

# NEVADA

# Connections

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

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**Special  
Issue!  
EL/Civics**

## EL/Civics programs take different means to same end

Nevada received \$542,609 from the U.S. Department of Education to be used in 2001-2002 specifically for English Literacy and Civics Education (EL/Civics). These funds are geared to providing integrated services that will not only help students improve their English skills, but will help them understand and navigate governmental, educational, workplace, and institutional systems.

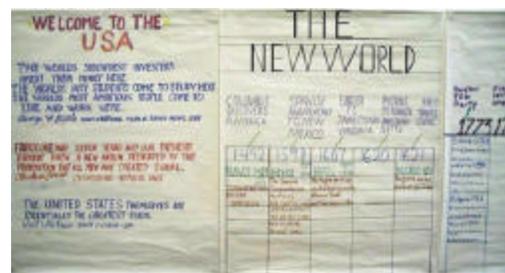
Five programs emerged successfully from the competitive grant application process administered by the State Department of Education. Reflecting the diversity and creativity of Nevada's adult education community, each program has a different thrust. (Program directors are shown in parentheses.)

As the largest literacy program in the state, the Community College of Southern Nevada plans to register 800 students in Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Mesquite, and Pahrump and focus on community, workplace, and citizenship skills. Classes will follow the mandated "intensity and duration" model that research and experience has shown works so well: students attend classes from 9-12 hours per week for 5-7 weeks. (Terri Kaulentis, 702.651.4892, [terri\\_kaulentis@ccsn.nevada.edu](mailto:terri_kaulentis@ccsn.nevada.edu))

The Computer Assisted Literacy in Libraries (CALL) program will use a combination of intensive classroom instruction, one-on-one tutoring, and computer-assisted instruction at nine sites throughout the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District. Although the major emphasis will be in communities with largely Hispanic populations, communities with large Asian populations will be targeted as well. CALL will also seek to form partnerships with other organizations that serve the same clientele and may offer classes at their sites. (Connie Barker, 702.382.3493, [barkerc@lvccld.lib.nv.us](mailto:barkerc@lvccld.lib.nv.us))

The HABLE (Hispanic Association For Bilingual Literacy and Education) program, also in Las Vegas, will focus on EL/Civics within the context of job skills and community involvement. (Priscilla Rocha, 702.229.2577, [webmaster@HABLESER.zzn.com](mailto:webmaster@HABLESER.zzn.com)).

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*CCSN instructor Bruce Craig (702.383.8593) guided his advanced ESL/Citizenship class through development of a U.S. and world history timeline. Each student researched historical events in his or her native country and submitted the information to the appropriate student team. The teams analyzed and transferred the data to a wall chart reflecting U.S. history. The chart includes connecting links to events in the students' native lands.*

## EL/Civics (continued from page 1)

In Reno, the Northern Nevada Literacy Council plans to supplement class work with community work by placing graduates of its Civics Leadership Skills classes on committees and boards of local agencies and organizations. NNLC also plans to conduct student focus groups to examine the roles of parents in America compared to those in the students' native countries, then develop a curriculum to address the cultural differences. (Vicki Newell, 775.356.1007, [director@nnlc.reno.nv.us](mailto:director@nnlc.reno.nv.us))

Along with classes at the main campus, the Old Town Mall, and various community centers, Truckee Meadows Community College will offer two distance education classes per year via community access cable TV. Tapes of these programs will be made available to other programs in the state.

TMCC will also build and make available performance-based curricula for citizenship and civics courses based in part on CASAS assessment competencies. (Paul Marsala, 775.829-9026, [pmarsala@tmcc.edu](mailto:pmarsala@tmcc.edu))



## What is civics education?

—Susan Graf, Nevada Literacy Coalition, 800.445.9673, 775.684.3340, [sfgraf@clan.lib.nv.us](mailto:sfgraf@clan.lib.nv.us)

According to the National Center for ESL Literacy Education (NCLE), for adult English language learners, civics education is a broad term that includes:

- instruction on how to gain U.S. citizenship;
- instruction about U.S. history and culture, including lessons on diversity and multiculturalism; and
- instruction and guidance on becoming active participants in their new communities.

### Resources

- NCLE provides 76 full-text ERIC Digests about Adult ESL and an EL/Civics Lesson Collection at [www.cal.org/ncle](http://www.cal.org/ncle). The November 2000 Q&A, Civics Education for Adult English Language Learners, by Lynda Terrill presents an excellent overview ([www.cal.org/ncle/digests/civics.htm](http://www.cal.org/ncle/digests/civics.htm)).
- The Nevada Literacy Coalition/State Literacy Resource Center has purchased 25 new resources specifically recommended on the NCLE site for Civics Education. A bibliography is available upon request.
- Utah's EL/Civics syllabus and resource list, which includes videos, software, publishers, etc., is also available from the Nevada Literacy Coalition.

## More EL/Civics resources

—Paul Heavenridge, Director, Western/Pacific Literacy Network, 510.658.4630, [pheaven@literacynet.org](mailto:pheaven@literacynet.org)

- “Becoming a U.S. Citizen” at [www.home-industries.com/citizenship](http://www.home-industries.com/citizenship) provides stories of students' experiences with the process—all in their own words. The site also includes useful links for applicants.
- The Northern California Citizenship Project (NCCP) offers a four-hour voter education curriculum, *New Citizens Vote!: An Educational Curriculum About Voting and Civic Engagement*, at [www.ncg.org/difference/citi\\_curr.html](http://www.ncg.org/difference/citi_curr.html). The curriculum reflects a great deal of research; work with immigrant and refugee focus groups; regular consultations with an advisory committee comprised of educators, advocates, and organizers from numerous ethnic communities; and several pilot trainings.
- *The Civic Participation and Community Action Sourcebook* (<http://easternlinks.worlded.org/docs/vera/index1.htm>) reflects the many dimensions of civic and community involvement. Its purpose is to present a range of tools that can help readers examine their own beliefs about community, citizenship, democracy, etc.; identify and analyze issues that concern them; and build skills and strategies to take informed action.
- There is a host of additional English Literacy/Civics Education links, each with a good, concise description, from the U.S. Dept. of Education at [www.ed.gov/offices/OVAE/ELCIVICS/elcivlinks.html](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OVAE/ELCIVICS/elcivlinks.html).

## Citizenship resources ...



### Study online

Students can study for the U.S. Citizenship Test on the Web ([www.uscitizenship.org](http://www.uscitizenship.org)); there is a \$20 fee for people who do not live in Minnesota. The site also contains information and resources for instructors.

### For teachers

*Source: "Preparing Students for an INS Interview," an article from "field notes" (Massachusetts adult education newsletter), summer 2000. Author: Lynne Weintraub, Citizenship Teacher at Jone Library, Amherst, MA; 413.256.8037, [lynneweintraub@hotmail.com](mailto:lynneweintraub@hotmail.com)*

- *The INS Citizenship Interview. Will They Pass?* Video of mock interviews and information to help teachers and students determine whether the applicant is likely to be approved for citizenship. Available from New Readers Press, 800.448.8878. Web catalogue: [www.newreaderspress.com](http://www.newreaderspress.com).
- *INS: A Guide to Naturalization.* Free booklet available through local INS

offices, on the Web at [www.ins.usdoj.gov/graphics/services/natz/insfnl.pdf](http://www.ins.usdoj.gov/graphics/services/natz/insfnl.pdf), or through the INS Forms Line: 800.870.3676. An on-line practice test is also available on the INS Web page.

### Software

Joanne Ostergaard (775.445.4452, [jco@unr.nevada.edu](mailto:jco@unr.nevada.edu)) reports that Western Nevada Community College students find the *Road to Citizenship* software helpful. The program consists of nine sections, one of which specifically addresses material needed to complete the history and government test. There are a variety of different exercises, including extensive practice with speaking English using the proven "listen-imitate-compare" method. All text is spoken so that you can hear as well as read it.

Joanne said, "I did an extensive Web search and this is one of the few reasonably priced citizenship programs I found." The classroom version, which includes a student management system, network installation and five CDs for student use, costs \$325 and is available from Trinity Software (800.352.1282, [www.trinitysoftware.com](http://www.trinitysoftware.com)).



*CASAS Assessment Specialist Joanne Ostergaard (at right) with Teri Zutter, ABE Program Director at WNCC.*

### ESL providers in Southern Nevada

The Nevada Literacy Coalition recently published a listing of non-profit ESL providers in Clark County. The 17 umbrella organizations — such as the Community College of Southern Nevada's ABE/ESL Program, the Clark County School District's Adult Education Program, and Family Resource Centers — are organized alphabetically. The 99 individual sites are organized by zip code. Contact JoAnne Goena (800.445.9673, [jgoena@clan.lib.nv.us](mailto:jgoena@clan.lib.nv.us)), for a copy.

A directory of all non-profit literacy providers throughout the state is available online at the Coalition's Web site: <http://dmla.clan.lib.nv.us/docs/nsla/literacy/>.

The U.S. Hispanic population increased 58% from 1990 to 2000, compared to just 13% population growth for the nation as a whole, according to 2000 Census data. In Nevada, the Hispanic population grew 217% during the last decade, to 393,970. Nevada's Asian population also increased significantly, from 33,252 to 88,593.

## *Connecting resources for Nevada's adult workforce*

### National online directory on the way

The National Clearinghouse for Bilingual Education and the ERIC Clearinghouse on Language and Linguistics are preparing an *Online Directory of ESL Resources*, which will provide contact information for national and state ESL associations, state literacy resource centers, state education agencies, state and regional affiliates of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, regional labs, technical assistance centers, professional organizations, publishers, clearinghouses, listservs, and other online resources. The directory will include resources for pre-K through adult. Watch for it at [www.ncbe.gwu.edu](http://www.ncbe.gwu.edu).

Proposals to present at the Mountain Plains Adult Education Association Conference in Phoenix May 1-4, 2002 are due by October 15<sup>th</sup>. Visit the Web site at [www.mpaea.org](http://www.mpaea.org) (then click on conferences) or contact one of Nevada's MPAEA Board Members:

- Vicki Newell, 775.356.1007, [director@nrlc.reno.nv.us](mailto:director@nrlc.reno.nv.us);
- Julee Henson, 702.799.0172, [grannyhens@aol.com](mailto:grannyhens@aol.com).