

NEVADA Connections

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

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Federal funds provide statewide service and support

In accordance with the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA), each year Nevada allocates some of the federal monies targeted for ABE/ESL instruction for statewide leadership projects. These projects are varied and may involve the implementation of federal mandates, such as program monitoring, development of a State Plan, etc. However, the overriding purpose of these projects is to provide support and resources to help programs improve student performance.

Although the services offered through these projects are geared to the needs of the AEFLA-funded programs, many of the activities, such as this newsletter, the professional development workshops, the SLRC, etc., are open to ALL adult educators in Nevada. Below is a short summary of key leadership projects for 2003-2004.

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	CONTACT
Professional Development	Pre-service training and ongoing workshops for instructors and tutors; management training	Sharyn Yanoshak saylv@cox.net , 702/253-6280
Bridges to Practice Training Team	Provides training based on NIFL's (National Institute for Literacy) program for adults with learning disabilities	Vicki Newell director@nnlc.org , 775/356-1007
CASAS Training and Support	Site consultation and workshops on use of the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System	Paul Marsala pmarsala@tmcc.edu , 775/929-9026
Just Right for Nevada	Database system for reporting program data to the Nevada Dept. of Education/National Reporting System	Ken Zutter, jrd@kenzutter.com , 775/884-4185
Curriculum Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESL curricula for low/intermediate, low/advanced, high/intermediate, and high/advanced (www.literacynet.org/nevada/esl.html) ESL computer literacy (www.literacynet.org/nvesl/index.html) 	Paul Marsala pmarsala@tmcc.edu , 775/929-9026
State Literacy Resource Center (SLRC)	Provides multi-media resources, facilities, and equipment	Susan Graf, sfgraf@clan.lib.nv.us , 800/445-9673 or 775/684-3340
Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly <i>Nevada Connections</i> newsletter NV literacy Web site (www.literacynet.org/nevada) 	Sharyn Yanoshak saylv@cox.net , 702/253-6280
Volunteer Literacy Project	Provides training, technical support, and resources to volunteer programs	Susan Graf, sfgraf@clan.lib.nv.us , 800/445-9673 or 775/684-3340
18-24 Year Old Credential Initiative	Collaboration to increase high school/GED completion for 18-24 year old Nevadans (www.unlv.edu/centers/workforce) (See article on page 4.)	Vicki Newell director@nnlc.org , 775/356-1007
Five-year State Adult Education Plan	Development of updated Plan as required by U.S. Dept. of Education	Mary Katherine Moen mkmoen@nsn.k12.nv.us 775/687-9167

Free training for Nevada's adult educators

The following free workshops are offered through ABE leadership funds and are available to all adult educators in Nevada on a space-available basis. Contact the appropriate host to reserve a seat!

<u>Title/date/place</u>	<u>Host (contact)</u>	<u>Presenter and objectives</u>
Goal Setting and Retention Strategies 11/14/03 Sparks	Geri Sabori Northern NV Literacy Council 775/356-1007 eslcoordinator@nnlc.org	Janell Baker. Familiarize teachers with the NRS requirements that involve students setting goals. Give teachers the tools and resources to help students set realistic goals. Assist teachers in getting their students involved in their own academic planning and monitoring of their goals.
New GED Teaching Tips and Techniques 11/21/03 Las Vegas	Connie Barker C.A.L.L. 702/507-3534 barkerm@lvccld.org	Jeanie Thibault. Assist the GED instructor to develop adaptive techniques that maximize any learning situation. Provide the GED instructor with a toolbox of teaching techniques that mesh teaching and learning styles to the best advantage. Present methods of using critical-thinking skills to expedite content learning.
Teaching and Learning Styles 12/12/03 Sparks	Geri Sabori Northern NV Literacy Council 775/356-1007, eslcoordinator@nnlc.org	Joan Cook. Identify the elements of one's teaching style and develop an understanding of how that style impacts learners. Understand how the styles of teachers and learners interact and discover methods to effectively utilize and harmonize them with the diversity of style in the classroom. Develop learning environments that encourage the use of a variety of learning styles.
12/13/03 Las Vegas	Nita Russell-Latham 702/693-6761 Catholic Charities jlatham@catholiccharities.com	
Bridges to Practice – Part 3 11/14/03 Carson City	JoAnne Goena Nevada Literacy Coalition 800/445-9673; 775/684-3340 jgoena@clan.lib.nv.us	Carson City: Claudia Bianca-DeBay and Diana Bossart Las Vegas: Jennifer Miller and Lyn Pizor The Planning Process: Prepare to develop the instructional plan. Develop the instructional plan. Select materials to implement the instructional plan.
11/15/03 Las Vegas	Lyn Pizor UNLV 702/895-0694 lynpizor@yahoo.com	
Bridges to Practice – Part 4 12/5/03 Carson City	JoAnne Goena Nevada Literacy Coalition 800/445-9673; 775/684-3340 jgoena@clan.lib.nv.us	Carson City: Claudia Bianca-DeBay and Diana Bossart Las Vegas: Jennifer Miller and Lyn Pizor The Teaching/Learning Process: Meet the challenge of teaching adults with learning disabilities. Create an appropriate learning environment with instructional adaptations and accommodations. Learn LD-appropriate instruction techniques and methods.
12/6/03 Las Vegas	Lyn Pizor UNLV 702/895-0694 lynpizor@yahoo.com	

New at the SLRC: PBL Handbook

The State Literacy Resource Center (SLRC) has acquired the *Project Based Learning Handbook*, published in 2003 by the Buck Institute for Education (\$22, ISBN 0-9740343-0-4). Although it is subtitled "A Guide to Standards-Focused Project Based Learning for Middle and High School Teachers," most of the content is applicable or can easily be adapted to adult education.

Along with a comprehensive description of the history and nature of project based learning, the book is packed with helpful tools, tips, and lessons learned. For example, on page 20 is a chart that gives four examples that show the differences between activity-based instruction and project based learning. On page 57 is an admonition regarding the limitation of project based learning and where it is *not* an effective instructional approach. The book includes complete explanations for five specific examples of projects, such as:

- The Subtle Media Manipulation Project: Students research subcultures and create a media presentation.
- The Hispanic Diabetes Project: Students research the effect of diabetes on local Hispanic residents and create a video on prevention and awareness.

You may borrow the book from the SLRC. Contact Susan Graf, sfgraf@clan.lib.nv.us, 800/445-9673 or 775/684-3340.

Editor's Note: Paul Marsala, ABE Director at TMCC, frequently entrusts Sandy Lokken with tasks beyond the scope of some Administrative Assistants. He recently asked her to sit in on a leadership team meeting he could not attend; Sandy not only fully participated in the meeting, but thanked the team leader for the privilege! That service "attitude" is but one of the reasons for highlighting Sandy's work.

Sandy Lokken: super service with a smile

Sandy's professional life has always involved customer service. While putting herself "nearly through" college (she's 5 credits away from a Bachelor's degree), she worked at ShopKo in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. After moving to Reno in the early 90's, she worked for Reno Air, first assembling baskets of goodies for first-class passengers, and then supervising food catering for the airline, and finally helping employees as a specialist in the Benefits Department. When American Airlines absorbed Reno Air, Sandy parachuted into the Adult Basic Education Department at Truckee Meadows Community College.



Sandy's navigated through many changes in the adult education field during the last five years, assisting the TMCC program to nearly double its enrollment.

Her personal life has been stable though, thanks to her 16-year marriage to her soul mate, Fred, Associate Dean of Teaching Technologies at TMCC; their children Theresa and Sean; dog Cody; cat Samantha; and three fish named Bruiser, Louie the Second, and Bob. The close-knit family spends much of their free time together and all are extremely compatible — except for the fish, which each need their own bowl!

Sandy's hobbies are needlework (cross-stitch is her favorite) and plants. With 25-30 plants thriving, she hopes to one day build a greenhouse.

Asked why she was in the adult education field, Sandy replied, "Meeting all the wonderful people who are involved in adult ed. and seeing firsthand the good that each one of us do — it gives me a warm and fuzzy feeling each and every day." Those who have interacted with Sandy would likely say that she gives as good as she gets!

Reno honors TMCC's ABE/ESL Program

Truckee Meadows Tomorrow, a non-profit organization working to improve the quality of life in the Truckee Meadows area, recently presented a Silver Star Award to TMCC's ABE/ESL Program.

Nominated by community members, "Star" recipients are selected for various categories (such as education, economic vitality, arts and culture, etc.) for their contributions to various quality-of-life indicators.



*Paul Marsala,
Director, TMCC
ABE/ESL Program*

The rapidly expanding TMCC program was cited for providing educational opportunities for those hardest to serve and most in need within the Reno/Sparks community. A staff of more than 40 volunteers and nearly 40 paid team members served approximately 1,500 students during 2002-2003, nearly three-quarters of which achieved an educational or job-related outcome reportable to the National Reporting System.

Classes are offered at three of TMCC's campuses, at elementary schools, at the Washoe County Jail, and in collaboration with community facilities in Reno, Incline Village, and the Tahoe North Shore.

It's never too late to become what you might have been. —George Eliot

Connecting resources for Nevada's adult workforce

Business, education, and agencies collaborate
to give young adults the edge

Give yourself the
Edge!

Nevada has the dubious distinction of ranking next to the lowest state in the nation for number of 18-24 year olds who have earned a High School Diploma or GED.

Key players in business, industry, labor, and adult education are working with state and local agencies to increase the high school credential completion rate through Nevada's Statewide 18-24 Year Old Credential Initiative. According to Chairperson Frankie Sue Del Papa, former Nevada Attorney General, "The first phase of the Initiative will focus on employed individuals who lack minimum educational credentials; then we will move on to unemployed individuals."

The Committee has identified several specific ways to help. For more information:

- Call toll-free 866/886-2787
- Visit www.unlv.edu/centers/workforce
- Contact Project Director Vicki Newell, 775/356-1007, director@nnlc.org

Family issues are key barriers to obtaining GED

Researcher Craig King used an instrument developed by G. G. Darkenwald of Rutgers University to determine what barriers recent high school dropouts encountered in pursuing available GED programs.

Results of the study showed that the primary barrier was related to family constraints. Subjects indicated they had lack of encouragement from family and friends, would have to reduce time with their family to pursue a GED, had difficulty arranging childcare, and had other family problems that affected participation.

Source: King, Craig. 2002. "Barriers Affecting GED Participation Among Recent High School Dropouts." *Adult Basic Education* 12 (Fall): 145-156.