



# The Review

## for Adult Education and Literacy

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### Adult Education Plans for the New Year

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#### Special points of interest:

- \* Lynn Stewart shares her teaching philosophy
- \* Oklahoma programs exceed all of the Adult Basic Education Functioning Levels
- \* Introducing OKWorks
- \* Adult Educators attend ProLiteracy World Conference

Adult Education and Literacy has had an exciting year as illustrated through the successful 2004 Adult Education Annual Report! I would like to congratulate the 2004-2005 Oklahoma Adult Education Teacher of the Year, Lynn Stewart, for her tremendous contributions to Adult Education. Also, congratulations to the Academy Awards of Success recipients and the Equipped for the Future (EFF) pilot programs initiated in 2004 and 2005.

I am excited about the wonderful new professional development opportunities for Adult Education teachers offered in 2005. The TANF Teachers' Retreat, which was held in January, addressed

the barriers TANF clients often face in the areas of employment, transition, and education. During the Assistive Technology and Self Advocacy for Adult Learners workshop, which was also held in January, adult educators had hands-on experience using assistive technology to help adults with learning disabilities. In February 2005, an exciting new Financial Literacy workshop was held in partnership with the Oklahoma Council on Economic Education and the Oklahoma City Branch of the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank. This workshop provided Adult Education teachers with strategies for integrating the *Financial Fitness for Life* curriculum into their instructional programs. Using the

computer-adapted version of the Basic English Skills Test (BEST) to assess limited English speaking adults was the topic of the BEST Plus workshops, also held in February. In April, English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers will be introduced to a multi-level English Literacy (EL)/Civics curriculum at the EL/Civics workshops.

May the New Year bring each of you the most successful year ever in your Adult Education classes.



Sincerely,

*Sandy Garrett*

State Superintendent

### Lynn Stewart Named 2004-2005 Oklahoma Adult Education Teacher of the Year

The Lifelong Learning Section of the Oklahoma State Department of Education recently awarded Lynn Stewart the 2004-2005 Oklahoma Adult Education Teacher of the Year Award. Ms. Stewart

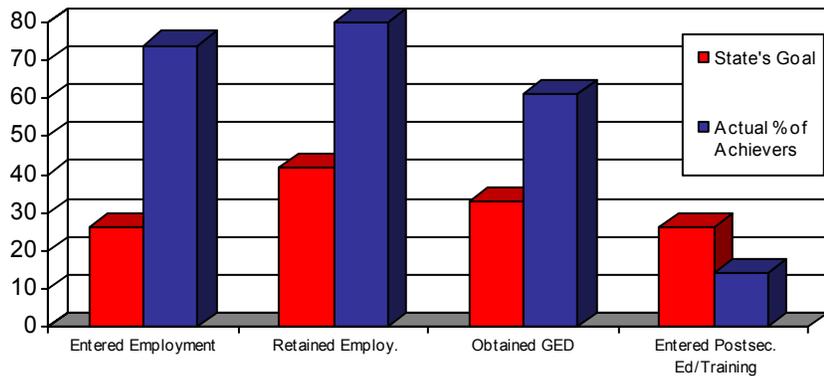
is a full time Adult Education teacher for the Lawton Public Schools' Adult Education and Literacy program. The award was presented during the "Summer in the City" conference for Adult Education teachers

and directors. Mike Bynum, 2002 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year, announced the Adult Education Teacher of the Year winner, recognized the finalists, and awarded prizes (continued page 2)

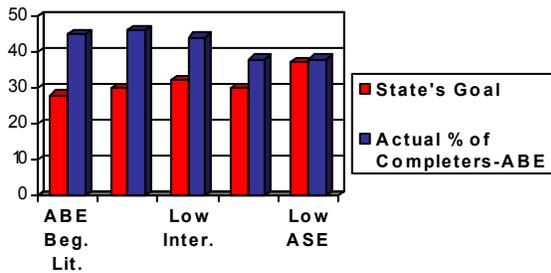
## Lines from Linda

We are pleased to announce the findings from the 2004 Annual Performance Report for Oklahoma's Adult Education and Literacy Program. The total unduplicated count of adults was 21,164. This includes 13,699 Adult Basic Education learners, 4,580 English as a Second Language learners, and 2,885 Adult Secondary Education learners. Thanks to each Adult Learning Center for your assistance in gathering data and submitting it to our office. We were able to meet our December deadline for submitting our reports to the United States Department of Education. And the results are:

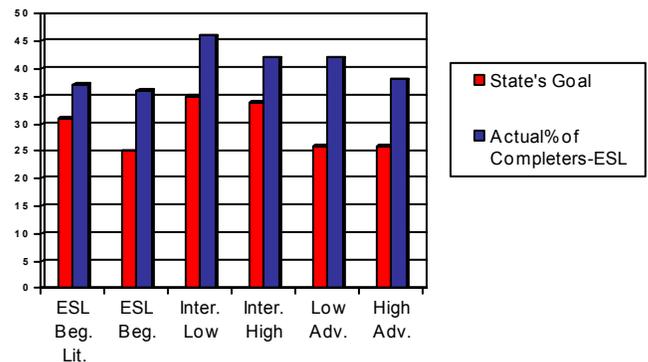
State's Goals and Actual Percentages of Completers for the Core Follow-up Measures FY2004 in Oklahoma



State's Goals and Actual Percentages of Completers by Educational Functioning Levels for **ABE** in FY2004 in Oklahoma



State's Goals and Actual Percentages of Completers by Functioning Levels for **ESL** in FY2004 in Oklahoma



## Lynn Stewart continued from page 1

and certificates.

"Receiving this award is an acknowledgement of a job well done not just for me, but also for the students and community partners that bring life to my adult education program" states Lynn Stewart of Lawton.

Stewart attributes much of her teaching success to her philosophy of "teaching to the person and not to the student" as she focuses on the needs of the individual. Stewart's learners experience success

through real life situations such as learning algebra during a shopping spree. Stewart's instructional style gradually evolved from "instruction-based to an individual-based" positive learning environment which fosters problem-solving that is applicable to students' daily lives."

"Teaching has always been a major part of my life from the one room school house where I tutored peers as a child, the university where I tutored athletes, and today as I teach adult learners," comments Stewart on her dedication to

teaching.

Stewart proactively works to solve various issues affecting adult education. (continued on page 6)



Mike Bynum and State Adult Education Director Linda Young congratulate Lynn Stewart.

## Lawton's Shared Book Club

by Lynn Stewart and Adrienne Wilson

The Lawton Adult Learning Center has initiated a joint book club between the ESL and the ABE/GED classes. The theme for the first book was agreed upon because of a concern shared by many in both classes: the death of a sibling or parent. Barbara Park's book Mick Harte Was Here deals specifically with a death of a teenage sibling. This award winning young adult book was selected because of its easy readability for the adult students and with the hope that they will read it to their own children.

Lynn Stewart, Lawton ABE/GED teacher, read the book aloud with the students following along. This led into group discussions on their personal experiences with recent deaths in their own lives. The learners' discussion also focused on ways to talk about and help their own children deal with death. Upon completion of the book, students were given the opportunity to reflect on the book in the form of a poem, personal narrative, or drawing.

The ESL teacher, Adrienne Wilson, developed activities in which

the ESL students read key phrases and words orally and practiced having conversations with each the new vocabulary words. Also, the students added many words to their own personal dictionaries, practiced various verb forms, and were introduced to the American "junior high" culture.

The classes met for lunch to discuss various aspects of the book. The Lawton Adult Learning Center director, Cheryl Monts, participated in this gathering. By coming together with Ms. Monts, students were encouraged to verbalize their ideas in front of people who are outside of their comfort zone. Students were thrilled to discover that their emotional responses to the book and life's situations were common to others' in the group.

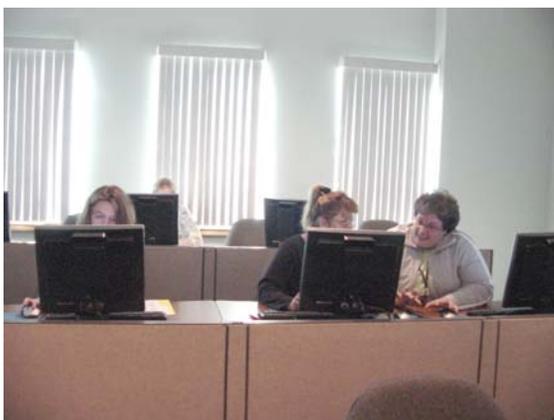
The spring semester holds numerous opportunities for the book club. The students have voiced interest in another Barbara Park book and poetry. The book club's goal is to introduce the students to a variety of types of literature and expand the book club to include more learners and teachers.

## 2003-2004 Academy Awards



During the 2004 Summer in the City Conference, awards were presented to the Adult Learning Centers which had the highest percentages of adults completing each of the ABE and ESL levels and to those which has the highest percentages achieving core follow-up measures. The following directors accepted the awards on behalf of their learning centers:

- Roger Wright, Jenks: Adult Basic Education (ABE) Beginning Literacy, Beginning English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Jane Baltimore, Ada: Beginning ABE
- Beverly Carson, Pauls Valley: Intermediate Low ABE, Intermediate High ESL
- Darlene Cobb, Tahlequah: Intermediate High ABE
- Dr. Ann Allen, Oklahoma City: Adult Secondary Education (ASE) Low
- JoAnna Jamison, Union: ESL Beginning Literacy, Obtained GED
- Cody Huckaby, Altus: Intermediate Low ESL
- Elizabeth Snyder, Tulsa: Low Advanced ESL
- Linda Dudek, Mid-Del: High Advanced ESL, Entered Employment
- H.T. McGee, Drumright: Retained Employment
- Clayton Nolen, Enid: Entered Postsecondary Education/Training



*Jane Buffington's classes in McAlester stress technology skills important in acquiring employment. Seventy-four percent of Oklahoma's adult learners with an employment goal gained employment. Read more about the 2004 Annual Performance Report findings on page 2.*

## New EFF Pilot Programs in Oklahoma

The Lifelong Learning Section of the Oklahoma State Department of Education is in its second year of Equipped for the Future (EFF) training. In addition to the several pilot adult learning centers which began incorporating EFF philosophies into adult education last year, more learning centers applied for and received funding to begin pilots in their areas. Currently, Ada, Bartlesville, Oklahoma City, Vinita, Muskogee, Enid, McAlester, Midwest City, Pauls Valley, and Chickasha are all developing pilot EFF programs.



*Taren Baumert of Vinita, Linda Whipple of Enid, and Pat White of Muskogee entertain the participants while using EFF techniques.*

EFF training involves three 3-day sessions with on-site visits between each session. The first and second training sessions were held on September 21-23 and December 1-3 with the third session scheduled for March 2-4, 2005. On-site visits will take place during the week of January 31st. Pam Blundell, Coordinator, Lifelong Learning Section, Kathy Thompson, Drumright Adult Education Teacher, Amy Trawick, Coordinator, EFF Reading Project, and Ann Marie Barter, EFF National Trainer, are joining together to offer the training and conduct on-site support visits as well as conference calls as needed.

Teachers and directors involved in the EFF training have stated that EFF provides direction for instruction that addresses the individual needs of learners relevant and applicable to life in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

One participant remarked that "EFF makes teaching basic skills more relevant to the lives of my students. They love it!"

While new programs are receiving a general introduction to EFF, they are also involved in a more in-depth training of the standard *Read with Understanding*. Areas addressed include teaching reading at all levels using a standards-based approach,

taking inventory of reading materials available to adults in the classroom, and the use of a variety of resources and learning tools supportive of the reading process.

Throughout the training teachers document innovative and creative ways to introduce and integrate the EFF philosophy into their classrooms. One teacher commented, "EFF gives validation to how I've always wanted to teach."

The Lifelong Learning Section plans to continue trainings on EFF as well as increase the number of EFF pilot adult learning centers in Oklahoma. To learn more about EFF, visit <http://eff.cls.utk.edu/resources/>.



*Participants prepare to work on their learning center's EFF action plan.*

## Introducing OKWorks.... By Pam Blundell

Two OKWorks pilot programs will begin January 2005 through the Muskogee and Tulsa Union Adult Learning Centers. Classes will be held at their local Workforce Oklahoma Centers.

*OKWorks* is a Work-Readiness Credentialing Program

focusing on the skills that local business and industry have identified as necessary for successful entry-level jobs. Upon successful completion of the OKWorks program, participants will be awarded an OKWorks credential which is recognized by participating employers for possible hiring preference.



Literacy skills will be taught in the context of 28 work-related employer-identified skill sets such as: active listening, information gathering, critical thinking, learning strategies, problem identification, speaking, and time management to name a few.

## Art in the Adult Education Classroom by Kathy Thompson

In a recent EFF training which I attended, a participant asked about using art in an adult classroom. Her students reasoned that since this was not a “read the chapter, answer the questions” classroom, art was something they would like to do. Her concern was whether this was a worthwhile use of the students’ time. A lively discussion ensued with many productive uses for art instruction put forth. Other participants suggested using collages, time-lines, posters, biological drawings, illustrations of reading materials, and poster boards portraying a goal.

Although all this sounded very realistic and applicable, I wanted to be sure we were spending class time doing activities which could be

validated as beneficial to learning. I found several research-based articles and books which seemed to support the teachers’ ideas. The formal and informal relationships of objects on a flat plane are found to be related to mathematical relationships (Dorn 89) and a relationship was demonstrated between drawing and language development. A study by Caldwell and Moore shows that drawing is an effective rehearsal for narrative writing, more complete than discussion, and improves memory for detail (113). The creative process involves resemblances and parallels. Furthermore, according to Dorn, to make a picture is to make a pattern, structure, and design thus enhancing mathematical concepts (131). The artistic process

involves a number of mental acts including prior knowledge, evaluation and adjustment, and reflection...all of which are desirable steps for adult learners to apply to daily problem-solving.

I was an art teacher for almost twenty years and feel strongly about the problem-solving and critical thinking skills involved in the creative process. So, is artwork time well-spent for our students? I think we can answer with a resounding “Yes!” and have research to fortify our position.

Dorn, Charles M. *Mind in Art, Cognitive Foundations in Art Education*, LEA Associates. 1999.

## Oklahoma City Hosts World Pro Literacy Conference

The Oklahoma State Department of Education co-hosted the second annual ProLiteracy conference, “The Many Faces of Literacy,” on October 7-9 which attracted nearly 800 tutors, trainers, professionals, volunteers and learners from across the world to Oklahoma City’s Cox Convention Center for four days of workshops, banquets and award ceremonies. Several of the Oklahoma Adult Education learners, teachers and directors attended the conference.

The ProLiteracy Worldwide Board of Directors Chair Ann Michel greeted the conference participants, Susan Scalfini, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Education, commended the audience through a video address and Cheryl Keenan, director of the U.S. Department of Education’s Division of Adult Education and Literacy, also welcomed the audience.

Ms. Keenan reiterated the importance of adult literacy by stating that 51 million adults in the US have not completed high school and 31% of

these are non-English speakers. Keenan stated that the “low literacy skills in the U.S. cost the economy \$20 billion in lost wages and productivity” stressing the need to address the low level learners.

Oklahoman author, Billie Letts, spoke about the impact of libraries and literacy in her life and read a portion of her book *Where the Heart Is* to the audience. Later, she signed copies of her latest novel, *Shoot the Moon*. Neal Peterson, the first black man to sail solo around the world, stated that “there are no disadvantages, only opportunities.”

The workshops presented included topics on teaching writing skills to adult learners, developing literacy programs using library systems, and incorporating the EFF framework to teach sales related skills. Literacy students also attended workshops where they shared their own experiences and provided support to others.



Cheryl Keenan, director of U.S. Department of Education division of Adult Education and Literacy, comments on the millions of adults who need literacy services in the United States.

## Adult Education and Literacy

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## Teacher of the Year *continued from page 2*

One such issue is adults with undiagnosed learning disabilities. Stewart commented on "the large number of adult learners who suffer from undiagnosed learning disabilities or difficulties." According to Stewart, her primary goal is to "help these learners successfully tackle a variety of life issues and assist them in being aware of their specific learning difficulty and resources."

Stewart's students past and present attest to the impact she has had on their lives. One student writes about Stewart, "...you are a wonderful teacher who teaches beautifully ... thanks for everything you have brought to my life." Another student writes that Stewart's "class is filled with joy and interaction."

Stewart actively serves on numerous professional councils and committees. In addition, she volun-

teers her time and efforts working with children and adults as well as actively participating in her church.

Stewart was selected from a highly qualified group of five finalists who were nominated for the award by their local Adult Education programs. Each nominee submitted a detailed portfolio highlighting his or her educational philosophies, instructional skills, and professional experience as well as community involvement. The five finalists attended an interview session with a panel of distinguished judges. The finalists included Angela Doss of Pauls Valley, Deborah Joseph of Muskogee, Donna Washington of Oklahoma City, and Linda Whipple of Enid.

The Lifelong Learning Section wishes to congratulate all of the winners for their excellence in Adult Education.

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## Upcoming Events

- Financial Literacy, February. 9 in Tulsa and February. 11 in Oklahoma City
- BEST Plus Training, February 17, 18 in Oklahoma City
- Assistive Technology Workshops, Session Two, February 22-24
- EFF Training Session 3, March 2-4 in Oklahoma City
- Oklahoma's Partners Conference, March 3-4 in Oklahoma City
- EL/Civics Training, April 11 in Tulsa and April 12 in Oklahoma City
- Adult Education Directors' Meeting, April 21-22 in Oklahoma City

For Adult Education and ESL resources, go to the Southern Lincs web site:  
<<http://slinks.coe.utk.edu>>