

Adult Education & GED Testing

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Roy W. Johnson, Chancellor

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DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES INCENTIVE AWARDS

This week the Department is awarding a total of \$300,000 in consortium-building incentives to 18 colleges in The Alabama College System. The incentives were instrumental in getting consortia built before the funding year ended June 30, 2003. Now, almost every single adult education program funded through the Department is a member of a consortium with a two-year college as the fiscal and coordinating agency. One of the main reasons for this realignment is that our adult learners will now have a more direct link to our colleges and the services they provide, helping greatly our state workforce development efforts. Congratulations to each on a job well done.

Also awarded is a total of \$50,000 in distance learning incentives to 12 colleges. The two largest awards are going to Wallace State Community College in Selma for its successful Tutoring by Telephone Program and Gadsden City Schools (member of the Gadsden State Community College Adult Education Consortium) for the 248 activities and units completed from their GED virtual classroom using the GED Connection Program. Congratulations to each on pioneering new methods in how to offer instruction to adult education learners. As we face budget cutbacks, we will be asked to serve more learners with less money. Finding the most productive and cost-effective methods of instruction is crucial for our survival.

ADULT EDUCATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED

Ms. Geneva Patterson, an Adult Education and Job Readiness instructor at H. Council Trenholm State Technical College, was recently named Alabama's Adult Education Teacher of the Year at the recent annual Summer Conference. She teaches adults the fundamentals of improving their quality of life through education and job placement, topics she thinks she can teach best by being closely involved in her learners' lives. Ms. Patterson achieves that closeness with her class of 18 learners by discussing topics such as parenting skills, coping with stress, how to get and keep a job, and how to dress for interviews. She even makes time in her curriculum for her learners to go to their children's schools to volunteer and to get to know their children's teachers. Her background in counseling has allowed her to guide her learners around educational barriers, as well as difficulties they may have at home.

Her supervisor, Ms. Eileen Olive, wrote a creative poem to nominate her that vividly described how much she cares about her learners and how she makes the effort to get to know each one personally. Her caring attitude makes all the difference. Ms. Patterson has spent the last three years of her twenty-year career in adult education at Trenholm State Technical College.

OVER

"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

ALBERTVILLE ESL PROGRAM IS A TEAM EFFORT

In response to the large influx of Hispanic workers wanting to work in Marshall County poultry plants, Northeast Alabama Community College's adult education program has partnered with several poultry plants, the United Giver's Fund of Marshall County, the Boaz Even Start Program, Pastor Ed Burke and the Marshall Baptist Association, and particularly La Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana (The First Hispanic Baptist Church) in Albertville, to offer English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to Hispanics.

The program offered at the church is the largest of its type in the state. The classes during the day have 25 to 50 learners in attendance and the evening classes surpass that total with 75 to 90 learners each night easily filling up the church's parking lot and the space provided for child care. According to Randall White, Director of Adult Education at the College, "These groups have helped with everything from child care and utility bills to instructor's wages and installation of equipment. This just shows what working together can accomplish."

DPE PURSUING PARTNERSHIP WITH THE AIR FORCE

On August 12th, the Chancellor and several Department staff members visited the College for Enlisted Professional Military Education (CEPME) on the Gunter Annex of Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery to better understand how the Air Force develops and manages instructional programs from a central location and to pursue a partnership providing professional development opportunities. The CEPME is a Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) accredited institution responsible for the education of Air Force leaders, with direct oversight of several schools educating personnel all over the world. Using the Air Force Instructional Systems Development (ISD) model, the Department hopes to be better able to develop and manage instructional programs from a central location. There are several applications, including adult education. Experienced educators at CEPME have agreed to provide workshops that will help us with these efforts.

MEET LEE ANN BRANTLEY (IN HER OWN WORDS):

I am Lee Ann Brantley, a 29-year-old housewife, mother, and pre-school teacher. On my sixteenth birthday, I quit school thinking things would be better for me if I got a job and moved out on my own. Little did I know what life had in store for me!

I decided to go back to school and earn my GED. I wanted to prove to myself that I can do anything that I put my mind to do. Also, I wanted to show my daughter that life is what you make of it.

The teachers at Gardendale Adult Education Center (Jefferson State Community College) have helped me not only with my education, but also have given me a renewed confidence in myself. After I received my GED, I plan to go to college and prepare for a career either as a medical transcriptionist or working in real estate. I want to be able to be my own boss, have a flexible schedule, and be able to spend time with my family.

I honestly believe: "Things don't just happen... You make them happen!"

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