Get Duped by Online GED Scams

For today's 34 to 38 million adults in the US who never graduated from high school, passing the GED test is a key to both career and educational opportunities. That's because approximately 95 percent of employers and even more US colleges and universities accept the GED. Many websites offer fraudulent High School Diplomas and GED Credentials for exuberant prices, some exceeding \$300.

Don't let your students be taken in by such scams. Let them know that one must test at an Official GED Testing Center, typically located at local schools or community colleges. People are still spending hundreds of dollars on fast and easy programs that guarantee them a GED or high school diploma online. The reality is there is nothing fast or easy about the GED Exam. Developed by the GED Testing Service (GEDTS), it requires extensive preparation and it gauges comprehension of the standard high school curriculum.

It's important for adult literacy organizations and other education programs who aren't routinely exposed to GED Testing, to share information about scams with students interested in getting their GED. Here are a few facts to keep in mind:

- Any services that claim to offer a GED credential through any means other than an Official GED Testing Center is not affiliated with GEDTS.

*Continued on page 6*

## Volunteering in America Study Released: Florida Ranks Low Among States in Volunteerism

(continued from cover)

The study identified several common issues that people often consider when deciding to volunteer:

- Fear of time commitment. Some people assume that if they volunteer, they will be expected to continue indefinitely. Be clear with potential volunteers about the time commitment and the process for discontinuing their service if needed.
- Community outreach and social networking. According to the study, people are more likely to volunteer if asked by a friend or family member. Encourage your volunteers to spread the word; they can be your best community ambassadors.
- Fear of not having the right skills to perform at an adequate level that is conducive to chosen organization. Be clear with your volunteers regarding the expectations, duties and the training provided for the position.
- A misconception that volunteers are usually retired individuals without children. According to this study, volunteers span a range of age, marital status, employment, and race. Thirty-one percent of volunteer work in Florida is performed by adults between the ages of 35 to 44. While the majority of volunteer service is conducted by adults, young adults are actively volunteering at an increasing rate.

Volunteer numbers across the country may increase again in 2010, due to President Obama's call to community service and the allocation of stimulus money to national service programs such as Americorps and VISTA. The Corporation for National and Community Service will commit \$29.4 million to support Florida's volunteer initiatives, which will give a much needed boost to volunteer numbers.

The study has a corresponding website ([www.volunteeringinamerica.gov](http://www.volunteeringinamerica.gov)) with detailed regional, state and (large) city data. This site includes information on areas such as volunteer rates, activities, and volunteer retention. Users can even compare one city or state to another.

## Volunteer USA Provides \$175,000 in Scholarship Awards During Adult Education and Family Literacy Week

*Members of the Florida Association of Postsecondary Schools and Colleges take steps to make a significant difference in the lives of deserving family literacy students.*

In honor of National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week, October 18-23, the Volunteer USA Foundation presented a select group of deserving adult learners with Family Literacy Initiative Scholarships.

In addition, one child of each adult winner also received a two-year Florida Prepaid scholarship. The awards are the result of Volunteer USA's unique Family Literacy Initiative scholarship program, in partnership with the Florida Association of Postsecondary Schools and Colleges (FAPSC), the Florida Prepaid College Foundation and corporate sponsor, Dollar General.

"Our foundation is proud to be a part of this unique, family-friendly scholarship program that empowers parents and children to learn together and aspire to higher educational and career goals," said Liza McFadden, president of Volunteer USA

## Disney Announces Free Park Admission for Volunteer Service

In an effort to encourage volunteerism, Walt Disney World Resort, in partnership with the Hands On Network, is rolling out a brand new program that is giving back to individuals that have put time and dedication into volunteering with local organizations.

Starting on January 1st, 2010 the "Give a Day, Get a Disney Day" program will allow volunteers to sign up for specific volunteer opportunities across the state. In exchange for the volunteer's time and service, Disney is offering a day of free admission to one of their Walt Disney World Theme Parks. This program will run until a million people have volunteered or through December 15th, 2010, whichever comes first.

To learn more about this great opportunity and how your organization can participate as a certified volunteer location, contact Erin Balleine, [Balleine@floridaliteracy.org](mailto:Balleine@floridaliteracy.org), 407-246-7110 ext. 202.

The winning adult literacy students were selected based on academic gains, attendance, GED exam status, a personal essay and reference letters. FAPSC member colleges and career schools are donating \$175,000 in scholarships to help the following individuals begin the next step in their quest to learn and achieve more:

- **Lucy Delgado**, FIU Family Literacy Academy-Miami; ATI Training Center
- **Marfie Diaz**, PLC Family Literacy Academy-Tampa; Cocorde Career Institute
- **Olga Jimenez**, GROWS Family Literacy Academy Apopka; Herzing University
- **Maria Segura**, Jump Start Family Literacy Academy Immokalee; SW Florida College
- **Danish Shaw**, Deaf Family Literacy Academy-Broward; Kaplan Higher Education
- **Nancy Tomayo**, Parent Power Family Literacy Academy Palm Beach; Keiser Career College

Family literacy advocate Jeb Bush, Jr. recognized the scholarship winners along with sponsoring FAPSC schools and career colleges during a National Family Literacy Day Celebration event held November 4th in West Palm Beach.



## The President's Volunteer Service Awards: A Great Way to Recognize and Thank Your Volunteers

The President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) is issued by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation on behalf of the President of the United States to recognize the best in American spirit, and to encourage all Americans to improve their communities through volunteer service, and civic participation. PVSA acknowledges individuals, families, and groups that have reached a certain number of hours of service over a 12-month period or cumulative hours earned over the course of a lifetime. There are three levels of awards, as well as a President's Call to Service. The following are the eligibility requirements for each age group:

Bronze Level	Silver Level
<b>Kids:</b> 50 to 74 hours <b>Young Adults:</b> 100 to 174 hours <b>Adults:</b> 100 to 249 hours <b>Family &amp; Groups:</b> 200 to 499 hours	<b>Kids:</b> 75 to 99 hours <b>Young Adults:</b> 175 to 249 hours <b>Adults:</b> 250 to 499 hours <b>Family &amp; Groups:</b> 500 to 999 hours
Gold Level	President's Call to Service Award
<b>Kids:</b> 100 hours or more <b>Young Adults:</b> 250 hours or more <b>Adults:</b> 500 hours or more <b>Family &amp; Groups:</b> 1000 hours or more	<b>All Ages:</b> 4,000 hours or more of volunteer service (over a lifetime)

Three varieties of awards packages are available to individuals, family/group, and in bulk. Depending on which award package is ordered, award recipients can receive:

- An official President's Volunteer Service Award lapel pin
- A personalized certificate of achievement
- A congratulatory letter from the President of the United States
- A letter from the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation

Recognizing and honoring volunteers sets a standard for service, encourages a sustained commitment to civic participation, and inspires others to make service a central part of their lives. To date, the President's Council has partnered with more than 80 Leadership Organizations and more than 28,000 Certifying Organizations to bestow more than 1.5 million awards to the Nation's deserving volunteers. All awards must be ordered through an official "Certifying Organizations."

The Florida Literacy Coalition serves as a Certifying Organization and will work with you to verify hours and nominate volunteers for this recognition. Most schools and non-profit organizations can also apply to become certifying organizations. Registration is easy-just visit [www.presidentalserviceawards.gov](http://www.presidentalserviceawards.gov). This website also has many other helpful benefits, such as a record of Service, which is an online private log to keep track of volunteer hours, and a link to [serve.org](http://serve.org), which can provide help for finding volunteer opportunities.

### Volunteer Stories Needed!

Know an inspiring volunteer? Have a volunteer with a unique story? We are looking for stories of literacy volunteers who have gone above and beyond to include on Florida's Adult and Family Literacy Resource Center website. If you feel you have or know such a volunteer, please contact Kari Doro at [dorok@floridaliteracy.org](mailto:dorok@floridaliteracy.org) or 407-246-7110.



## Portraits of Literacy Photo Contest

### Capturing the Splendor of Reading through Photography



They say that a picture is worth a thousand words. Join us for FLC's first annual photo contest, capturing how words and literacy are experienced in our everyday lives through photography.

The photos entered into the contest will be used to promote literacy throughout Florida. Submissions will be posted on-line and everyone will be encouraged to vote for their favorites. Select photos will also be featured at the 26th Annual Florida Literacy Conference.

The contest will accept submissions from December 15, 2009 to February 12, 2010 and is open to everyone.

For submission guidelines, go to [www.floridaliteracy.org](http://www.floridaliteracy.org)

**Grand prize:** A Pentax Optio 60 Digital Camera, a \$50 gift certificate, the book *Douglas Kirkland's Light Years: Three decades photographing among the stars*, a nifty award recognition, and bragging rights.

Sponsored by the Cruise Industry Charitable Foundation and Pentax Imaging Company.



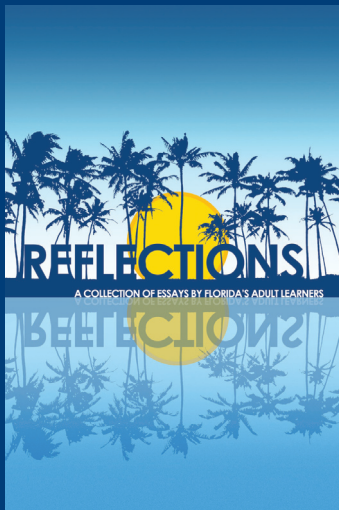
## Essays Wanted!

### Florida Literacy Coalition 6th Annual Adult Learner Essay Book

The Florida Adult and Family Literacy Resource Center is proud to announce the launch of the Annual Adult Learner Writing Campaign. Students from throughout Florida are invited to submit original short stories, poems, or autobiographical narratives to be included in a published book that will debut at the 2010 Florida Literacy Conference.

The goal of this book is to allow adult learners the opportunity to build confidence while also improving their reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. Organizational representatives can use this book as a way to promote how their programs are having a positive influence within their communities.

Adult learners and their tutors/teachers are encouraged to work together in writing, typing, editing, and submitting a written piece. We ask that completed essays be submitted along with the completed online form.



(2009 Essay Book)

Submissions should be no longer than two pages (500 words). Space in the book is limited and entries will be edited for readability. Authors can choose to remain anonymous or have a short biographical paragraph included with their submission. Only one submission per adult learner is allowed. Each author who is included will be invited to the Florida Literacy Conference and will also receive a free copy of the book. Free copies of the book will also be made available to all participating adult education/literacy organizations.

**Deadline for Submissions: February 22, 2010**

For submission form, guidelines and sample lesson plans go to [www.floridaliteracy.org](http://www.floridaliteracy.org) and select Adult Learner Essay Book.

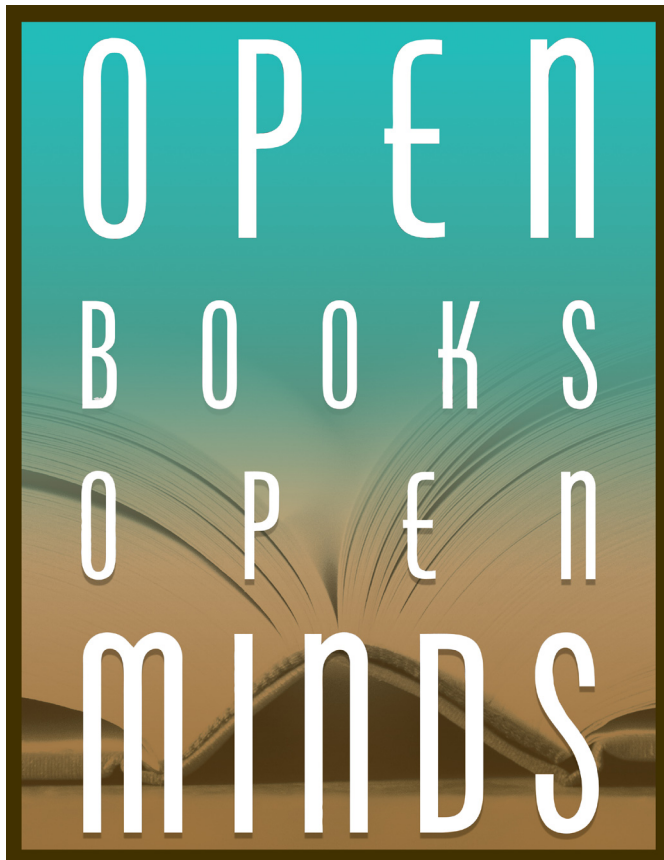
If you have any questions please contact Bryan McCormack at [mccormackb@floridaliteracy.org](mailto:mccormackb@floridaliteracy.org) or (407)-246-7110 x 207

## 2010 Florida Literacy Conference

May 5-7, 2010

Preconference day: May 4, 2010

South Seas Island Resort in Captiva, FL



### Registration Rates:

Full Conference Early Bird: postmarked by March 9:

Member \$185 Non-Member \$210

Full Conference: Adult Learner: \$90 (no fee for adult learners attending only on May 4th for Adult Learner Day)

### Reservations:

Hotel reservations must be made by April 14th, 2010 to qualify for the \$110 group rate. Mention the 2010 Florida Literacy Conference when making your room reservation. State and local taxes apply (subject to change). Call the South Seas Island Resort Reservations at 1-888-707-7888.

### Last Call for Presenters!

Do you have something to share with Florida's adult education, literacy and family literacy practitioners? If so, we invite you to submit a session proposal by December 16, 2009 with our easy-to-complete online form at [www.floridaliteracy.org](http://www.floridaliteracy.org). To request a session proposal form via mail or FAX, contact Yari Payne, Education and Training Coordinator at [conference@floridaliteracy.org](mailto:conference@floridaliteracy.org) or call (407) 246-7110 ext. 203.

## Make Your Nominations for the 2010 Florida Literacy Awards

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2010 State Literacy Awards, which recognize outstanding accomplishments and achievements of individuals and organizations supporting adult and family literacy throughout Florida. The awards will be presented on May 6 at the awards dinner and ceremony during the 2010 Florida Literacy Conference. Visit [www.floridaliteracy.org/floridaliteracyconference.html](http://www.floridaliteracy.org/floridaliteracyconference.html) for nomination form and procedure.

### Award Categories

- The Mary J. Brogan Leadership Award (honors a literacy leader in Florida)
- Flight for Freedom Award (honors an outstanding adult learner)
- Outstanding Literacy Volunteer Award
- Excellence in Education Award (honors an outstanding literacy program/organization)
- Outstanding Business Partner Award
- Outstanding Media Partner Award

## Don't Let Your Students Get Duped by Online GED Scams

*(continued from cover)*

- American Council on Education establishes GED guidelines, so avoid any solution or school that doesn't include all test areas or information about test areas.
- GED is a proctored test and is never available to be taken online. A list of Official GED Testing Centers can be found on the Florida Literacy Coalition website.
- The services offered by these sites are usually a questionable value, some exceeding \$300. The Official GED Exam is offered for a price that does not exceed \$70.
- Beware of fake accreditation and websites that offer diplomas based on life and work experience.
- Diplomas offered by these sites will often not be accepted by employers, colleges, universities or the military.

The efforts in creating awareness of GED scams have become great in recent years. Internet access has grown by 138% in the United States since 2000, and with that growth, comes the opportunity for such scams.

Giving people correct information about where they can get a GED is the best way educational programs throughout the state can reduce the amount of people being robbed of their money, and an opportunity to pursue an education. There are also free or low cost GED instructional programs available in every county. For more information you can go online to [www.floridaliteracy.org](http://www.floridaliteracy.org) and click on our GET YOUR GED Section. You can also contact the referral hotline at 1-800-237-5113. The Florida Department of Education's GED site can be found at [www.fldoe.org](http://www.fldoe.org) and you can contact the GED Testing Office toll free at 1-877-352-433.

## Florida Department of Education Establishes Adult Education Advisory Committees

The Division of Career and Adult Education (DCAE) recently restructured the adult education advisory system for the state of Florida. The purpose of the advisory system is to receive input and suggestions from administrators and practitioners throughout the state. The new structure consists of a cabinet and six standing committees. The cabinet provides a forum for engaging adult education practitioner leaders in discussions about new initiatives, critical trends, and state and national issues relating to adult education. The standing committees review and advise on programmatic issues that have been identified by DCAE, as well as the governing cabinet.

Members of the six standing committees were selected from a pool of nominations submitted by the state's adult education deans and directors. They are unpaid volunteers and will serve for two years. The cabinet members are the chairmen of the committees and representatives from several state organizations.

### **The standing committee chairs and DOE contacts are as follows:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Accountability</b><br/>Brevard Public Schools - John Wigley<br/>DOE - Linda Palmer</li><li>• <b>Adult Basic Education (ABE)</b><br/>Marion County School District - Eileen Pilner<br/>DOE - Marcia Maxwell</li><li>• <b>Adult English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)</b><br/>School Board of Collier County - Robert Breitbard<br/>DOE - Phil Anderson</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Adult High School (AHS), General Educational Development (GED), and Vocational Preparatory Instruction (VPI)</b><br/>Florida State College at Jacksonville - Edythe Abdullah<br/>DOE - Ila Waite-Burns</li><li>• <b>Professional Development</b><br/>Indian River State College - Anthony Iacono<br/>DOE - Zelda Rogers</li><li>• <b>Transition</b><br/>School District Board of Pasco County - Carolyn Allen<br/>DOE - Pam Shrestha</li></ul> |
|---|---|

## LITERACY LUNCHEON WITH TAMI HOAG

**When:** December 1, 2009  
12:00 noon

Proceeds to benefit Marion County Literacy Council. Ticket prices are \$40, \$75, and \$100.

For more information, call 352-690-7323

## TABE 101

**When:** December 8, 2009  
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Where:** Florida State College  
Jacksonville, Advanced Technology  
Center • Room T234 • 401 West  
State Street • Jacksonville, FL 32202

For more information, contact Patricia Linder, (813) 974-7794; plinder@coedu.usf.edu

## EXPLORING TABE ONLINE

**When:** December 15, 2009  
TABE Online is an easy-to-use, Web-based assessment and reporting system of adult basic education skills. Join us to learn more about this most widely used online Adult Basic Skills Assessment and how you can simplify testing and get immediate results to help guide instruction and training decisions. Attendees will receive a 30 day trail access to TABE Online.

For more information call (941) 752-8100.

## ONLINE TUTOR/TEACHER IN-SERVICE MOTIVATING AND RETAINING ADULT LEARNERS

**When:** December 15, 2009  
6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Student retention is a challenge for many programs. This session will explore key concepts in adult learner retention and persistence. Drawing from current research, we will discuss strategies in how to keep students coming back so they can achieve their educational goals. Attendees will be able to participate from home via a computer with access to the Internet and telephone. To register check out FLC new calendar at [www.floridaliteracy.org](http://www.floridaliteracy.org)



## GED MATH SESSION II - TABLES AND GRAPHS

**When:** December 24, 2009  
**Where:** Columbia County Vocational,  
Adult, and Community Education  
Center • Room 130 • 409 SW Saint  
Johns Street • Lake City, Florida  
32025 Workshop Description: Session  
II in a 4-part series focused on most  
missed GED math questions.

For more information, contact Patricia Linder, (813) 974-7794; plinder@coedu.usf.edu

## PALM BEACH COUNTY

**When:** January 7 - February 5, 2010

You will be given the chance to vote on a list of five books that are being considered for the Read Together selection for 2010. In addition to online voting, ballot boxes will be at all public libraries.

## ZORA! FESTIVAL

**When:** January 23 - 31, 2010  
**Where:** Eatonville

<http://zorafestival.com/>

## BOOK MANIA!

**When:** January 22, 2010  
**Where:** Stuart

<http://www.library.martin.fl.us/events/bookmania/BM2009ProgramWeb.pdf>

## AMELIA ISLAND BOOK FESTIVAL

**When:** February 11 - 13, 2010  
**Where:** Amelia Island

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

## MUCH ADO ABOUT BOOKS

**When:** February 26 - 27, 2010  
**Where:** Jacksonville

<http://www.muchadoaboutbooks.com/>

To submit events for the upcoming issues of the Literacy News as well as the calendar at [www.floridaliteracy.org](http://www.floridaliteracy.org), please forward information about your event to Erin Balleine at [balleine@floridaliteracy.org](mailto:balleine@floridaliteracy.org).



## **Program Manager's Toolkit Now Online**

The Florida Literacy Coalition is pleased to make available a Program Manager's 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.

To access this free resource, go to [www.floridaliteracy.org](http://www.floridaliteracy.org) and select Manager/Administrator on sidebar menu.

Our thanks to the FLDOE, Division of Career and Adult Education which supported this project and to all the organizations that contributed.



## 7th Annual Literacy Leadership Institute



The Florida Literacy Coalition will host its **7th Annual Literacy Leadership Institute February 4-5, 2010** at the Mission Inn Resort in Howey-in-the-Hills, FL.

This free professional development opportunity, designed for directors, program managers and board members of non-profit adult and family literacy organizations, will cover topics such as:

- Strategic Planning
- Fund Development
- Family Literacy
- Program Capacity Building
- Volunteer Recruitment
- Student Retention and Persistence

This is a great opportunity for individuals interested in growing their organizations while maintaining and enhancing program quality. To register, go to [www.floridaliteracy.org](http://www.floridaliteracy.org) and select 2009 Leadership Institute under Literacy News.

Pre-registration is required by January 15.

Travel assistance (up to \$350.00 per person with a limit of two reimbursements per organization) is available in accordance with state guidelines.

Contact Yari Payne, Education & Training Coordinator, at (407) 246-7110 x 203 or via e-mail at [payney@floridaliteracy.org](mailto:payney@floridaliteracy.org).

This session is sponsored by Florida's Adult and Family Literacy Resource Center and funded through a grant from the Florida Department of Education, Division of Career and Adult Education.

## FLC Update

The Florida Literacy Coalition is moving to a new location. Beginning December 1, FLC will have a new address located at 250 N. Orange Ave, Suite 11W, Orlando, FL 32801.



FLC welcomes back **Erin Balleine** who recently joined us as our Resource Specialist/AmeriCorps VISTA Coordinator. In 2005-2006 Erin was a VISTA volunteer, coordinating FLC's marketing efforts. Since that time, Erin received her Master's Degree in Sociology from Boston College.

FLC bids farewell and good luck to **Samantha Sparks** who has taken a position as Educator/Presenter at the Orlando Science Center. "I have treasured my time at FLC and look forward to the expanding horizons I have been offered as a result of my time at FLC."

FLC would like to congratulate **Yari Payne** on passing her certification exam to become a Certified Meeting Professional (CMP)! The Convention Industry Council (CIC) launched the CMP program in 1985 to enhance the knowledge and performance of meeting professionals, promote the status and credibility of the meeting profession, and advance uniform standards of practice. Today, only 12,000 individuals in 34 countries have earned this designation, which is based on professional experience and a rigorous examination that has to be recertified every five years. Congratulations Yari!

FLC Board Treasurer **Joe Pankowiecki** was recently selected by Bank of America to receive the Neighborhood Excellence Local Hero Award. He was one of five Central Florida residents to receive this prestigious community service award. Joe, who is a past President of the FLC Board, has also been a long standing volunteer with the Adult Literacy League, serving as a tutor, trainer and Board member. Congratulations Joe!

## Free Resource Materials

Check out FLC's new and improved online Resource Clearinghouse Catalog with over 100 different reference and outreach materials for literacy instructors and administrators. Go to our website [www.floridaliteracy.org](http://www.floridaliteracy.org), and click on the "Order Materials" link to view the catalog and order your materials!



## Grant Opportunity: IBM Reading Companion Grants

The response to last summer's Reading Companion Grant opportunity was so great that IBM has decided to make additional grants available through FLC in 2010!

The Reading Companion grant is an in-kind donation (valued at \$10,000) of an interactive web-based program that listens, guides and helps children and adults develop their English literacy skills. To view a demonstration of the web site, visit the Reading Companion website and view the four minute video by clicking on "explore" [www.readingcompanion.org](http://www.readingcompanion.org).

*Reading Companion* uses innovative speech recognition technology that "listens" and provides individualized feedback to the user, enabling emerging readers to practice their pronunciation as they acquire fundamental reading skills. Applications will be available starting January 5 at [www.floridaliteracy.org](http://www.floridaliteracy.org). Select *Reading Companion Grant Opportunity under Literacy News*.

## FLC Provides Access to National Grants Data-Base

FLC has subscribed to Grant Station, a searchable data-base of thousands of foundations, government, and corporate grant makers. This on-line library will be used to monitor and share information on upcoming funding opportunities in adult education. If your adult education/literacy program is interested in accessing this service to do a customized search, FLC will work with you to generate a prospect list based on your preferred search criteria. Please contact Erin Balleine, at [Balleine@floridaliteracy.org](mailto:Balleine@floridaliteracy.org) or 407-246-7110 Ext. 202.



### Bank of New York Mellon Charitable Giving Program

Url: <http://www.bnymellon.com/>

Deadline: Ongoing

The Bank of New York Mellon Charitable Giving Program supports nonprofit organizations that make communities better places to live and work. Interest areas include literacy and training that encourage learning and success.

### The Charles M. and Mary D. Grant Foundation

Url: <http://fdncenter.org/grantmaker/grant/>

Application deadline: April 30

The Foundation's areas of interest include: community and economic development; health and human services; and, education and literacy.

### RR Donnelley Foundation

Url: <http://www.rrdonnelley.com>

Application Deadlines: Proposals are accepted between January 1 and November 1, annually.

The Foundation gives grants to programs that promote reading and literacy, and occasionally makes grants beyond that guideline.

### Georgia-Pacific Foundation

Url: <http://www.gp.com/gpfoundation/index.html>

Application Deadlines: Grant applications are accepted between January 1 and October 31, annually.

The Foundation invests in educational efforts, including literacy, that empower youth and provide workers with job readiness training, as well as scholarships and technical programs that give workers the skills necessary for today's workplace.

### Darden Restaurants Foundation

Email: [pdeyoung@darden.com](mailto:pdeyoung@darden.com)

Url: <http://www.darden.com/>

Application Deadlines: None. Requests are reviewed quarterly.

The company focuses its philanthropic giving on education, including organizations that are dedicated to improving literacy rates, educating the future workforce, encouraging diversity in the classroom and workplace, and providing job readiness training.

## 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](mailto:payney@floridaliteracy.org).



## Congratulations Literacy Ambassadors!

Adult learners successfully completed FLC's Literacy Ambassador Training on November 6-7 in Orlando. These individuals will now be sharing their stories and successes throughout Florida.

Special thanks to the Florida Department of Education, Division of Career and Adult Education and the Cruise Industry Charitable Foundation for their support.

## Tutor Tips

### KNOW YOUR MEDICINE

**Purpose:** To help learners read labels on medicine bottles and packages.

**Preparation time:** 20 minutes

**Materials:** Drug labels or photocopies of labels

**Procedure:**

- 1) Pre-teach and/or review vocabulary that students will need during the activity. You can use pictures or real items (medication bottles, packages, tablespoon/teaspoon, etc.). Help students become familiar with key words on each label. For example, if you want them to answer "how much," teach them to scan for the word "dosage."
- 2) Pair students and give each pair some labels and questions to answer together.
- 3) Switch pairs. One student has the label, and the other student asks questions about dosage, etc.

Source: [http://www.themlc.org/Know\\_Your\\_Medicine2.html](http://www.themlc.org/Know_Your_Medicine2.html)

### IN OTHER WORDS...

**Purpose:** To reduce the difficulty new vocabulary can create when listening.

**Preparation time:** 5-10 minutes

**Materials:** Listening material, paper and pencils or a whiteboard and markers

**Preparation:**

Go through the listening and pick some phrases that may give your learners difficulty. Try to think of ways to say those phrases in words that your students already know. Make two lists. The A list has the expressions as they are in the listening and the B list has your alternatives.

**Example:** For a listening in which people talk about jobs

<u>A list</u>	<u>B list</u>
Full-time	40 hours a week
Salary	pay
Part-time	up to 30 hours a week

**Procedure:**

- 1) Put the words/phrases from the first list on the board and elicit different ways of saying them.
- 2) Put the words/phrases from list B on the board in jumbled order.
- 3) Students match the words from list A and list B. Check answers.
- 4) Do the listening with tasks as you would normally do.

## Brenda Dann-Messier Confirmed as Assistant Secretary of Vocational and Adult Education



The U.S. Senate has confirmed Dr. Brenda Dann-Messier as the US Department of Education's new Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education. Dann-Messier has served for 10 years as president of Dorcas Place, a community based literacy organization in Providence R.I.

She also served on the R. I. Board of Governors for Higher Education and the board of the R. I. Higher Education Assistance Authority. Dann-Messier was the Secretary of Education's New England Regional Representative during the Clinton administration. She holds a doctorate in educational leadership from Johnson & Wales University, and a master's degree in instructional technology from Rhode Island College.

## IRS Now Requiring Small Non-profits to File 990-N

In an effort to determine which of the 650,000 tax-exempt organizations are still in existence, the IRS is, for the first time, requiring all organizations with gross receipts under \$25,000 to file Form 990-N (E-postcard). The IRS has stated that organizations will lose their tax-exempt status if they fail to file for three consecutive years beginning in 2008. Organizations can file Form 990-N online at [epostcard.form990.org](http://epostcard.form990.org).

## Dropping Out of High School Proves Costly for Students and Taxpayers

Dropping out of school carries a heavy price for both students and taxpayers reports *The Consequences of Dropping Out of High School*, a new study from Northeastern University.

The study indicated that the joblessness rate during 2008 of 54 percent nationwide for young high school dropouts was 22 percentage points higher than that of high school graduates and 33 percent higher than those who had completed 1-3 years of postsecondary degree. The mean average income of dropouts (ages 16-24) was only \$8,358 year and young women who dropped out were nearly 9 times as likely to become single mothers as their counterparts with bachelor degrees.

The researchers estimated that the average cost to taxpayers, including incarceration costs, over the working life of each high school dropout at \$292,000.

## GED's 5<sup>th</sup> Edition Placed On Hold for GED 20/20

The General Education Development Testing Service (GEDTS) recently announced that it will not introduce GED 5th edition, which had been slated for January 2012. Officials plan instead to move from the current GED directly to what they identify as "a new comprehensive assessment program," GED 20/20. Some elements of GED 20/20 are expected to be introduced as early as 2010, GED officials say.

## Resources

### Rebuilding NIFL to Meet Future Needs

The Council for Advancement of Adult Literacy has released a 28-page discussion paper proposing substantial revamping of the National Institute for Literacy into a new independent National Institute for Adult Learning, with broad responsibilities for adult education and workforce skills development, including leadership in technology, stronger governance, and more adequate funding.

Download the publication at [www.caalusa.org/publications.html](http://www.caalusa.org/publications.html)

### Purdue's Online Writing Lab

This site offers instructional handouts on subjects such as punctuation, spelling, writing research papers and citing sources. Originally created for native speakers, it has a special section for ESOL students that include explanations about the use of articles and the use of prepositions in English. <http://owl.English.purdue.edu>

### 4techers.org

This site is a free, multifaceted site that includes a variety of fast, easy to use tools for teachers and students. Among the website's offerings are the popular RubiStar and QuizStar, as well as links to professional development research and WebQuests. A separate registration is required for each Star tool.

### Colorin' Colorado!

This bilingual site is part of Reading Rockets, WETA's multimedia initiative that provides information, activities, and advice to Spanish-speaking parents to help their children learn to read.

[www.colorincolorado.org](http://www.colorincolorado.org)

### America's Story from America's Library

America's story from America's Library was created by the Library of Congress. Games, Activities, and a reading list were added to historical collections featured in the Library of Congress. [www.americaslibrary.gov](http://www.americaslibrary.gov)



**FLORIDA LITERACY COALITION, INC.**

**NEW ADDRESS!**

250 N. Orange Ave., Suite 11W  
Orlando, FL 32801

Phone: (407) 246-7110

Fax: (407) 246-7104

Email: [info@floridaliteracy.org](mailto:info@floridaliteracy.org)

Florida Literacy Hotline: (800) 237-5113

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid

Permit #1514  
Orlando, FL

## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### Executive Committee

<b>President</b>	Nishad Khan, Esquire
<b>Vice President (Providers)</b>	Darlene Kostrub
<b>Vice President (Business)</b>	Jim Parker
<b>Treasurer</b>	Joe Pankowiecki
<b>Secretary</b>	Chuck Blaine
<b>Executive Director</b>	Gregory Smith

*The Literacy News* is a publication of Florida's Adult and Family Literacy Resource Center, a program of the Florida Literacy Coalition. It is made possible through a grant from the Florida Department of Education, Division of Career and Adult Education.

### LITERACY NEWS, #124 CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS

**Pam Logsdon**, Florida Literacy Coalition  
**Yari Payne**, Florida Literacy Coalition  
**Greg Smith**, Florida Literacy Coalition

**Quizaira Recio**, Florida Literacy Coalition  
**Kari Doro**, Florida Literacy Coalition  
**Erin Balleine**, Florida Literacy Coalition

**Bryan McCormack**, Florida Literacy Coalition  
**Linda Palmer**, FL Dept. of Education

## Become a Member of the Florida Literacy Coalition and Make a Difference for Literacy in Florida!

### BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Literacy Resource Packet
- Discount for Florida Literacy Conference Registration (\$25 value)
- Membership reception at the Florida Literacy Conference
- Professional development opportunities
- FLC's *Literacy News* print and e-newsletters
- Eligibility to submit nomination for the Florida Literacy Awards
- Membership Certificate (Organizational Members)

And much more.....

### Membership rates:

\$25 Individual

\$50 Organizational (with budgets under \$200,000)

\$75 Organizational (with budgets over \$200,000)

For more information, contact Erin Balleine, Resource Specialist at [Balleine@floridaliteracy.org](mailto:Balleine@floridaliteracy.org)  
or visit [www.floridaliteracy.org](http://www.floridaliteracy.org) and click on Become a Member