

# LITERACY NEWS

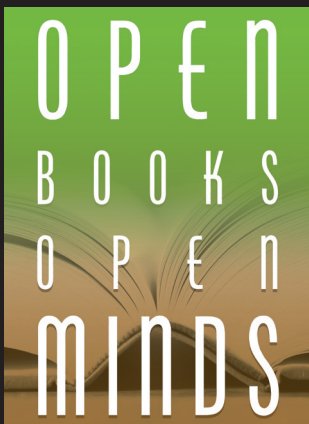


FLORIDA'S NEWSLETTER FOR LITERACY TUTORS,  
TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS AND SUPPORTERS

Number 130

WINTER 2011

**REGISTER NOW!**



**2012**

**Florida Literacy Conference**

**May 9-11, 2012**

**St. Petersburg, FL**

## Florida Online Tutor Training Course is Now Available

The Florida Adult and Family Literacy Resource Center is pleased to announce the launch of our new online tutor training course which uses a multimedia approach to instruction. With the assistance of veteran trainers Roberta Reiss and Erika Greene, FLC strived to develop a user friendly interface with lessons grounded in time-tested tutor training instructional practice.

While the course takes approximately 5-6 hours to complete, volunteers are able to move through lessons at their own pace over a several week period. This is a great opportunity to train volunteers who have other obligations during traditional training times.

This facilitated course is designed to be part of a blended learning experience which provides several core elements of tutor training, which can then be added to and expanded upon by local programs in face-to-face sessions with tutors.

"It's been a real pleasure working with our development team and pilot sites in creating this course," stated Greg Smith, FLC's Executive Director "We hope it will be a useful tool for Florida's literacy organizations, enabling them to expand local training options and attract more volunteer tutors."

The course is free to all Florida programs. To learn more go to [www.floridaliteracy.org/training](http://www.floridaliteracy.org/training) and select "Login" to create a user profile. From there select "Demo Directions" to access a demo of the course.

*Continued on page 2*

## Inside This Issue

Career Credential Programs	2
Costin Named Chief of Staff	3
FLC Receives National Award	3
2012 Florida Literacy Conference	4
New Font for Dyslexia	4
Upcoming Literacy Events	5
Leadership Institute	6
Funding Opportunities	7

## Jeb Bush and Doro Bush Koch to Lead Barbara Bush Foundation

Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush and his sister Doro Bush Koch are now co-chairing the foundation started by their mother more than 20 years ago. Mrs. Bush announced the leadership change at the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy during her recent appearance at the U.S. Conference on Adult Literacy in Houston Texas. Established in 1989, the foundation has awarded more than \$40 million to 902 family literacy programs in all 50 states.

The 86-year-old Barbara Bush will remain involved as honorary chairwoman. Mrs. Bush promised that her children will "continue to work for many years to come" and she urged the audience to stay encouraged about the important work they do every day to advance the cause of literacy. Jeb Bush and his sister have been influential leaders in the family literacy movement in their respective home states of Florida and Maryland.

## Florida Online Tutor Training Course is Now Available

*(continued from cover)*

Annie Schmidt (schmidta@floridaliteracy.org) is available to answer questions, provide an orientation, and set up a course if you are interested. If your organization would like to utilize this course, but are not interested in facilitating your own, FLC will be hosting courses in February, April, and June.

Special thanks to the Florida Department of Education, the Dollar General Literacy Foundation and AmeriCorps VISTA for making this course possible.



## Programs Offer Students Opportunities to Pursue Career Credentials While Studying for the GED

Students without a high school diploma or GED are being helped through transition programs offered by school districts and state colleges in Florida. A growing number of post secondary educational programs now allow students to begin studying to attain a career credential while working toward a GED. This option is being facilitated by programs that offer an alternative to traditional courses of study that require a high school degree or equivalent before enrolling in college. A 2010 study of the Workforce Strategy Center showed that fifty-seven percent of adults in bridge programs possess educational skills below the 10th-grade level, with 19 percent having skills below the sixth-grade level.

continued support and mentoring for our students is a vital component of keeping them focused and motivated.”

Indian River State College and several other Florida institutions have been noted by the National Career Pathways Network as models in the field providing transition services for adults. The focus on Career Pathways and the use of CHOICES, the free online career exploration program, are becoming part of the initial intake process for many adult education students.

Volunteers can play a key role in supporting students on this journey. With the ability to work in small groups or on

### Examples of Credential Programs that May Not Require a GED for Entrance or Exit

- Administrative Assistant • Air Conditioning, Refrigeration & Heating • Barbering
- Basic Electronics • Child Development and Early Intervention • Commercial Vehicle Driving
- Dietetic Management and Supervision • Digital Media Support • Early Childhood Education
- Electronic Technology • Graphic Design Support • Insurance
- Landscape & Horticulture Technology • Medical Administrative Assistant
- Private Security Office • Culinary Arts • Automotive Collision Repair • Automotive Services
- Applied Welding • Computer Systems Technician • Cosmetology (State Exam)
- Industrial Machine Maintenance Repair • State Wide Childcare Worker • Massage Therapy
- Nursing Assistant • Patient Care Assistant • Medical Admission Therapist

Donna Roberts, Assistant Professor at Indian River State College stated, “These programs work and help students to succeed. The idea that they can get a head start on their future and see light at the end of the tunnel is very inviting. There are many motivating forces for adult education students. They have a strong need to apply what they have learned, or are learning, to the real world. They are motivated when they find relevance or worth in their studies. However, creating a culture and climate of

a one-to-one basis, volunteers can provide encouragement and support to students in areas such as tutoring, helping with homework, assisting in studying for exams, and providing guidance in the career exploration process. The growing focus on career pathways provides an opportunity for community based literacy organizations, state/ community colleges and school districts to work together and combine their resources and expertise to help students find their own path to success.

## Loretta Costin Named Florida Department of Education Chief of Staff

Education Commissioner Gerald Robinson recently named Loretta Costin as the Department of Education's new Chief of Staff. A lifelong educator and well regarded by Florida's adult education community, Ms. Costin has served as Chancellor for the Division of Career and Adult Education since 2008.

Commissioner Robinson named Kathleen Taylor to replace Ms. Costin as Interim Chancellor of the Division. Ms. Taylor has served as Bureau Chief of Standards, Benchmarks and Frameworks which includes Apprenticeship, Adult Education and Career and Technical Education.

Thanks to Ms. Costin and Ms. Taylor for their leadership and we wish them all the best in their new positions.

## Florida Literacy Coalition Receives National Award for Health Literacy Initiative

The Florida Literacy Coalition recently received the United States Conference of Adult Literacy's (USCAL) Award for Program Innovation and Collaboration for its development of the Florida Health Literacy Initiative. The award was presented at the USCAL Awards Banquet on November 4, in Houston, Texas.

Through the support and collaboration of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida (BCBSF) and the Florida Department of Education, the Florida Health Literacy Initiative provides community literacy and ESOL programs with the grants, training and resources to develop local health literacy projects using contextualized instruction. BCBSF's generous pledge of \$360,000 over three years has enabled 4,200 students to be served through grants to 27 local programs.



*Left to right: David Harvey and Peter Waite (ProLiteracy), Darlene Kostrub (FLC Board), Sharon Hackney (BCBSF), Greg Smith (FLC) and Jared Skok (BCBSF)*

## Tutor Tips

### How Many Words?

**Purpose:** To raise student awareness of weak forms and contractions

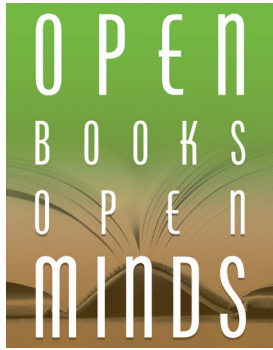
**Preparation time:** 5-10 minutes

**Materials:** Pencils and paper; 1 copy of prepared sentences; board and marker

#### Procedure:

1. Tell your learners that you will read some sentences and that they should write down the number of words that they hear.
2. Dictate your sentences, one at a time, using natural speed and speech patterns. Repeat sentences as necessary for your learners.
3. Go over each sentence with learners. Write the full version on the board and compare it to what they heard. You may wish to point out that it is more difficult to give each word full pronunciation than it is to reduce non-key words.

Minnesota Literacy Council, [http://www.themic.org/How\\_Many\\_Words.html](http://www.themic.org/How_Many_Words.html).



## 28th Annual Florida Literacy Conference

Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront • St. Petersburg, FL  
May 9-11, 2012 • Pre-Conference Day: May 8

### Registration Rates:

Full Conference Early Bird (postmarked by March 9):  
Member \$210 • Non-Member \$235

Full Conference:  
Member \$235 • Non-Member \$260 • On-Site Registration \$275

### Reservations:

Hotel reservations must be made by April 16th to qualify for the \$109 group rate. Mention the 2012 Florida Literacy Conference when making your room reservation. State and local taxes apply (subject to change).

Call the Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront at 1-800-944-5500.

### 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 12, 2011 with our easy-to-complete online form at [www.floridaliteracy.org](http://www.floridaliteracy.org).

For more questions or details, please contact Yari Payne at [conference@floridaliteracy.org](mailto:conference@floridaliteracy.org) or call (407) 246-7110 ext. 203.

### Make Your Nominations for the 2012 Florida Literacy Awards

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2012 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 10 at the awards dinner and ceremony during the 2012 Florida Literacy Conference. Visit [www.floridaliteracy.org](http://www.floridaliteracy.org) for nomination form and procedure.

### Awards 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

## New Font May Help Individuals with Dyslexia

A new font from the Netherlands is designed to emphasize the differences between similar letters to make reading easier for people with dyslexia. Christian Boer, the Dutch graphic artist who designed the font, is dyslexic himself, and has firsthand experience in how people with the disorder often mix up letters that look similar.

The letter "d," for instance, can easily flip into a "b" or even a "p." In his Dyslexie font, Boer altered the letters ever so slightly to give them a bit more individuality, making some lean forward or backward, making others wider, or spacing the characters farther apart.

While the use of the font showed promising results in one small Dutch study, researchers note that Dyslexia is not solely a visual processing problem but often includes phonological, and auditory processing problems along with memory and decoding challenges. Therefore, changing a font is not a cure-all, but may prove to be a helpful tool.

For more information, go to [www.studiostudio.nl](http://www.studiostudio.nl).





## Effective Advocacy Tools for Adult Educators

As communication evolves, social media has emerged as an effective tool for advocacy, providing educators and adult learners with new ways to contact elected officials about issues that are important to them.

A recent study by the Congressional Management Foundation found that:

- Many elected officials have quickly adopted the use of Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to help gauge public opinion, and view it as a forum to dialogue with citizens.
- Congressional offices are now using social media sites like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to communicate Senators' and Representatives' views and activities. Nearly two-thirds of staff surveyed (64%) think Facebook is an important way to understand constituents' views and nearly three-quarters (74%) think it is important for communicating their Member's views.
- Most congressional staffers (87%) thought email and the Internet have made it easier for constituents to become involved in public policy. A majority (57%) of staff felt email and the Internet have made Senators and Representatives more accountable to their constituents.

The study concluded that citizens often have more power than they realize to influence policy and nothing beats face-to-face interaction to get across your message. Most

of the congressional staff surveyed said constituent visits to the Washington office (97%) and to the district/state office (94%) have 'some' or 'a lot' of influence on an undecided Member, more than any other influence group or strategy.

While social networking is on the rise, more traditional forms of communication such as faxes, emails, letters and calls can still be effective. However, they are usually most influential when accompanied by a personalized message.

With the Florida legislative session just around the corner, here are a few resources to connect with your local delegation. A list of Florida Senators, along with contact information, committee assignments, bill sponsorship and Facebook or YouTube accounts, can be found by visiting [www.flsenate.gov/Senators/Find](http://www.flsenate.gov/Senators/Find). Similar information for the Florida House of Representatives can be found by visiting [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov)

The Florida Department of Education provides good information and resources for those interested in statistics by legislative district including high school graduation and dropout rates at <http://fldoehub.org/PerformanceProfile>

Elected officials need to hear from literacy practitioners, volunteers and students so that they can continue to make informed decisions and support adult and family literacy programs.



### Supporting ESL Learner Persistence presented by: Andy Nash, World Education

Dec 1, 2011 • 6:30 – 7:30

**Description:** This webinar will explore ESL learner persistence strategies that arise from the persistence research and from the promising practices emerging in local programs.

**To Register:** <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BWNTHVD>

**Location:** Your computer

To submit events for 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).



### What Works! Adult Literacy Practitioners and Researchers Working Together to Improve Student Success

Dec 3, 2011

**Description:** This event will bring together adult literacy researchers and practitioners for a dialogue about supporting learners and providing quality instruction.

**More Information:** <http://www.floridaliteracy.org/researchersymposium.pdf>

**Location:** Jacksonville Public Library, Jacksonville, FL 32202

### International Volunteer Day

Dec 5, 2011

**Description:** The declared aim of International Volunteer Day (IVD) is to thank volunteers for their efforts and increase public awareness of their contribution to society.

### American Reading Forum Annual Conference

Dec 7, 2011 – Dec 10, 2011

**Description:** The American Reading Forum is a nonprofit, professional organization composed of individuals who share an interest in the improvement of reading.

**More Information:** <http://americanreadingforum.org/conference/index.shtml>

**Location:** Sanibel Island, FL  
Sundial Beach Resort

## 9th Annual Literacy Leadership Institute

The Florida Literacy Coalition will host its 9th Annual Literacy Leadership Institute **February 9-10, 2012** at the **Captain Hiram Resort in Sebastian, Florida**. This free professional development opportunity, designed for directors, program managers and board members of non-profit and library based adult and family literacy organizations, will cover topics such as:

- Board Recruitment and Development
- Fund Development
- Volunteer Recruitment and Retention
- Motivating and Retaining Adult Learners
- Career Pathways
- Student Assessment and Data Collection

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 2012 Leadership Institute under Literacy News. Pre-registration is required by **January 23**. 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 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.

## Referral Directory Update

The Florida Literacy Coalition is updating its Adult Education and Literacy Provider Directory.

This Directory serves as the referral resource for the Florida Literacy Hotline and provides publicly available information on adult education and literacy programs in the state. Organizations were mailed an update form in September, and responses are needed to maintain accurate directory listings.

If your organization did not receive an update form, please contact Jonathan Cajigas, Referral Specialist, at 407-246-7110, x201, or [cajigasj@floridaliteracy.org](mailto:cajigasj@floridaliteracy.org).

## Technology Corner

### Flash Card Apps

**Purpose:** Help students practice recognizing how words are spelled and how they sound without the use of embarrassing flash cards. You can also find apps with quiz-like features to help learners grasp when they are correct or incorrect.

**Preparation time:** Trial and error. You might need to try different apps based on the type of phone your learner uses.

**Materials:** Smartphone and the internet

#### Procedure:

1. Search for flashcard applications on your phone and help your student search through the applications on his/her phone.
2. There are several applications that allow you to upload an excel sheet or use someone else's excel files as flashcards. Start by going to [www.studystack.com](http://www.studystack.com).
3. Once you get a feel for it, you can decide if you need or want to start creating your own lists.
4. For a list of the top 5 study applications for smart phones, scan the QR code or go to <http://tinyurl.com/6mbko49>.



## UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

### The Verizon Foundation

<http://foundation.verizon.com/grant/guidelines.shtml>

The Verizon Foundation is in the business of improving lives in literacy, knowledge and a readiness for the 21st Century. Verizon helps people to increase their literacy and educational achievement.  
\$5,000 - \$10,000

**Deadline:** January 1st through the last business day of October

### The Darragh MacAnthony Foundation

<http://www.darraghmacanthony.com/darragh-macanthony-philanthropy/>

The Darragh MacAnthony Foundation provides scholarships, funding for books, educational tools, and support for local community efforts. Mr. MacAnthony resides part of the year in Florida and is interested in expanding the Foundation's giving in the Sunshine State.

**Deadline:** Ongoing

### FINRA Investor Education Foundation

<http://www.finrafoundation.org/grants/general/>

FINRA Investor Education Foundation provides underserved Americans with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary for financial success throughout life. Currently the Foundation is especially interested in applications that focus on the following areas: helping Americans manage their finances and investments in retirement, meeting the financial and investor education needs of underserved audiences, using behavioral finance to improve saving and investing, and improving investor protection.

**Deadline:** Ongoing

## Submit Your News!

Has your organization received funding or planned a major 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).

## Resources

### CALPRO - ESL Explicit Literacy Impact Study. Adult Education Research Webinar Series - 2010

The purpose of this study was to test the impact of a curriculum-based explicit literacy intervention for low-literacy adult ESL learners. In this webinar Dr. Larry Condelli looks at the effectiveness of these interventions on different subgroups of learners and how teaching styles affect learning outcomes.

<http://www.nzliteracyportal.org.nz/imsdirector.php?resid=5371&ruid=4892>

### Adult Literacy Instruction: A Review of the Research

*Adult Literacy Instruction: A Review of the Research* is a follow-up to the original review of Adult Education reading instruction, *Research-Based Principles for Adult Basic Education Reading Instruction*, published in 2002. This new report is an analysis of the Adult Education reading instruction research base, designed as a resource for both practitioners and reading researchers. It focuses on findings that can be derived from the research and their application in Adult Education settings.

[http://lincs.ed.gov/publications/pdf/adult\\_ed\\_2010.pdf](http://lincs.ed.gov/publications/pdf/adult_ed_2010.pdf)

### Learning Progressions for Adult Literacy and Numeracy

This report provides the theoretical and research base behind the Learning Progressions for Literacy and Numeracy and allied resources. It first considers the nature of adult learners and learning. It addresses ESOL learners and their idiosyncratic needs due to their cultural knowledge and language proficiency, and indicates that the Learning Progressions are not ESOL progressions. The report focuses on sociocultural practices, vocabulary, critical thinking.

[http://lincs.ed.gov/lincs/resourcecollections/abstracts/basicskills/RC\\_skills\\_abs75](http://lincs.ed.gov/lincs/resourcecollections/abstracts/basicskills/RC_skills_abs75)



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

### BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Literacy resource packet
  - Discounted Florida Literacy Conference registration
  - Membership reception at the Florida Literacy Conference
  - Professional development opportunities
  - FLC's Literacy News print and e-newsletters
  - Eligibility to submit nominations for the Florida Literacy Awards
  - Membership certificate for organizational members only
- 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