

New Associate Director for Adult Education

Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center

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The AALRC extends a hearty welcome to Dr. Trenia Miles, the new Associate Director for Adult Education at the Adult Education Division, Arkansas Department of Career Education. In her new position, Dr. Miles will focus on operational and compliance issues. Her tasks include holding local adult education centers and literacy providers to the established guidelines and performance goals, as well as fostering productivity within those parameters.

Adult Learning Network

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

Dr. Miles, a Pine Bluff native and first-generation college student, has over 15 years of experience in higher education. She began her career in Disability Services at the University of Arkansas as a graduate assistant after earning her B.A. in psychology, and was responsible for ensuring students received their approved accommodations. After graduating with her master's degree in counseling, Dr. Miles was hired as a Program Coordinator for Career Services at the University of Arkansas and later promoted to Assistant Director and then Associate Director. Dr. Miles managed the on-campus recruiting program and provided guidance to students in career development. During the summers, Dr. Miles taught career orientation to at-risk youths.

After six years of working in Career Services and going to school part-time, Dr. Miles relocated to Memphis to begin school full-time at the University of Memphis. She worked two years in the Office of Adult and Commuter Students where she assisted adult students in their transition to college. In addition, Dr. Miles initiated and published the Adult & Commuter Student Services monthly electronic newsletter to keep adult students informed about campus events and services. She also taught a freshman orientation class and worked as an intern for Southwest Tennessee Community College Workforce Development Center.

Prior to her new position with the Adult Education Division, Dr. Miles worked for Mid-South Community College (MSCC). She began her career at MSCC as a full-time instructor for College Survival and Study Skills where she was responsible for assisting first-time entering students in their transition to college, developing the curriculum, and evaluating students' progress. She also provided faculty development and training to faculty and staff throughout the year. Dr. Miles received the 2008-2009 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Award and is Mid-South Community College's Outstanding Faculty 2009. In 2009, Dr. Miles was promoted to Director of Retention Services and Program Coordinator for College Survival and Study Skills. Dr. Miles' primary responsibility was to increase the retention rate and oversee academic advising for first-time entering students.

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

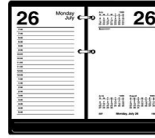
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Calendar
All events are at the AALRC unless otherwise noted.



Professional Development:

March/April



- March 30 - April 1 – Adult Numeracy Initiative - 10 participating programs (continued)
- April 5 – Distant Learning Best Practices
 Session ID: **129309**
- April 14-15 – Literacy Strategies (continued)
- April 28-29 – Literacy Strategies (make-up session)



TRAVEL Reimbursement

July

- July 19-21 – Summer PD Session ID: **TBA**
- July 25-27– ESL Institute Session ID: **TBA**

Local programs funded with state or federal adult education funds must adhere to Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration guidelines when requesting travel reimbursement.

Meetings/Events:

May

- May 20 – ALC Annual Meeting at Governor’s Mansion
- May 26-27– Advisory Council in Sheridan

UALR Offers Master of Education in Adult Education Degree



Do you love teaching adults? Are you thinking about taking that next step to further your education? If so, the Adult Education Program at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock is the perfect place for you. In addition to preparing for Arkansas Teacher Licensure, you can also earn your master of education in adult education degree. Currently there are more than 70 students in the program who work in GED, adult basic education, literacy, medical, military, community, religious, human resources, corrections, or non-profit settings. The program offers opportunities for you to network with your peers and to explore various aspects of the field of adult education. It also works with your schedule. Most of the courses are offered in online or web-enhanced formats, which gives you the flexibility you need and the opportunity to have some face-to-face interaction with your instructors and peers. There is still time for you to apply to the program if you plan to start in the summer or fall.

The master of education in adult education degree requires 36 graduate credit hours, including nine education core hours, 18 to 21 adult education hours, six to nine approved elective hours, and a written comprehensive examination or completion of a professional portfolio.

The classes do fill quickly, so it is in your best interest to apply as soon as possible and enroll at the first opportunity. More information can be found at: <http://ualr.edu/med/AED/>

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During her tenure at MSCC, she oversaw Student Activities, Academic Coaching, Career Services, Disability Services, and implemented the Structured Learning Assistance program. She also served as chair of the Retention Committee in which events and services such as Welcome Week and COMPASS workshops were implemented.

Dr. Miles graduated from the University of Memphis with her Ed.D. in Higher and Adult Education with an adult education emphasis. She is a founding board member of the Power Center Academy Charter School in Memphis, TN and led the curriculum development team. Also, she is a charter member of the Northwest Arkansas Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

In her spare time, Dr. Miles enjoys traveling, shopping, spending time with family and friends, reading, exercising, and cooking. She believes that her purpose here on earth is to serve and empower others and to be a voice for those who may be unable or afraid to speak for themselves.

Online Professional Development

With time counting down to June 30, 2011, some teachers still need additional professional development hours in order to get the sixty hours required by the Arkansas Department of Education. One method to get professional development that is easy and effective for many teachers is to use the internet. Many sites offer free professional development. Listed below are a number of websites that fit into that category.

<http://www.thinkfinity.org/>

<http://www.nifl.gov/readingprofiles/>

<http://www.learner.org/>

<http://www.congressclass.org/>

<http://www.pbs.org/teachersource/>

<http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/>

<http://teacherline.pbs.org/teacherline/>

<http://tappedin.org/tappedin/>

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.

ArkansasIDEAS is Internet Delivered Education for Arkansas Schools 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. All professional development provided through this website is approved through the Arkansas Department of Education towards the required 60 hours.

Licensed educators may log in to ArkansasIDEAS by clicking on the red apple on the website. New members must create a new account using your 10-digit State Teacher Identification Number (STIN). Please contact your local public school district to obtain your [STIN](#).

If you have a problem logging into this system, please call the ArkansasIDEAS help staff during normal business hours, 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM Monday - Friday. You may dial 1-800-662-2386 or email: ideas@aetn.org.

Check out the website: <http://www.ideas.aetn.org/>

News from the Disabilities Project Manager

Learning Disabilities Comprehensive Workshop – Another Chance!

March 8-9, 2011 marked the end of the 2010-11 LD Comprehensive (LD Comp.) Workshop Series at the AALRC. The graduates of the course left armed with a plethora of ideas, materials, software, and enthusiasm for teaching their adult students with learning disabilities. The group spent the last two days of the workshop learning how to use vision screening software – which they then received to use with their students – and were honored with a visit from Janice Hanlon, Arkansas State GED Examiner, and Dr. Nicolaus Paal, Director of the RIDAC program for Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. Both Ms. Hanlon and Dr. Paal addressed the referral process for obtaining new or updated documentation of a learning disability for the purpose of requesting accommodations on the GED tests.

The workshop series is limited to twelve (12) participants each year, and last year, there were still some willing participants on the waiting list. The AALRC has decided to offer this workshop series again in 2011-12 to accommodate the adult educators and literacy providers who would like to attend, but were unable to participate last year. There will still be slots available, though, so watch for the new AALRC calendar in the next few months to find out when the workshop will be offered and what the Session I.D. number is so you can sign up. Typically, the AALRC only offers this comprehensive workshop series every other year, so this is a rare opportunity to participate without having to wait.

The LD Comp. workshop employs the Payne-Jordan Learning Inventory as a learning needs tool which allows adult educators and literacy providers to informally determine a student's specific strengths and weaknesses, apply appropriate interventions and accommodations, and if needed, refer the student to appropriate agencies or service providers for further assistance or evaluation. Since most programs are using the Washington State LD Screening Tool now, we are recommending that the Payne tool be used to determine instructional methods for students with special learning needs.

We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations.



LD Comp. is an in-depth workshop series that progresses over the course of several months, with a total of eight days in four sessions. This format allows the participants to have opportunities to practice using the inventory between sessions and to absorb and review the knowledge and skills learned at each session.

Upon completion of the course, each program or satellite center (not each individual) will receive the LD Comp. Toolkit to support subsequent application of course content in program classrooms. However, if the program or satellite already has a kit from a previous individual's participation in the training, the program will **not** receive another kit; rather, the participant should be allowed to use the kit contents already available at their center.

For more information about the workshop series, including specific course objectives and toolkit contents, please go to http://aalrc.org/resources/ld/ld_workshops.pdf or contact Patti White at prwhite@madisoncounty.net or 1-800-569-3539.

News from the Disabilities Project Manager

Neil Sturomski Publishes Booklets for In-House LD Professional Development

Many adult educators and literacy providers in Arkansas will remember Neil Sturomski, who has presented several workshops for the AALRC regarding teaching students with learning disabilities. Recently, Mr. Sturomski published two booklets designed to give adult education and literacy providers the opportunity to study specific instructional strategies as an independent study project within their local program. One booklet, [The Use of Organizers to Support Instruction](#), includes information about how to effectively use graphic organizers with adult students, using organizers to increase reading comprehension, and a sample advance organizer technique. The other booklet, [Teaching Reading](#), includes information about diagnostic-prescriptive teaching, fluency, comprehension, and some specific reading activities to use with adult students.

Although the AALRC will not purchase the booklets for local programs, each 100-page booklet is only \$29.95 (includes shipping and handling). Programs can organize study groups to read and discuss the content to gain valuable information about effective strategies for teaching adults with learning disabilities.

There are also PowerPoint presentations and Leader's Guides that can be purchased separately to add organization and stimulate discussion.

The booklets and other materials are available online at www.neilsturomski.com

The booklets give local programs the opportunity to have an in-house study about teaching adults with learning disabilities without having to travel. Following the completion of the study group, teachers can sign in to the professional development website at http://www.escweb.net/ar_esc/default.aspx and add the hours they spent in their study group as professional development hours by using the "Manage Transcript" page of their Shoebox account. Teachers should keep their documentation of the study group in case they need to verify their participation for that year's professional development hours.

Neil Sturomski is the former Director of the National Adult Literacy and Learning Disabilities Center, a center established by the National Institute for Literacy. With more than thirty years of experience related to individuals with learning disabilities and other special learning needs, he has worked in a variety of capacities including direct service, diagnostics, administration, curriculum design, research, information management, data collection, evaluation, and graduate-level teaching. More biographical information about Mr. Sturomski is available on his website.

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News from the Disabilities Project Manager

The Campaign for Disability Employment

A recent study by the Kessler Foundation and the National Organization on Disability reports that only about half of the companies they surveyed actually hire applicants with disabilities and even fewer seek them out.

The Campaign for Disability Employment, a collaborative of the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) and leading disability and business organizations, recently unveiled a series of new products designed to promote the hiring, retention and advancement of people with disabilities and to dispel negative stereotypes about disability and employment. This program is funded by the Office of Disability Employment Policy.

Arkansas adult education and literacy programs can participate in this campaign to encourage local businesses to hire people with disabilities while also creating a network of informed workplace referrals for students with disabilities who are unemployed.

The new products include posters and discussion guides which will accompany the Campaign's flagship and highly successful "I Can" public service announcements, available as free downloads on the Campaign's website, www.whatyoucandocampaign.org.



Also included is a Workplace Discussion Guide to help employers and Human Resource professionals facilitate staff conversations on flexible and inclusive workplaces. A discussion guide to help start conversations with younger people (with and without disabilities) about the importance of focusing on ability and talent and not making assumptions about what people can and can't do is also available. Each guide includes a DVD of the PSA.

Local adult education and literacy programs can also encourage their unemployed students with disabilities to post resumes at <http://www.accessibleemployment.org/>, and let employers know that this website is a good place to look for potential employees who are qualified individuals with disabilities.

What can?
YOU do? The Campaign for
Disability Employment

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Talk

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

Antivirus - Microsoft Security Essentials

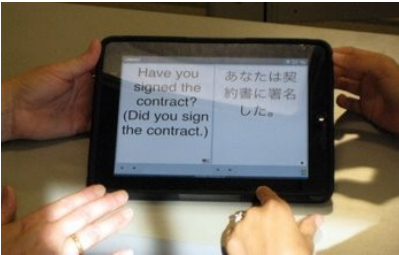
We have been using Microsoft Security Essentials on several of our computers and we really like it. It seems to be light on resources compared to some other antivirus programs. It is free for use at business or home. Google-search Microsoft Security Essentials for the download.



Spyware


Our top recommendation for spyware these days is Malwarebytes (download from www.download.com). Second place goes to Spybot Search and Destroy; it can be downloaded from www.download.com also. We are no longer using Ad-Aware, as it does not seem to catch anything but bad cookies, and it has conflicts with some antivirus programs. We recommend cleaning your system with at least one spyware cleaner once a week. Be sure to update your spyware program before scanning and cleaning.

Translation



These days, there are many good and free ways to translate documents and spoken words into the language of your choice. On the web, there is Google translate at www.translate.google.com. It will translate complete web pages, documents, and any inserted text. Not



only will it translate the text, you can also click on  Listen and the computer will speak the text out loud, although this function only works for one sentence at a time. To translate an entire web page,

simply cut and paste the "website address (URL)" into the translate box or just type it in. For example, I can type in www.aalrc.org/index.aspx, then press ENTER and it will translate the entire aalrc.org web page into Spanish or the language of your choice. You may notice that some text doesn't get translated - that is because that text is part of a picture and is not editable text.

There are also many great apps for Androids and iPhones. The Google app Translate is available for free and works on both the Android and the iPhone. It currently supports 57 languages. It works very well by either typing in the words you want to translate, or by pressing the microphone button and speaking into the phone. When speaking into the phone, it will show what you said in English and the translated language, plus you can hit the listen button and it will speak the sentence out loud.

Jibbigo at www.jibbigo.com is a similar translation app that you use by speaking into your phone and it will then say the translation for you. It works without a data connection. Cost is \$4.99.

Word Lens at <http://questvisual.com/> is an amazing app. You use it by pointing your phone's camera at written text (no handwriting) and it will give you a live translation. This would be invaluable when traveling abroad. Check out the video on their website to see how it works. You can download their free app that reverses words, just so you can see how well it works.

WAGE NEWS

Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy™



In the past fifteen months, two new WAGE Certificates have been offered across the state. The Bank Teller Certificate was rolled out in January 2010. In January 2011 the Customer Service Certificates, Level One and Level Two, were offered by Certified WAGE centers. These were in addition to the Employability, Industrial and Clerical Certificates that have been offered since 1992.

Students who earn a Customer Service Certificate Level One Certificate must complete instruction in Communication Skills, Business Etiquette, Work Habits, and Workplace Effectiveness. Other requirements include passing the WAGE test, passing computer literacy tests, completing an Interest and Aptitude Inventory, making a 9.0 or higher on the Test for Adult Basic Education (TABE), having a resume on file, and registering with Department of Workforce Services (DWS). In addition to those requirements, students who earn a Customer Service Certificate Level Two Certificate must make a 12.9 on the TABE Test, Pass the Level II WAGE test, type 20 WPM, write an essay, and demonstrate the ability to use a FAX machine, copier, printer, and create e-mail accounts with attachments.

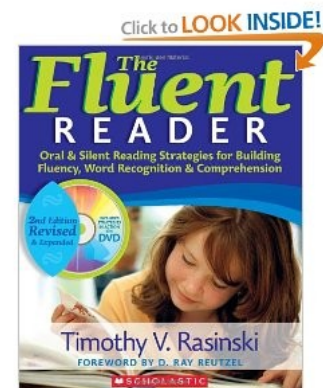
In December 2009, the web-based WAGE test was activated. The web-based WAGE test is a vast improvement over the paper test that has been used since the formation of WAGE. The test automatically scores the student's responses and gives a prescription for what competencies the student needs to study before retaking the test. There are several questions for each of the competencies in the bank of questions. The test generates random questions from the bank and also changes the order of the correct answers. The test allows graphics to be added to the questions and it also allows entering questions that contain sound to test important communication competencies. New questions can be added to the bank of questions in the test as needed.

WAGE™ is Trademarked



AALRC Library Update

“The Fluent Reader (2nd Edition): Oral & Silent Reading Strategies for Building Fluency, Word Recognition & Comprehension” by Tim Rasinski is one of the newest items of the AALRC library. The author, Tim Rasinski, a Professor of Education in the Reading and Writing Center at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, presents in his updated and fully revised second edition the latest fluency research. He shares teaching strategies based on research as well as assessment tools, step-by-step lessons and teaching tips. The accompanying DVD supports the success for learning to read and shows fluency strategies in action for both you and your students.



If you are interested and you would like to check out this or other library items, please contact Klaus Neu, AALRC Media Coordinator, at klaus@aalrc.org.