

Adult Education & GED Testing

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Roy W. Johnson, Chancellor

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ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS BUILDING CONSORTIA

Consistent with the intent of state and federal legislation, representatives from adult education programs provided by local boards of education not already in a consortium have been meeting with representatives from The Alabama College System and Representative Neal Morrison. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss how a consortium can be created that will provide more services for the students in that area by combining resources. Significant progress has been made in a number of locations, including the programs within the service areas of Northeast Alabama Community College, Lurleen B. Wallace Community College, Gadsden State Community College, Wallace State Community College- Hanceville, Jefferson State Community College, Northwest-Shoals Community College, Alabama Southern Community College, Bishop State Community College, Trenholm State Technical College, and Southern Union State Community College. Meetings have been scheduled for later this month in a number of other areas as well. As an incentive for adult education programs not already in a consortium to join a college within The Alabama College System, the Department is planning to announce incentives up to a total of \$300,000 to be awarded to consortia that can be established by June 30, 2003. If you would like more information about how your new consortium can qualify, please contact Mr. Bob Romine at 1-800-392-8086.

SAMPLE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) AVAILABLE

To facilitate the process of building a consortium between a college within The Alabama College System and an adult education program within that college's service area, the staff has prepared a sample MOA that can be used as a guide. Because there will be differences among MOAs across the state, the sample MOA is not meant to be followed exactly. There is flexibility in the process that makes it possible to address unique concerns and requests. Of course the process of entering a consortium is a voluntary process, although in times of shrinking resources the consortium represents one of the best ways to ensure continuity of services. If you would like to have a copy of the sample MOA sent to you, please contact one of the staff members listed at the end of the newsletter.

FOUR SISTERS RECEIVE THEIR GEDS ON THE SAME DAY

On March 16, 2003, four sisters from the Cunningham family in Dothan were on stage together to receive their GEDs during the graduation ceremony at Wallace Community College in Dothan. The four sisters, who range in age from 31 to 43, dropped out of high school against

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"News You Can Use" is a periodic report from the Chancellor to members of the Alabama State Board of Education and adult education practitioners in Alabama about news of interest pertaining to adult education and GED Testing within The Alabama College System.

their father's wishes. Their father, who never earned his diploma but knew obtaining an education was important, died in 2001. Later, one of the sisters, inspired by a nephew graduating from high school and the memory of her father, enrolled in an adult education class and convinced three of her sisters to do the same. The sisters attended the same class and helped each other to succeed. Their plans include enrolling in college, something they would never have thought possible earlier.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

To assist the state staff in improving the effectiveness of adult education programs across the state, a comprehensive committee structure is being developed. Some adult education supervisors and instructors as well as GED Examiners will be asked to be a member of a committee. This will be an excellent opportunity for supervisors and instructors to contribute to the decision-making process. At this time, the following committees are being established and developed: Professional Development, Public Awareness, Planning/Program Improvement, State Plan, Report Card, English as a Second Language (ESL), and GED Testing.

EL/CIVICS CURRICULUM BEING DEVELOPED

A curriculum is being developed by a committee from local adult education programs with EL/Civics grants that will ensure that learners receive civics instruction in the context of learning English. Representatives are from Northwest-Shoals Community College, DeKalb County Schools and the Central Alabama Laubach Literacy Council. The goal of the committee is to develop and present the curriculum at the Adult Education Summer Conference in June. One strong component of this curriculum is that it includes instructional resources recommended by instructors in the EL/Civics classroom.

ACCESS TO GED DATABASE AVAILABLE SOON

The adult education state staff is approaching the completion of a project that began last fall to provide adult education programs with information about who from their programs have been administered the GED. With this information, adult education program officials will be better positioned to make instructional program improvements, if necessary. At the state level, the staff will be able to identify differences or relationships between and among examinees who attend an adult education program and those who do not. For example, what percentage of Alabama's GED examinees attended a state-funded adult education program? Do adult education students pass the GED at a higher rate than those who did not attend? Do adult education students achieve higher scores? In the near future, adult education program directors will be able to request a secure password so they may access this information.

LITERACY LEDGER TRAINING SCHEDULED

On May 12, 14, 16, and 21, the state staff will be providing training on Literacy Ledger version 2.71 and data quality initiatives at four community colleges. The latest version includes the capability to archive separated students, disaggregate data by gender, ethnicity, and age, and print additional reports that provide important information for initiating program improvement.

FOR INFORMATION OR CLARIFICATION, CONTACT:

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