

NEVADA

Connections

Produced by Community College Southern Nevada to connect resources for Nevada's adult workforce

Volume 6 Number 3

November 2000

Get paid for your plans

Last year the Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning (AALL) received a grant from the National Institute for Literacy (NIFL) to produce Internet-based lessons for the adult student. AALL is soliciting lessons from the eight western states covered by the Mountain Plains Adult Education Association, and will pay a stipend of \$50-\$100 for each lesson, depending on its complexity.

According to Maureen Hoyt (maureenh@az-aall.org), who coordinates the project along with Peggy Maher, the rate of reimbursement is:

- \$50 for a teacher and student page with no audio or graphics (may be more for a very extensive lesson, such as the nutrition lesson)
- \$75 for 3-4 pages that include graphics and/or audio
- \$100 for lessons of 4-6 pages with graphics and/or audio.

Check out the site at www.az-aall.org; and follow the link to "lessons" to see what's been posted so far.

Exhibit booths available to adult educators

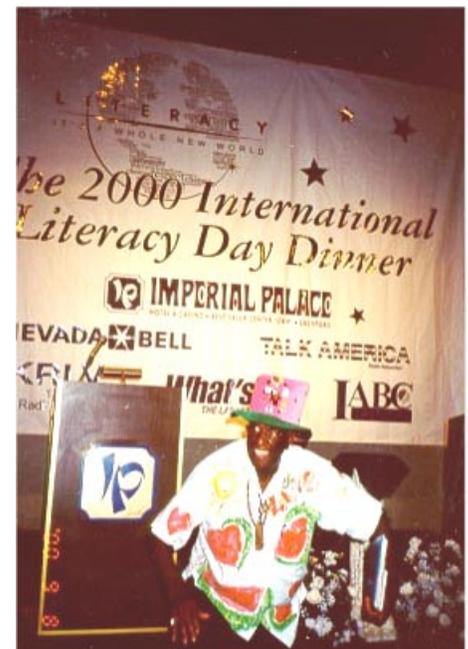
Here's a tool that can help adult basic education and adult high school diploma programs convey information about literacy, adult education, and their individual programs. The Skyline portable display booths purchased through the Literate Nevada Project make it easy to display banners, brochures, flyers, and other printed information. Two sizes are available.

One model is 8 feet high by 8 feet wide, available through Vicki Newell at the Northern Nevada Literacy Council (775/356-1007, director@nnlc.reno.nv.us) or through Ronna Timpa at Catholic Charities (702/383-8387, rtimpa@yahoo.com). A 4x6-foot tabletop display is also housed at Catholic Charities.

You can create your own graphics and attach them with Velcro. The booths fold down into easily manageable size for transporting. Contact Vicki Newell for further information.

Editor: Sharyn Yanoshak
Phone: 702/253-6280
Fax: 702/871-3374
E-mail: syank@ix.netcom.com

Community College
of Southern Nevada
3200 E. Cheyenne Ave. – K1A
North Las Vegas, NV 89030



Wally "Famous" Amos was the featured speaker at this year's International Literacy Day Dinner. More than 400 people attended the annual September event at the Imperial Palace, honoring the "First Lady of Las Vegas" Carolyn Goodman and raising nearly \$6,000 for the Southern Nevada Literacy Coalition.

Get going on GED!

In little more than a year, the “new” version of the GED will be in place. Of special importance: GED candidates holding partial scores must complete the 1988-series battery of tests before the new version goes into effect. If a candidate has not successfully completed the battery by January 1, 2002, his or her scores will be invalidated and he or she must start again with the new test series.

In a recent article in *Developments*, Janet Anderson (Washington Office of Adult Literacy) succinctly summarized the changes:

What will stay the same?

- Paper and pencil tests will continue. The new tests will not be taken online since too many testing centers are in locations without enough computers to serve test takers.
- The current five tests will remain the same: 1) Language Arts: Writing - including an essay, 2) Language Arts: Reading, 3) Social Studies, 4) Science, and 5) Mathematics.
- Skills will be measured across content areas. Types of reading in all tests will include reading for aesthetic response, for information and analysis, and for critical analysis and evaluation.
- The types of texts will include texts in different media (graphics), informational texts, historical, political, social/ cultural texts, and different kinds of literature.

What will change?

- Language Arts and Social Studies tests will have increased numbers of analysis and synthesis questions.
- The NSES Scientific Understanding Strands will replace Bloom's Taxonomy on the Science test.
- The new tests will come with multi-function calculators provided for the first portion of the test. However, because the test specifications committee concluded that it is critical for GED graduates to demonstrate estimation and "mental math" skills, calculator use will be prohibited for 20 percent of the math test. The remainder will include authentic charts and numbers for data analysis and statistics.
- The new tests will include a limited number of items that can be gridded on a machine-scorable answer sheet. In responding to such a test item, for example, a test taker might be asked to graph the slope of a line or "bubble in" a numerical response.

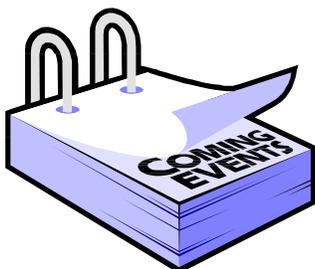
New practice tests will be in the field one year before the introduction of the new tests. Steck-Vaughn has received the contract for paper and pencil tests and Contemporary for software.

Video resources

You may borrow a tape for two weeks from CCSN's Adult Basic Skills library. Contact Bob d'Orleans, 702/651-4974 or e-mail syank@ix.netcom.com.



- **The GED, You and Me** (tape #M59, March 22, 2000): Joan Auchter, Executive Director of the GED Testing Service, heads a panel discussion about changes to the exam.
- **GED 2002: Everything You Need to Know** (tape #M60, April 27, 2000): Joan Auchter and others answer questions about what's new, what's the same, and the reasons behind the revisions. Includes advice on how to begin retraining teachers and tips on preparing learners for the new tests. Features Mirage Hotel's GED Workplace Program! Handout includes samples of new test items, new answer key formats, scoring guidelines for the essay section, and a list of Web-based training resources for teachers and administrators.



New Literacies for New Times:

Integrating Technology and the Internet Into the Curriculum An International Reading Association Forum

Saturday, December 2, 2000

Ontario, CA

Saturday, February 3, 2001

Savannah, GA

Saturday, March 31, 2001

Kansas City, MI

IRA members \$149; Non-members \$209; Full-time students \$99.

Information: 800/336-READ, ext. 438; forums@reading.org; www.reading.org/conferences/forums

Adult and Alternative Education Task Force recommends changes

—Laura Hale, Adult and Alternative Education Consultant, 775/687-9193, lhale@nsn.k12.nv.us

The Adult and Alternative Education Task Force met several times between February and June of 2000 to review the programs and make recommendations for improved performance, reporting, and accountability. Representatives from business, the Nevada State Legislature, the State Board of Education, the Legislative Counsel Bureau, adult basic education programs, adult high school diploma programs, alternative education programs, and the Nevada Department of Education participated.



Changes to Code

Recommendations that require changes to Nevada Administrative Code include the following:

A workshop covering these recommendations was presented at the meeting of the State Board of Education on September 16, 2000. A hearing was held October 21 in Carson City; and another is scheduled for December 9 in Las Vegas. These hearings provide an opportunity for public input from interested parties.

- 1) Allow 16 year olds who drop out of high school to take the GED test to enroll in Adult High School Diploma (AHSD) programs only for the purpose of test preparation. This will address a gap in service to students who drop out of school to take the test, but fail and need additional preparation.
- 2) Remove references to “part-time” students under the definition for adult education since many students participate on a full-time equivalent basis.
- 3) Allow credits to be awarded to adult and alternative education students who demonstrate competency that meets state standards, regardless of seat time. Program administrators would need to obtain approval from the State Superintendent prior to offering such classes.
- 4) Remove language regarding apportionment of funds to be strictly based on enrollment counts. The Department of Education is proposing a funding formula that utilizes incentives for completions and sets aside 5 percent of the total amount for competitive funding of instruction in English as a Second Language (ESL), childcare, and transportation.

Statutory changes

Recommendations that require statutory changes will be presented to the Legislative Committee on Education on October 24, 2000 in Las Vegas. These recommendations include the following:

- 1) Remove references to “part-time” students within AHSD program related statute.
- 2) Remove requirement for the reporting of average daily attendance for AHSD programs.
- 3) Provide adequate funding for alternative education programs through average enrollments and funds following students who transfer into these programs.
- 4) Continue funding of AHSD programs with authority for the Department of Education to allocate funds in accordance with a plan or formula.
- 5) Allow a percentage of the AHSD funds to be used for competitive funding of ESL instruction, childcare, and transportation. Expand eligible recipients to include qualified providers who are not under the school district.
- 6) Allow up to 1.5 percent of the AHSD funds to be used for state-level administration.

Remaining issues, such as program definitions, completion standards and competency indicators will be addressed by an advisory committee that will begin meeting in January of 2000. Contact Phyllis Dryden, Mary Katherine Moen, or Laura Hale at the Department of Education for additional information: 775/687-9100.



Mini-grants in high gear

Sharon Newton (Yerington Adult Diploma Program) is enrolled in PBS' "Using Technology to Teach Adults Certificate Program A," learning how to integrate technology into her curriculum. **Rossana Soltani and Gerri DeMattei** (Winnemucca Learning Center) are piloting a "Tuition Credit Award Program" that provides ESL/ABE students an incentive to attend college-level computer classes. **Angela Stack** (Lovelock Correctional Center) is "Teaching Literacy through the Performance Arts" by guiding inmate students in producing *Camelot*, complete with set designs, props, and lighting.

If you've got a new, creative idea or project you'd like to try in a classroom or tutoring environment, you may apply for up to \$1,000 in mini-grant funds. These funds are open to any adult education practitioner who works in an established Nevada program for adults who do not have a high school diploma.

Applications must be postmarked by the last Friday of the month: November 24 and December 29 in 2000; January 26, 2001. Applications are available from 702/651-4974; syank@ix.netcom.com

Success with Crossroads Café

A recent study showed adult learners with the lowest pre-test scores upon entering programs have the greatest learning gains after using the Crossroads Café video series for ESL instruction. The average learning gain was about equal to a move to the next ESL proficiency level on the CASAS scale in a study of 100 learners at ten sites in California, Florida, and New York. For more information contact Blair Rudes at 703/276-0677. *Source: "The Buzz" (PA Adult Education Newsletter) May 2000.*

This professional development project is a leadership activity funded by a grant from the Nevada State Department of Education, Workforce Investment Act, Title II (Adult Education and Family Literacy). There is no discrimination or denial of participation on the basis of gender, race, national origin, color, disability, age, or sexual orientation.

Community College Southern Nevada
Community, Rural & Distance Education
3200 East Cheyenne Avenue – K1A
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030-4296

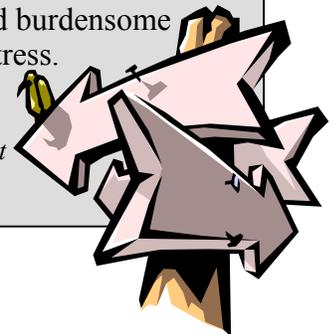
De-stress tip #3

Make as few unimportant decisions as possible

People are decision weary. Save your brainpower and energy for truly significant issues. Some organizations have gone overboard on team structure when it comes to decision-making and management by consensus. People are tired of attending meeting after meeting to give their input on every small issue that comes up. What color carpet in the hallways? Should we bind the proposal in leather? Fax or e-mail it? And so on.

Draw a fine line between choices that we all want to have and burdensome choices that generate stress.

—Dianna Booher
Colleyville, TX
Training & Development
September 1999



Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1618
Las Vegas, NV