

LITERACY NEWS



FLORIDA LITERACY COALITION, INC.

Number 129

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

Summer 2011

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A COLLECTION OF ESSAYS BY FLORIDA'S ADULT LEARNERS

New Release 2011 Adult Learner Essay Book

See page 6 for
information on the 2012
Florida Literacy Conference!

Inside This Issue

Learner Mentors	2
Conference Recap	4
FLC Summer Contest	7
Calendar	9
Fundraising	10
Technology Corner	11

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida Health Literacy Grants Awarded for Third Year



Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Inc. and the Florida Literacy Coalition, Inc. would like to congratulate the following 18 ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and family literacy programs awarded one-year grants of up to \$5,000 each. These funds will be used to educate students with important information about health and nutrition while they learn English.

- Collier County Housing Authority Land, Inc.
- Creative Clay
- DeSoto County Education Foundation
- District School Board of Pasco County
- East & West Area Adult Schools/Polk Education Foundation
- First Coast Technical College
- First Baptist Church of DeLeon Springs
- Flagler County Schools
- Florida State College at Jacksonville
- HELP of Fort Meade, Inc.
- Literacy Council of Manatee County
- Literacy Council of Upper Pinellas
- Miami-Dade College
- The Motivational Edge
- Pinellas County School District
- Sarasota YMCA
- S.B. Idea, Inc.
- Williams H. Turner Tech Adult Center

The health literacy grants were officially presented on May 4, during the 27th annual Florida Literacy Conference in Lake Mary, Fla. During this conference, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida also sponsored a literacy track focused on health literacy.

Continued on page 8

Study Finds that Adult Education Provides Good Return on Investment

Florida's legislators, educators, administrators and adult learners should take note of a newly published study by McGraw-Hill Research Foundation entitled, *The Return On Investment (ROI) From Adult Education and Training: Measuring the Economic Impact of A Better Educated and Trained U.S. Workforce.*

This white paper makes a compelling case for the ongoing support of adult education, most particularly during times of fiscal distress for state and local budgets across the country. By laying out numerous clear, quantitative measurements, this study argues for a preemptive focus on adult education, in order to ultimately save public monies by reducing healthcare, public assistance and incarceration costs. Moreover, it further suggests that making effective appropriations to adult education

Continued on page 11

Florida's Adult and Family Literacy Resource Center

Celebrate Literacy Month in September

International Literacy Day

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

Each year, the UNESCO Secretary General issues a statement and five awards honoring outstanding local, regional and national literacy programs. Stay tuned for more information on International Literacy Day www.floridaliteracy.org

Mark your calendars! September 8, 2011 is International Literacy Day, and the entire month of September is Adult and Family Literacy Month in Florida. This provides great opportunities to raise literacy awareness while celebrating your organization's accomplishments!

Here are some popular ways literacy organizations have celebrated Literacy Month:

- Host a student/tutor picnic
- Identify local speaking engagement opportunities for your students
- Organize an awards event for reading achievement
- Coordinate a student trip to the local library to get library cards
- Host a community literacy fair
- Organize a book sale

Read about additional ways to celebrate literacy month on the literacy awareness page of FLC's website.

FLC is able to promote your event on our online statewide calendar! Simply email Erin Balleine at balleine@floridaliteracy.org, with your event information.

Innovative Library Program Utilizes Students as Mentors

A new initiative of the Lake County Library System's Adult Literacy Program has allowed staff to maintain open lines of communication with the English Language Learners (ELLs). There are 15 libraries and three satellite locations offering tutoring, but there has not always a bilingual staff person available. Before, it was difficult to successfully follow up with learners who dropped from the program.

To help combat this growing disparity in retention, staff recruited existing or recently "graduated" learners to act as mentors for other students. Learner mentors become official program volunteers, but with a specific focus. Mentors' duties included reaching out and answering students' questions, providing support and acting as a liaison between staff and learners.

The Learner Mentor Program has been highly successful. Lake County Library System has been able to reach out to learners on a variety of issues that were difficult prior to the program's inception. Previous struggles included a lack of attendance, participation in special events or newly created classes, scheduling initial tutoring appointments and overall feedback.

"We have seen an increase in successful pairings and attendance at special

events as well as having been able to reschedule meeting days/times for learners who would have otherwise left the program," said Erika Greene, Literacy Coordinator. "Probably the most important outcome to date has been the identification of struggling tutors and learner frustrations."

Three mentors specifically expressed a desire to help the Literacy staff, adult learners and tutors at their libraries. These mentors felt that they had such good experiences in the program that they could relate to other learners.

As the Adult Literacy Program continues to grow, the Lake County Library System acknowledges they do not have the time and resources to provide the individual attention every tutor and adult learner deserves without assistance from volunteers. The learner mentor volunteer position is now a pivotal component to the library system's success.

"We truly see the value of this volunteer role and are eagerly awaiting new mentors to fill this much needed position," Greene said.

Remarkable Learner Mentors

Tavares Learner Mentors

Angela Rojas is from Colombia and moved here with her two teen sons and husband. In Colombia she worked as a lab technician; now she works with Orange County School System. Rojas loves working with people and helping others, so she decided to encourage others to benefit from the Lake County Library System Adult Literacy Program.

Amparo Tejada is from the Dominican Republic. She has lived in the United States since 1975. She lived in New York 15 years and in Florida for 17 years. "More people should benefit of such a program so I signed as a learner mentor to help the learners that are already in the program and to orient others to join," Tejada said.

Leesburg Learner Mentor

Silvia Truys Carey is 41 years old and was born and raised in São Paulo, Brazil. She volunteers additional time to help staff and tutors communicate with learners and recruiting new learners to the program. Truys Carey has been instrumental in recruiting over 15 new learners in a very short time.

Helpful Suggestions for Running an Effective Volunteer Program



1. Concentrate on establishing systems that support the volunteers work within the organization. A formal orientation program allows the volunteer to assimilate smoothly into the organization. Satisfaction surveys allow the volunteer coordinator to quickly address the challenges before they become problems.

2. Constantly assess the needs in the organization to see where volunteers might be helpful, what skills they need and what tasks might not be appropriate. As needs change, the volunteer program should change to meet those needs.
3. Keep up to date on demographics and trends in the general population so you can shift recruitment, training and direction if necessary. Is your community getting older or younger? Is there a change in the education level, income level, or ethnicity of your community? With raised awareness, you can better the community.
4. Work to ensure that the organizations leadership recognizes the contributions volunteers make both in their work and within the community at large.
5. Ensure that appropriate recognition is interwoven throughout the entire year to highlight both volunteers and staff.

Source: Rollins College Philanthropy Center Volunteer Management

Strategies to Connect Low-Skilled Students to Postsecondary Education

Having a postsecondary education continues to be one of the most important factors in getting a good job and advancing in the workforce. For each year of postsecondary education, an adult is more likely to be employed, earn family-sustaining wages, lead a healthier life, and have children who are better prepared for school. A new report published by the Center for PostSecondary and Economic Success (CLASP) discusses strategies to strengthen connections between basic skills education and postsecondary education to help lower-skilled adults and out-of-school youth attain the postsecondary credentials they need to advance in the labor market.

This study, *Beyond Basic Skills: State Strategies to Connect Low-Skilled Students to an Employer-Valued Postsecondary Education* is freely available to download at www.clasp.org

The Florida Adult and Family Literacy Resource Center has created a new **Career Pathways Resource Page** with a wide range of resources in educational transitions and career pathways. The resource listing includes: relevant websites, helpful articles, training materials, curricula, handouts and worksheets.

Visit the Literacy Resources section for more resources at www.floridaliteracy.org

Fast Facts on the Benefits of a Skilled Workforce

- Sixty-one percent of U.S. employers say it is difficult to find qualified workers to fill vacancies at their companies.
- Middle-skill jobs, those requiring more than a high school diploma but less than a four-year college degree, are still the majority of jobs available in the U.S. labor market.
- By 2018, only 10 percent of jobs will be open to those who fail to complete high school, and only 28 percent will be open to those with only a high school diploma.
- By 2020, if 4 million dropouts earn a high school diploma, the net fiscal contributions to the federal government and state and local governments would exceed \$25 billion annually.
- Students with at least some postsecondary education earn about \$473,000 more than their less-educated peers over the course of a lifetime.

Source: Center for PostSecondary and Economic Success

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 including funding opportunities, upcoming events, hot topics, research and more. Contact Yari Payne at payney@floridaliteracy.org

Florida Literacy Conference Receives High Marks from Attendees

The 27th annual Florida Literacy Conference in Lake Mary, Fla. was attended by more than 425 adult and family literacy practitioners, volunteers and students. With more than 70 sessions, events and keynote presentations, there was something for just about everyone. Many participants shared how the conference provided a great opportunity to network and learn from one another.

The Opening General Session kicked off the Conference with great enthusiasm. Pat Williams, noted author and Senior Vice President of the Orlando Magic, focused his talk on the seven principles that shaped the life of legendary USLA basketball coach John Wooden, including the importance of reading on a daily basis.

Adult Learner Day was attended by more than 60 students. Six sessions were offered to adult learners providing a wide range of topics and showed how literacy affects every aspect of students' lives, including health, personal finances and advocacy. The most popular session this year was "Fun Ways to Improve Health Literacy" by Melissa Padgett from the Adult Learning Center of Osceola. Other session topics included financial literacy, advocacy and algebra.

The Florida Literacy Awards Banquet provided a great opportunity to recognize the outstanding contributions of businesses, programs and individuals working in support of literacy across the state. The keynote speaker for the evening was author Bob Morris who shared several humorous stories about his travels and life as a writer.

Outstanding Business Partner Award: Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida

Nominated by DeSoto County Education Foundation, Adult Literacy League and the Florida Literacy Coalition

In 2008, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida's generous pledge of \$360,000 enabled the establishment of the Florida Health Literacy Initiative. This program combines English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) instruction and health education in a multi-disciplinary approach that teaches English to adults and families while helping these individuals acquire skills and knowledge to make informed choices regarding their health and nutrition.

"It's been a pleasure working with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida on this Initiative," said Greg Smith, Executive Director of FLC. "They are truly committed to reducing barriers to health care and supporting innovative, grassroots approaches to health education, awareness and training."

Since the Initiative's inception, 44 grants of up to \$5,000 have been awarded to literacy organizations across the state and more than 3,200 students have benefited from health literacy instruction. More importantly, what these individuals are learning appears to be making a difference.



Ruth Colvin speaks at the Closing General Session at the Florida Literacy Conference. Colvin's literacy work has taken her all over the world helping thousands of people to read.

The Conference concluded with a talk from a true literacy icon, Ruth Colvin, founder of Literacy Volunteers of America. Colvin shared her journey as an educator and literacy advocate which has taken her all over the world. A number of tutors also took advantage of a two-day workshop that Colvin hosted after Conference focused on teaching non-literate Spanish speaking students.

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

Students improved an average of 38 percent in their basic health knowledge as measured by the program's health literacy assessments. Many students have reported that they are eating healthier and exercising more.

Accepting for BCBSF was Sharon Hackney, Senior Manager, Community Affairs and Tony Jenkins BCBSF Market President for Central Florida.

Outstanding Literacy Volunteer: Ann Palmer

Nominated by Sharon Snow, Lakewood Community Schools

Ann Palmer has served on the board of directors of the Literacy Council of St. Petersburg since 2006 and currently serves as president of the Council. In addition to these responsibilities, she is also a tutor and tutor trainer with the organization. Under her leadership, the Council now has more than 100 successful tutor/student matches, the highest in the organization's 42 year history. Palmer has volunteered over 2,000 hours and has tutored at three adult centers. A tireless advocate for literacy, she frequently goes out to speak to organizations in her community about the work of the Council. Palmer is always eager to tell you about her work and how very special it is when a student learns to read for the first time.

Excellence in Education: Fort Meade Literacy Council Nominated by Margaret Anne Wheeler, Polk County Schools

The Fort Meade Literacy Council has been doing great things since 2007. Under the leadership of Lisa Weems, the Council has grown from serving seven students in an ESOL and family literacy program to serving 80 families. Perhaps what is most impressive about the Fort Meade Literacy Council and its parent organization HELP of Ft. Meade is their track record in building successful partnerships.

In 2008, Polk County Public Schools provided the Fort Meade Literacy Council with the use of a vacant school campus that was adopted to provide adult classrooms and childcare facilities. The Council expanded on this effort, building collaborations with United Way of Central Florida, Polk State College, Read Polk and Polk Works. With a \$56,000 grant from the Department of Labor, they have established a one stop satellite career center at the school to assist residents in searching for jobs, writing resumes, exploring career educational options and accessing temporary food, clothing and bill support.

Accepting the Fort Meade Literacy Council were Lisa Weems, Executive Director, and Casandra Bevis, Program Director.

Flight for Freedom Award: Carmen Volpetti Nominated by Kristin Current, Literacy Volunteers of Lee County

Kristen Current was reluctant to become Carmen Volpetti's tutor in 2009. As the Program Director for Literacy Volunteers of Lee County, she found herself avoiding Volpetti when she came into the office because she was often

there to argue. Working together using the Barton Reading System, Volpetti began to realize real and significant progress. She started to write sentences for the first time and read materials that had not been possible before.

Volpetti became a literacy advocate by speaking to community groups such as local Kiwanias Clubs. She is an honest and effective speaker who is committed to helping others avoid going through what she has been through. Recently, Volpetti was elected to serve of the Board of Directors for Literacy Volunteers of Lee County.

Mary J. Brogan Leadership Award: Roberta Reiss Nominated by Susan Mutschler, Citrus County Library System

Roberta Reiss began her work in literacy 37 years ago as a volunteer tutor. In 2000, she was recruited to help start a new literacy program for the Collier County Public Library System. This volunteer-based program links students with tutors of English as a second language and basic literacy. Students are tutored individually or in small classes, and the library also offers tutor training to local businesses interested in establishing their own workplace programs. Under Reiss' leadership, the library has served over 1,200 students since the program's inception.

Reiss is also an accomplished tutor trainer, for which she is more widely known among Florida's literacy programs. Working with Ellen Lauricella, Reiss teaches the Florida Literacy Coalition's annual train-the-trainer course, preparing new certified trainers to work in their community. This year, she is also working with FLC to develop an online training course for new tutors. Furthermore, Reiss regularly serves as a mentor and coach for new trainers or programs interested in offering or updating tutor training workshops.



2011 Florida Literacy Awards (L-R): Sharon Hackney, Carmen Volpetti, Ann Palmer, Roberta Reiss and Lisa Weems

2011 Adult Learner Essay Book In My Words Released!

In My Words was unveiled during the FLC Annual Meeting at the 2011 Florida Literacy Conference in Lake Mary, Fla. A record number of essays were submitted for consideration, making this year's selection process especially challenging.

Congratulations to all the contributing writers and a special thanks to the teachers, essay reviewers, and student authors who volunteered to read their essays during FLC Annual Meeting. Several programs, such as the English Center in Miami, have hosted events to celebrate their authors and promote the importance of writing.

This year's publication is comprised of 336 entries and is available to download at FLC's website, www.floridaliteracy.org. A limited number of hard copy books are also available. If you would like to have a copy as a resource in your program, please contact our referral specialist at referral@floridaliteracy.org.

This book was made possible through a grant from the Florida Department of Education, Division of Career and Adult Education.



Lowanda Fequiere smiles as she reads her published words. On June 3, The English Center in Miami hosted an Authors Celebration and Award Ceremony for 55 students whose works were published. Over 100 people attended the celebration.

A special thanks to the conference planning committee, volunteers, presenters and the following sponsors for their support and generosity during the 2011 Florida Literacy Conference.

Platinum Level

Florida Department of Education,
Division of Career and Adult Education

Dollar General Literacy Foundation

BlueCross and BlueShield of Florida

Publix Super Markets Charities

Southwest Airlines

Gold Level

Florida TechNet



Save the Date!

28th Annual Florida Literacy Conference
May 9-11, 2012

Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront
in St. Petersburg, FL

Apply for Southwest Airlines Tickets to Help You Raise Funds for Literacy

Southwest Airlines and FLC want to help you raise funds to support your literacy program.

Enter to win two round-trip airline tickets (valued at \$800) good to fly to a wide-range of destinations throughout the United States. The tickets have no black-out dates and must be used by June 1, 2012.

How do you apply? Send a letter (up to 2 pages- 12 point font) on your organization letterhead briefly describing your program and how a donation of tickets will be used to raise funds. Please include your name, address, telephone number, email address, approximate date of fundraiser, fundraising goal and a brief statement as to how Southwest Airlines will be recognized as a supporter. The tickets can be used as part of an existing event or as a standalone fundraiser, but cannot be used for online auctions. Feel free to be creative!

Send to:

Florida Literacy Coalition
250 N. Orange Ave. Suite 1110
Orlando, FL 32801
Fax: 407-246-7104
Email: payney@floridaliteracy.org

Eligible applicants: Non-profit community or library based adult and/or family literacy programs

Deadline and selection process: Submit your request by August 1st. A committee of individuals from FLC and Southwest will select the two recipients. Applicants will be notified by August 15.

Good luck. Ding! You're now free to fly about the country.



Tutor Tips

SENTENCE GAMES

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

Preparation time: none

Materials: white board and markers

Preparation: none

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: http://www.themlc.org/Sentence_Games.html

Programs Continue Making Great Strides in Health Literacy

Continue from Cover

The Florida Health Literacy Grant Initiative, funded by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, and operated by FLC, is a three-year project committing a total of \$360,000 to improving the health literacy level of all Floridians. FLC provides grantees with training opportunities, inter-agency collaboration facilitation and resource forums to build upon the strengths of each specific program.

“This initiative reflects Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida’s outstanding commitment to helping adult learners develop the skills they need to be informed health advocates for themselves and their children,” said Greg Smith, executive director of FLC. “The impact of this state initiative has been substantial with over 3,200 students served thus far. More importantly, what these individuals are learning is making a difference as they are exercising more, eating healthier, communicating more effectively with doctors and learning about affordable health care options.”

In 2010, BCBSF and FLC awarded health literacy mini-grants to 16 organizations. This year’s funding reflects a combination of new grants and renewal grants. Seven programs are building upon previous efforts and are looking forward to building on their health literacy project successes.

“At BCBSF, we are committed to helping people and communities achieve better health,” said Susan Towler,

New Report Documents the Devastating Effects of Low Health Literacy

Older Americans and other minority groups who struggle with low health literacy are more likely to struggle with poorer health and are at an increased risk of death.

These are among the findings recently released by the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) in a report comparing data from a wide range of health literacy studies, including more than 100 studies conducted since 2004.

Approximately 75 million people in the United States have limited health understanding, making it difficult for them to communicate with their doctors and comprehend treatment regimens. Certain demographics, however, struggle more than others. The elderly, minorities, people who have not completed their high school education, adults who speak a language other than English as their primary language and people living in poverty are more likely to struggle with their health due to communication and health comprehension difficulties.

The AHRQ study found that all adults with low health literacy, regardless of age or ethnicity, go to the emergency room more often than adults with higher health literacy skills.



Front: Greg Smith and Sharon Hackney. Behind from left to right: Naomi Soto, Pam Fulton, Melissa Berlin, Bonnie Mettetal, Susan Warner, Ann Dwyer, Lori Cabrera, Ashli Totty, CaSandra Bevis, Lori Johnson, Ian Welsch, Grace-Anne Alfiero, Rudy Sablon, Sophia Hall, Angela Santos, Mariette Francois, Kathy Severson, Dee Siemianowski, Trish Rowland, Christy Rhodes, Carolyn Allen, Ron Gutmann, Isabella Perez, Mel Himes, Jr., Pat Bauer. Not pictured: Jone Williams

executive director, Community Affairs, BCBSF. “By partnering with the Florida Literacy Coalition and supporting the Florida Health Literacy Grant Initiative, we are reaching more and more Floridians every day and positively impacting their health and well-being.”

For more information on the Florida Health Literacy Initiative or for details on free health literacy materials developed by FLC, please go to www.floridaliteracy.org.

Additionally, the study found a strong correlation between people with low health literacy and a lower likelihood to take advantage of preventative care. For instance, people with low health literacy are less likely to get flu shots or understand their medications properly and women with low health literacy are more apt to delay or not get a mammogram.

This study also found trends highlighted the need to focus on numeracy and oral skills in health literacy instruction as well. Patients with low health literacy skills often cannot understand risk perception, medications, and disease prevention and severity.

Similarly, a recent study released by the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA) reports that people with low health literacy are more likely to suffer from heart failure. This study suggests that that health literacy may play a more significant role than usual in treatment options because daily self-management away from the hospital and from doctor visits is of a vital importance for heart disease.

For more information on the AHRQ study, go to www.ahrq.gov/news/press/pr2011/lowhlitpr.htm. For more information on the JAMA article, go to www.medpagetoday.com/Cardiology/CHE/26139.

LITERACY COUNCIL OF SARASOTA COUNTY LITERACY TUTOR TRAINING WORKSHOP

When: Sessions are at 9 am–12 pm:

Session 1: July 12

Session 2: July 14

Session 3: July 19

Session 4: July 21

Session 5: July 30

Where: Glasser-Schoenbaum Center,
Bldg. J, 1750 17th St., Sarasota

To Register: Please attend “New
Volunteer Orientation” before starting
tutor training. Please call (941) 955-
0421 or e-mail to register for training
events.

PALM BEACH TUTOR TRAINING

When: July 31, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Where: Palm Beach Atlantic
University, West Palm Beach

Description: This course is designed
to prepare volunteers to work with
adult literacy students. Tutors will be
referred to community agencies and
matched with individuals seeking
assistance. Volunteers will tutor adults
one-to-one or in a classroom setting.
Tutoring sessions are usually once
or twice a week for two hours. The
sessions are held in public places, such
as schools or libraries. Cost is \$10.

To register: [www.literacyabc.org/
events/562/](http://www.literacyabc.org/events/562/)



ACE OF FLORIDA CONFERENCE

When: Sept. 26–28

Where: Hilton Orlando,
6001 Destination Pkwy, Orlando, FL

Description: Mark your calendars for
the 2011 ACE Conference “Mission:
Possible.”

To register: [www.aceofflorida.
org/2011-ace-conference](http://www.aceofflorida.org/2011-ace-conference)

To submit events for upcoming
issues of *Literacy News* and the FLC
online calendar, please forward
event information to Erin Balleine
at balleine@floridaliteracy.org.
For a more comprehensive calendar
listing, please visit the FLC website
at www.floridaliteracy.org.

SOUTHEASTERN TEACHERS OF ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

When: Oct. 10–13

Where: Richmond, VA

Description: This conference provides
educators an opportunity to network,
collaborate, learn new strategies, and
investigate new materials for education
the nations English language learners.

To Register: www.vatesol.cloverpad.org

NATIONAL CAREER PATHWAYS NETWORK CONFERENCE

When: October 12–14

Where: Orlando World Center
Marriott

Description: Topics covered at this
conference will include implementing
Career Pathways/Programs of study.

To Register: [www.cord.org/2011-ncpn-
conference-in-orlando](http://www.cord.org/2011-ncpn-conference-in-orlando)

ADULT LITERACY LEAGUE LAWYERS FOR LITERACY SPELLING BEE!

When: Oct. 20

Where: DoubleTree by Hilton
Orlando Downtown Hotel

Description: Who will “bee” the best
speller in Central Florida’s community
of lawyers and business professionals?
The Young Lawyers Section of the
O.C.B.A. is gearing up for its second
Lawyers for Literacy Spelling Bee!

To Register: Call (407) 422-1540

FLC Updates



FLC welcomes **Hope Lynn** our new Americorps VISTA volunteer! Hope is from Sitka, Alaska where she has lived for the past 23 years. She taught at Mt. Edgecumbe High School for 19 years, which gave her the opportunity to work with Alaska Natives from remote rural villages. She attended City University of New York and has a MS in Special Education from Hofstra University. She also studied at the University of Arizona with Reading specialist Yetta Goodman in the Language, Reading and Culture Department. She enjoys hiking, kayaking, running and, of course, reading.

FLC bids farewell and good luck to **Naomi Soto** who has taken a coordinator position with the HealthCorps in Coachella Valley, Calif. “I am very grateful for all the lessons I’ve learned and all the people I have been lucky to work with while at FLC,” Soto said.

Does Your Program Need an Americorps VISTA Volunteer?

Americorps VISTA is a national service program designed to fight poverty. In partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Florida Literacy Coalition sponsors a statewide AmeriCorps VISTA literacy initiative. VISTA members commit to one year of service, and work on sustainable projects including financial literacy, college/career pathways, family literacy, health literacy, literacy for ex-offenders and GED/TOEFL readiness.

For more information, please visit www.floridaliteracy.org/vista.html. If your program is interested in having a VISTA member, contact Erin Balleine, balleine@floridaliteracy.org.

Adult Learners are Key Partners in Fundraising at DePorres Place

When it comes to sharing their talents to improve their adult literacy center, students at DePorres Place take the prize for helping with fundraising. They take great pride in the service they give to the adult literacy center, located in Riviera Beach. Last year they helped raise over \$10,000 for the center.

When DePorres begins planning a fundraising event, the adult learners are automatically invited to participate in the planning and the completion of the event. Two years ago, DePorres Place held a community yard sale in conjunction with the local church parish. Students donated clothes and other items for the sale, sorted items and helped price them and worked at the tables on the day of the sale. Over \$1,200 was raised that day.

DePorres Place also holds two major fundraising events every year: "Dance Bingo Fiesta" in the summer and the Great Holiday Party and Raffle in December. "Dance Bingo Fiesta" is a take on a popular fundraising event held in Colombia. A Mexican food buffet, American and Latin dancing to music by a DJ and three special Bingo

games make up the evening's festivities. The winner of each bingo game wins a cash prize. Last year the center raised \$4,000 from this event. At the Great Holiday Party, students and tutors donate food for a holiday pot luck dinner, and buy a chance to win one of three great prizes: last year first prize was an iPad. Over \$6,000 was raised.

As graduates of the Literacy Ambassador Program, many of the students at DePorres understand the importance of giving back and involving the community in the programs at the center. The most active of these ambassadors are of Latin heritage.

Two of the most active of these are Amanda Davalos and Flor Nieto. Davalos is a Literacy Ambassador, a member of the Palm Beach County Adult Learner Leadership Board, and the winner of the Palm Beach County Adult Literacy Essay Contest in 2010. Nieto was the 2011 winner of the Palm Beach County Adult Literacy Essay Contest and a member of the Adult Learner Leadership Board. They have participated in every fundraising event the center has held in the past two

years. This includes working on the decorating committee for the Dance Bingo Fiesta, serving food at the Fiesta, and selling tickets for the Annual Great Christmas Party and Raffle.

Other students work behind the scenes, helping to set up tables, and chairs, arrange the equipment for the DJ's, and deliver supplies to the event site.

DePorres Place is a community and volunteer based Adult Literacy Center founded in 1997 by the Adrian Dominican Sisters. The center currently has 152 students: 21 are in literacy and 131 are in ESOL. DePorres Place serves Central Palm Beach County. Students speak of the people at the center as if they were family. It is this community atmosphere that the staff and volunteer tutors seek to maintain. The results speak for themselves.

For information contact: Nancy Parker, Associate Director or Nelson Pino, Coordinators of Volunteers and Marketing, at (561) 863-5778, or deporresplace@juno.com.

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy's 2012 National Grant Competition

Area of Interest: The Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy announced its 2012 National Grant Competition for programs supporting the development of literacy skills for adult primary caregivers and their children. Foundation will award approximately \$650,000; no grant request should exceed \$65,000.

URL: www.barbarabushfoundation.com/site/c.jhLSK2PALmF/b.4425435/k.544A/Current_Funding_Opportunities.htm

Deadline: Sept. 9

Lumina Foundation for Education

Area of Interest: The Lumina Foundation focuses on promoting educational access and success for underserved populations, especially low-income students, first-generation college students and adult learners.

URL: www.finrafoundation.org/grants/general/

Deadline: September

National Endowment for Financial Education

Area of Interest: The grants program seeks innovative

research and research-based development projects that can make a profound contribution to the field of financial literacy.

URL: <http://www.nefe.org/Home/tabid/36/Default.aspx>

Deadline: Dec. 6

Promise Neighborhoods Grants

Area of Interest: The U.S. Department of Education proposed \$150 million for the Promise Neighborhoods program in the Department's fiscal year 2012 budget. The Promise Neighborhoods program is part of the White House Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative, a cross-agency effort that includes the White House Domestic Policy Council; the U.S. Departments of Education; Health and Human Services; Housing and Urban Development; Justice; and Treasury and seeks to transform neighborhoods of concentrated poverty into neighborhoods of opportunity.

URL: www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-education-secretary-announces-30-million-new-round-promise-neighborhoods-gran

Deadline: Check website for more details

Price of Not Investing in Adult Education Could be Costly in the Long Run

Continued from Cover

now is a sound investment for the future: better educated parents are more likely to raise better-educated children, who are in turn less likely to experience poverty or prison. The paper compiles data from numerous sources to support its assertion that additional investment is needed in adult education and training, including:

- High school dropouts were more than twice as likely to be living in poverty as high school graduates.
- On average, each high school dropout costs the U.S. economy about \$260,000 in lost earnings, taxes and productivity over a working lifetime, compared to a high school graduate.
- Thirty-three percent of all new job openings and nearly 50 percent of all new jobs created between 2008 and 2018 will require a postsecondary degree or credential.
- The percentage of working-age adults with a high school education will decline by four percentage points by 2020, putting the U.S. in a position where it will not be able to replace current workers from the pool of people now starting school.

Indeed, the authors directly say, “the need for adult education has never been stronger than it is right now, and a greater sustained effort to support adult education would be one of the most cost-effective investments the U.S. could make toward speeding full recovery from the Great Recession. It would put more people back to work at higher paying jobs while helping to make U.S. workers more competitive globally—all for an investment that would still be much lower per learner than the U.S. and the states currently spend on K-12 and higher education.”

A better educated adult population will lead to a stronger economy and greater well being of communities and individuals. Given current fiscal circumstances in Florida, this paper is essential homework for educators across the state.

For further information, www.mcgraw-hillresearchfoundation.org.

Technology Corner: Handy Apps



Smart phone applications, or Apps as they are more commonly known, are extremely convenient. They help with directions when you are lost or quick easy recipe in the kitchen. More and more, however, there are Apps that are handy in the classroom.

gflash+: a great starting point to make flashcards

Evernote: offer capability to record notes for research or class

Dropbox: save images, text documents, PDF files and video to web-based data storage for access later

Resources

Many Things

This American English pronunciation website allows users to hear a sentence, and then choose from a multiple choice list, which word was said.
www.manythings.org/pp/

Free Printables for Teachers

This website provides free flashcards with printable worksheets and handouts to match, phonics worksheets, printable ESL games, a printable project library, printable certificates, and other activities.
www.mes-english.com/

Reading Comprehension & Test Preparation

These interactive activities will help learners read and understand English and prepare for reading exams. This website includes read-a-long books, matching games, true and false games, and many more activities.
www.esl-bits.net/main2.htm

Jeopardy Labs

Jeopardy Labs lets teachers and students create their own online games of Jeopardy. No registration is required, and each game has its own unique url address.
www.jeopardylabs.com/

We are New York

We Are New York is a new TV show for people learning English. You'll see stories of hope, love, family and friends.
www.nyc.gov/html/weareny/html/videos/videos.shtml

Vocabulary and Spelling City

These interactive games help with spelling and definitions.
www.nyc.gov/html/weareny/html/videos/videos.shtml

A Social and Holistic

Approach to Numeracy

This site provides activities to social and holistic numeracy.
www.socialnumeracy.ca/activities.htm



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

For more information, contact Erin Balleine, Resource Specialist, at balleine@floridaliteracy.org
or visit www.floridaliteracy.org and click on Become a Member