

Arkansas Adult Learning
Resource Center
3905 Cooperative Way,
Suite D
Little Rock, AR 72209
Phone: 800-832-6242
(501) 907-2490
FAX: (501) 907-2492
<http://www.aalrc.org>

Adult Learning Network

The Adult Learning Network is a quarterly publication of the AALRC.

The Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center provides equal access to all programs and activities.

Ready, Set, Go

By Dr. Sharon Ellis, Legislative Committee Chair of the Arkansas Association of Continuing and Adult Education (AACAE)

The 86th General Legislative Session is almost upon us. The message we are all trying to carry is that we desperately need additional state funding for adult literacy. Increased appropriations for both adult education centers and literacy councils are in the Department of Workforce Education's budget.

The current appropriation of \$17.9 million has not been increased in 15 years. Expenses, such as mandated teacher salary increases, utilities, equipment, and supplies have risen significantly since 1991. Because funding has not kept up with demand, there have been reductions of services.

For the 2007 session, the appropriation request has been raised to \$22.3 million, a \$4.4 million increase. However, Governor Huckabee is recommending only \$20,360,920. This is not enough to cover the mandated salary increases for teachers in the last two to three years alone.

The Grants and Aid to Councils (GAC) state funding to help support the operations of Arkansas Literacy Councils and the local literacy councils was cut from \$750,000 to \$675,000 in 2001. GAC funding was created in 1991 because the legislature recognized the value well-trained volunteers bring to adult literacy through these nonprofit organizations. The DWE budget for 2007 calls for the original funding amount of \$750,000 to be reinstated. However, that amount has remained the same since 1999 (with the exception of the cut). An effort to raise the appropriation to \$800,000 is possible.

The legislature's Joint Budget Committee referred Workforce Education's budget to an education subcommittee earlier this fall. The subcommittee met on December 12 but no issues were raised regarding adult education. It is possible this committee will support the governor's recommendation.

The new members of the Joint Budget Committee have been appointed for the coming session. The chairs will be Senators Shawn Womack of Mountain Home and Irma Hunter Brown of Little Rock with Representatives Chris Thyer of Jonesboro and Bruce Maloch of Magnolia. A list of all lawmakers can be found at www.arkleg.state.ar.us.

There are 52 adult education centers and 53 literacy councils. We need commitments from our lawmakers. Have you personally contacted your legislators to explain your program's services, share success stories, and tell of your need for funding? Have you obtained a promise to support us? **If not, why? Numbers count!**

What now? If you see your legislators, remind them of our needs. We will rally our forces again the first of January - it will take ALL OF US contacting our legislators and soliciting support for the increases.

Professional Development News



NOTICE:

AALRC Staff

*Director
Marsha Taylor*

*Administrative
Assistant
Wanda Johnson*

*Professional
Development
Coordinator
Nancy Loftis*

*Media
Coordinator
Klaus Neu*

*Secretary
Toccara Pearson*

*Information
Technology
Specialist
Rob Pollan*

*Disabilities
Project
Manager
Patti White*

http://www.escweb.net/ar_esc/

Please remember that the AALRC is now using ESC Web for all workshop/training registrations. Tips, tricks, and hints may be found on the AALRC web site at:

<http://www.aalrc.org/profdev/ESCWeb.doc>.

If you are still having trouble, you can always call the AALRC at 1-800-832-6242 or 1-501-907-2490.

If you are unable to attend a workshop you have registered for, please contact the AALRC as soon as possible. Participants are often placed on waiting lists because workshops fill up. If you find that you cannot attend a workshop and you call ahead, this gives us time to notify wait-listed participants that they can attend.

When a workshop has a waiting list, participants may not send substitutes from their center to attend in their place. Registrations are held for participants and not for centers.

THE DIRECTORY

The Directory is an important part of our work, and it needs to be accurate. Please bear with us as we have worked very hard to get the information compiled, completely and accurately, so that it can be provided to you. As corrections or additions are needed, they will appear in the AALRC newsletter.

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

- P. 3** Nancy Sparks, nancy.k.sparks@arkansas.gov
- P. 12** (SEACBEC) Primary Contact: Jonalyn Reep
- P. 11** North Arkansas College, Phone: (870) 391-3198

DIRECTORY ADDITIONS

ADD P. 29a

Provider Jefferson County Literacy Council
 Mailing Address 402 East 5th Pine Bluff, AR 71601
 Primary Contact Jennifer Hurst, Director
 Email literacy@cabelynx.com
 Phone (870) 536-7323
 Fax (870) 850-0984

ADD P. 40a

Provider Russellville Adult Education Center
 Mailing Address P.O. Box 928 Russellville, AR 72811
 Primary Contact Pat Collins, Director
 Email pat.collins@rsdmail.k12.ar.us
 Phone (479) 968-5244
 Fax (479) 968-6081

Northeast Arkansas Regional Workshops

A regional Professional Development took place in Paragould on November 20-21, 2006 at the Paragould Adult Education Center, which is associated with Arkansas Northeastern College. There were over 40 participants from several different programs in the Northeast Region. Priscilla Flowers, state program advisor for that region, attended.

There were many pertinent sessions relating to adult education. The sessions: Computer Aided Instruction, Math Manipulatives, Transitioning to Post-Secondary, Parental Involvement, Understand and Charting EFL Advancements, and Accommodations for the Adult Learners and Common Challenges among Adult Education Programs. The participants were able to obtain 10 hours of Professional Development during these two days.

The Resource Center will fund regional training if the appropriate steps are taken. The form "Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center Request for Professional Development Activity" can be found on our website www.aalrc.org. under Professional Development.

IDEAS - Arkansas Internet Delivered Education for Arkansas Schools

According to the Association of Public Television State (APTS), on September 6, 2006 [Arkansas Educational Television Network \(AETN\)](#) premiered the Arkansas Internet Delivered Education for Arkansas Schools (IDEAS) portal free to every school and teacher in Arkansas as a response to state laws and requirements for additional training for teachers. AETN's IDEAS web portal offers resources such as Teacherline, video streaming, Arkansas Technical Institute Online, the AETN Scholar Channel, and the means to hold online communication with other educators. AETN's services will be available "anytime, anywhere" to every teacher, administrator and student in 300 school districts.

"With the Internet Delivered Education for Arkansas Schools (IDEAS) portal, AETN leads the nation in progressive training for teachers," stated Allen Weatherly, AETN Executive Director.

Working with the Arkansas Department of Education and other partners, AETN has expanded all areas of its educational services and intends to continue its growth of educational professional development resources. Arkansas IDEAS is provided by the Arkansas On-line Professional Development Initiative through a committed partnership of the Arkansas Educational Television Network and the Arkansas Department of Education.

The website is specifically for K-12 teachers, but can definitely be adapted to adult education. Check out the website: <http://www.ideas.aetn.org/>

Calendar
All events are at the AALRC unless otherwise noted.

Professional Development Training

- | | |
|---|--|
| January 16 – Web Design – Session ID # 46200 | February 1 – Computer Security |
| January 17 – PowerPoint – Session ID # 46197 | February 2 – Computer Security |
| January 18-19 – Literacy Strategies
– Full with Waiting List - Day 1 & 2 | February 5 – Teaching Reading to ESL Students
– Session ID #37644 |
| January 25 – Inspiration Software
– Session ID # 41871 | February 8-9 – Literacy Strategies – Day 3 & 4 |
| January 26 – Inspiration Software
– Repeat – Session ID # 41872 | February 20-21 – Teaching with Manipulatives
– Session ID #37641 |
| | February 28 – Learner Persistence
– Session ID #37642 |
| | March 1-2 – Literacy Strategies – Day 5 & 6 |

Meetings

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| January 11 – AALRC Advisory Committee | January 12 – AACAE Committee |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|

News from the Disabilities Project Manager

Teaching with Manipulatives Workshop in February 2007



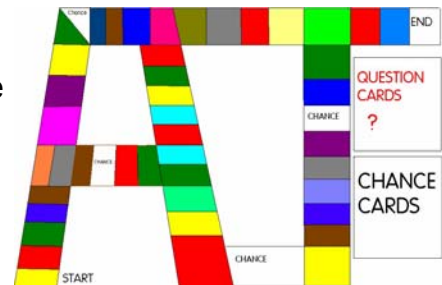
The AALRC will host a “Teaching with Manipulatives” workshop on February 20-21. Previously named “Strategies & Accommodations,” this 1½-day workshop is designed as a **follow-up** workshop for anyone who completed any of the LD 101 training (adult education or literacy) or the LD Comp. (Payne-Jordan) workshop. Participants should already know the basics of adults with learning disabilities; e.g., definition, characteristics, typical strategies and accommodations, etc. The purpose of this workshop is to teach adult education and literacy providers how to incorporate the use of manipulatives in their instruction, no matter the content of the curriculum. Each

person (not each program) who completes this workshop will receive a kit that contains all of the materials demonstrated and practiced during the 1½-day session.

This workshop series is conducted twice a year at the AALRC in Little Rock, and is limited to twelve (12) participants. Participation will be determined on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, see the complete workshop description at http://aalrc.org/resources/ld/ld_workshops.pdf.

AALRC’s Assistive Technology In Demand

More and more programs are requesting assistive technology items from the AALRC to help their students with disabilities learn more effectively. The most-used resource by far are the digital GED instructional materials with the cd-players available through the AALRC’s contract with the Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic. Two students with cerebral palsy are currently using the CCTVs, and one program has used the JAWS software with a blind student.



Literacy councils have requested the use of the alphabet and consonant blend cubes, and both literacy councils and adult education programs are trying out the WhisperPhone for students who benefit from subvocalization while reading. The Reading Pen and the talking calculators have also been used effectively for some students.

Please contact Klaus Neu at klaus@aalrc.org or 800.832.6242 if you would like more information about these or other assistive technology items, or if you would like to request the use of an item for a student with a disability.

News from the Disabilities Project Manager

Surviving with AD/HD

The Learning Disabilities Association (LDA) *Newsbriefs* published an article by Barbara Priddy Guyer about teaching students with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, or AD/HD (*LDA Newsbriefs*, March/April 2006, pp. 13-14). The article suggests the following strategies for teaching students who have AD/HD:

- Encourage the student to exercise 15-20 minutes several times a day;
- Help the student learn to monitor their behavior and make appropriate behavioral changes when needed;
- Use movement as a reward for quiet, unobtrusive behavior;
- Look for the cause(s) of an increase in the student's level of hyperactivity;
- Always present instruction in several different modalities;
- Never criticize the student's behavior in front of others;
- Build as much structure into your classroom as possible;
- Encourage the student to use earphones or headphones to reduce noise distractions;
- Let the student listen to 60-beat-a-minute music while working independently to reduce theta brain waves and impulsivity, while increasing focus;
- Use a lot of positive reinforcement;
- Allow students to work while standing, rocking, or sitting on the floor;
- Provide strong visual input;
- Use charts, graphs, maps, manipulatives, and demonstrations; and
- Use color-coding to help with organization of ideas and materials.

As a side-note, several GED examiners have told me that it can be very helpful for a student with AD/HD to sit next to a fan while taking the GED. The white noise really cuts down on other noises that tend to distract the student.

For more information about teaching adults with AD/HD, scheduling an AD/HD workshop, or learning how to request accommodations on the GED for students with AD/HD, contact Patti White at prwhite@madisoncounty.net or 800.569.3539.

Mental Health Survey Coming Soon

Be on the lookout for an email containing a link to a survey regarding the April 2007 workshop with Dr. Jim Koller regarding students with mental health disabilities. Dr. Koller has requested that the AALRC conduct a survey with local programs to narrow his topic selection for his workshop. The 1-day workshop (date to be later announced) will provide adult education and literacy staff with an overview of various mental health disabilities and information about GED accommodations for the disabilities. Your prompt response to this survey will be much appreciated.

AALRC Advisory Committee

*Dubs Byers,
Chair,
Pine Bluff*

*Emily Barrier,
Little Rock*

*Harriet Branch,
Monticello*

*Sharon Ellis,
Secretary,
Fort Smith*

*Jennifer Hurst,
Pine Bluff*

*Lloyd Huskey,
Little Rock*

*Steven Lilly,
Lonoke*

*Charlotte
Robertson,
Little Rock*

*Trece Shepherd
Williams,
Helena*

*Billy Upson,
Texarkana*

*Nancy
Whitmire,
Vice-Chair,
Batesville*

Southeast Regional TESOL Conference Held in Little Rock

The Arkansas state affiliate of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (ARKTESOL) was the host for the Southeast Regional TESOL Conference from November 29 to December 2, 2006. After six years of waiting and more than two years of planning, ARKTESOL finally saw the fruits of its labor and long-term goal come to completion when more than five hundred teachers of ESOL from ten southern states met in Little Rock for the four-day conference.

The Pre-Conference Workshop was conducted by Linda Franco, a dynamic and interactive presenter who is a favorite among teachers for her straightforward and insightful workshop on differentiated instruction. The keynote speakers at the conference were Ray Simon, Deputy Secretary of the US Department of Education; Drs. David and Yvonne Freeman, ESOL researchers and textbook authors; Dr. MaryEllen Vogt, developer of the Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol model; and Dr. Keith Folse whose keynote speech was entitled “Ten Things I Wish I Had Known Before I Took Up TESOL,” an entertaining and informative look at teaching ESOL.

There were more than 70 breakout sessions to choose from and over 30 exhibitors and vendors displaying the newest textbooks, materials, and software for teaching ESOL. The conference reception was held on Thursday night at the Clinton Presidential Library. Even the participants from Kentucky, who will be hosting next year’s regional conference in Louisville (November 29 – December 1, 2007), said it would be hard to top this year’s conference in Little Rock. Congratulations to ARKTESOL for hosting such a successful regional conference!

Software Training Requests

We would like to get a feel from the field about future computer trainings. Possibilities are:

- Access – This would be for the more technologically advanced that are interested in making and/or maintaining databases.
- Publisher – Publisher has many uses but would most likely be used for marketing materials. This would be an easier course than Access.
- Outlook – Most people have used Outlook Express for retrieving emails, but Outlook is much more robust. It has a very handy calendar and event reminder function, plus good contact functions.

Please contact Rob Pollan rob@aalrc.org or Nancy Loftis nancy@aalrc.org with your thoughts and/or requests on technical training.

Adult Education Advisory Council

*Patricia Bates, Chair
El Dorado*

*Ben Aldama,
Vice-Chair, Rogers*

*Jim Allen,
Fayetteville*

*Diane Cary,
Magnolia*

*Steve Clayton,
Jonesboro*

*Pat Collins,
Russellville*

*Sharon Ellis,
Fort Smith*

*Denise Hester
Blytheville*

*Lloyd Huskey,
North Little Rock*

*Margaret Jarrett,
Monticello*

*Steven Lilly,
Lonoke*

*Paulette Martin,
Little Rock*

*Carolyn Moody,
Mountain Home*

*Bobbie Sanders,
Little Rock
Diane Shores,
Helena*

*Flora Simon,
Dumas*

*Marsha Taylor,
Little Rock*

Tech*Talk*

Note: To link to any web address (URL) in this newsletter, go the AALRC's home page at <http://aalrc.org>, look up this newsletter, and then just click on the appropriate link.

Microsoft Office 2007 - For Your Office

Great news for the office! The Resource Center is in the process of purchasing a copy of Microsoft Office 2007 Professional for each center in the state. The \$499 retail package will be free of cost to your center.

“Microsoft Office Professional 2007 is a complete suite of productivity and database software that includes the 2007 versions of Publisher, Excel, Outlook, Outlook with Business Contact Manager, PowerPoint, Access, and Word. Powerful contact management features help you consolidate all customer and prospect information in one place, while improved menus present the right tools exactly when you need them. Professional 2007 also lets you develop professional marketing materials for print, e-mail, and the Web, and produce effective marketing campaigns in-house. In addition, you can create dynamic business documents, spreadsheets, and presentations, and build databases with no prior experience or technical staff.” For more information on Office 2007 Professional go to <http://tinyurl.com/y9r6z7>.

Not only does this Office Package include the Office staples like Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, it also includes Access and Publisher. For those not familiar with these programs, Access is a relational database program that can manage a large collection of information. Access helps you enter data easily, find it quickly, use it to create labels or mailings, and summarize it in printed and online reports. Publisher 2007 helps you create, personalize, and share a wide range of publications and marketing materials in-house.

The system requirements for Office 2007 Professional are:

- 500 megahertz (MHz) processor or higher;
- 256 megabytes (MB) RAM or higher;
- 2 gigabyte (GB) of hard drive space;
- CD-ROM or DVD Drive;
- 1024x768 or higher resolution monitor;
- Microsoft Windows XP with Service Pack (SP) 2 or later operating system;
- 1 gigahertz (GHz) processor or higher and 512 MB RAM or higher recommended for Business Contact Manager (Outlook).



Yes, your computer will need to be running Windows XP or later to run Office 2007. I recommend that any machine running Windows XP have at least 512 MB of RAM. If your computer does not, it will run considerably slower.

<http://tinyurl.com/yzd6o6> This link has more detailed information on system requirements. Be sure to scroll down to Microsoft Office Professional 2007.

For Office 2007 product overviews, go to <http://tinyurl.com/yb8vhx>.

*“Unlock Your Future” (and your mind)
at the 2007 South Central Literacy Action Conference*

Take advantage of some great professional development and training while enjoying the view and solitude of the surroundings at the Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center atop one of Fayetteville’s “seven hills.” The 2007 South Central Literacy Action (SCLA) biennial conference will be June 10-14, and promises to provide many opportunities for learning and fellowship to help us better serve those who want to improve their skills so they can unlock their futures. Renowned adult literacy author and educator Thomas Sticht has confirmed his attendance to share his vast knowledge with us. SCLA has put out its “Call for Presenters” for the conference. Find out more at www.south-central-literacy-action. SCLA is a nonprofit, volunteer organization affiliated nationally with ProLiteracy America and provides training, support, and leadership for those working in adult literacy throughout Arkansas, Louisiana, Kansas, Missouri, Texas, and Oklahoma. “See you on the mountain!”

Our Adult Literacy Celebrity ...

87-year-old Elroy Chinn (right) of the Twin Lakes Literacy Council in Mountain Home proudly displays to a standing ovation from the audience the 2006 Frank C. Laubach and Ruth J. Colvin Award for Student Excellence. The award was presented by Dr. Bob Laubach and Ruth Colvin during the 2006 ProLiteracy Worldwide Conference October 6 in Atlanta, Georgia. Elroy decided at age 84 he wanted to learn to read. When he was asked to spell his name before a media interview at the conference, he said, “Do you know it took me 84 years to learn to do that?” Elroy is now reading at a fourth grade level and is determined to get his high school education! Congratulations, Elroy!



From left to right: Dr. Bob Laubach,
Mrs. Ruth J. Colvin and Mr. Elroy Chinn

*New Northwest Arkansas Citizenship Coalition
Receives Foundation Backing*

Adult literacy providers in Washington and Benton Counties have been working for well over a decade to provide ESL and Citizenship studies in an area that has one of the nation’s highest rates of growing immigrant populations. This past summer, they joined with the Hispanic Women’s Organization of Arkansas and Catholic Immigration Services to form a new coalition to help those who want to become US Citizens negotiate the complex requirements. At the same time, Arkansas Literacy Councils (ALC) was in the process of conducting research in this area through a planning grant from the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation (WRF). A contractor met with a number of adult literacy providers throughout Western Arkansas, providing her with invaluable input on the citizenship process through the experiences of their students. The timing and the purpose of the citizenship coalition fit an opportunity for ALC to write a demonstration grant to the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation to fund a part-time person to staff the coalition, materials for the adult literacy providers, and significant advertising for the coalition services. ALC received word in December that the grant was approved in the amount of just over \$69,000. This grant also includes a statewide meeting in January 2008 for all adult literacy providers and others interested in hearing more about the coalition’s work and ways it might be replicated across the state. More information will be forthcoming as the coalition proceeds with its work.