

Adult Education & GED Testing

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Roy W. Johnson, Chancellor

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE DRAWS NEARLY SEVEN HUNDRED

Nearly seven hundred adult education supervisors, instructors, and volunteers attended the annual Adult Education Summer Conference in Birmingham June 24-26. The conference is the only time of the year when adult educators of the state can get together for professional development and to share their experiences. The opening general session included remarks from Dr. Troy King, Legal Advisor to the Governor and State Senators E. B. McClain, Quinton Ross, and Hank Sanders. Each voiced an appreciation for the educators present and the work they do. The keynote address was given by State Representative Neal Morrison, who also serves as the Adult Education Supervisor at Wallace Community College in Hanceville. During the conference, ten concurrent sessions were offered over five different time periods covering a wide range of topics relevant to adult education. Along with the Department, the conference was co-sponsored by ALAPCAE, the professional association of the adult educators in the state.

ALAPCAE ANNOUNCES NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

During the annual Adult Education Summer Conference in June, new ALAPCAE officers and directors for 2003-2004 funding year were announced. Joe Cavender will serve as President and Gwendolyn Ekundayo will serve as President-Elect for the following year. Other key positions were also announced: Secretary-Nancy McDonald, Treasurer-Paula Thompson, District One-Teresa Wright, District Two-Sherilyn Osborne, District Three-Hilda Dudley, District Five-Kathy Wells Watson, District Six-Bobby McAfee, District Seven-Jannie Jordan, District Eight-Angelis Smith, District Nine-Sharon McCall, and Member-At-Large-Phillip Johnson. Ex-President Lynn Ivey will serve as Director-At-Large and Alesia Hurst will serve in the new position of Historian. Congratulations to each one. Your leadership will be needed in the days ahead.

FEDERAL ADULT EDUCATION 'BLUEPRINT' RELEASED

Recently the U.S. Department of Education released the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act reauthorization blueprint identifying major provisions. The Bush Administration's vision for Adult Education includes the following: creating accountability for results, funding that works, expanding options and choices for students, and reducing bureaucracy while increasing flexibility. Adults are to have opportunities to improve their basic and literacy skills in high-quality research-based programs that will equip them to succeed in the next step of their

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

education and employment. Significant changes include the development of content standards correlated to assessments, a minimum of five percent must be used for workplace education programs, a reduction in the allowable percentage that can be spent on correctional and institutional programs, the required use of a report card for the public reporting of outcomes, an emphasis on increasing the participation of community- and faith-based organizations, and the eligibility of for-profit providers in the competition for funds. Reauthorization of the Act must occur before September 30, 2004.

LITERACY LEDGER ISSUES

The upcoming version of Literacy Ledger will incorporate two key changes. The first modification will allow the merging of multiple programs' data into a single program's Literacy Ledger database. This will facilitate the accountability issue resulting from the forming of consortia. In the interim, continue to enter data. Secondly, the Division of Research and Information, DPE, has a need to track adult education students referred to postsecondary institutions to pursue education and training programs. This new version will provide the means to satisfy that tasking. The Adult Education staff will provide the necessary training.

JOB READINESS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RELEASED

Utilizing funds from the Department of Human Resources (DHR), a Request For Proposals (RFP) is being distributed July 15 to interested educational agencies. The intent of the program is to provide job readiness activities for welfare recipients so they can better obtain and retain employment. Typically the sessions are 35 to 40 hours a week for two to six weeks. Coordination with the local county DHR office is crucial in developing what the specific needs are for the welfare recipients in their county and determining the appropriate number of sessions needed during the funding period. The deadline for submission of proposals is August 15, 2003 for a start date of October 1, 2003.

FROM A HOMELESS SHELTER TO A NEW FUTURE

When Carol (not her real name) first came to the Job Readiness class in Gadsden, she was living in a homeless shelter with her two daughters living on welfare payments and food stamps. She was recently divorced having very little money. According to Mary Nell Bozeman, the instructor of the class, she had lost sight of attainable goals, but possessed determination and hope for the future. She had graduated from high school and had a dream to attend college, but the reality of her situation made the dream seem impossible. From the class, she gained confidence in her abilities and developed a plan on how she could succeed. She became interested in improving her computer and academic skills. She became employed at Sears, was promoted soon thereafter, and volunteered for work on Habitat for Humanity homes in the area all while starting college at Gadsden State Community College. Due to her volunteer work, she will be awarded the next Habitat for Humanity home in Gadsden. With some help, she learned how to overcome the barriers that were holding her back so she could succeed.

FOR INFORMATION OR CLARIFICATION, CONTACT:

Mr. Bob Romine (romine@acs.cc.al.us), Dr. Naomi Scales (nscales@acs.cc.al.us), Dr. Ron Russell (rrussell@acs.cc.al.us), or Mr. Joe Macaluso (macaluso@acs.cc.al.us). Phone: (334) 353-4889 or 1-800-392-8086.