

*Arkansas Adult Education Website Receives
International Award*

**Arkansas Adult Learning
Resource Center**
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<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.

*Website specifically designed to attract prospective students
win W3*



The Arkansas Adult Education website, www.aalrc.org, was announced as a 2010 W3 Award winner on behalf of the International Academy of Visual Arts for outstanding work in the education website category. The website was designed and entered into the international competition by Advantage Communications, Inc., a full service marketing, advertising, and public relations agency based in Little Rock Arkansas.

The W3 Awards recognizes the outstanding and creative designs associated with web development. The Arkansas Adult Education website was selected from over 3,000 entries of the highest standard from the best agencies and innovative designers worldwide.

The website launched in March 2010 to encourage action among prospective students and provide information on free services that Arkansas Adult Education Centers offer throughout Arkansas. With cooperation from the leadership at the Arkansas Department of Career Education and the Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center, Advantage Communications, Inc. was able to build a website that used site, sound, and motion to speak to the needs of the target audience. "To be recognized on an international level proves that the hard work and dedication of Arkansas educators didn't go unnoticed," said William "Bill" Walker, Director of Arkansas Department of Career Education. "More so, we know that we have made it possible for Arkansans to successfully complete their educations."

"We are honored not only to receive an international award, but to have the opportunity to work with Arkansas Department of Career Education and the Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center to raise the bar on Arkansas education," said Michael Steele, President and CEO of Advantage Communications, Inc. "

To learn more about Arkansas Adult Education and its services, visit www.aalrc.org or for more information contact Olivia Dedner, Vice President at Advantage Communications, Inc., at odedner@advantageci.com or 501-374-2220 .

Calendar
All events are at the AALRC unless otherwise noted.



Professional Development:

January

- January 10-11 – Literacy Task Analysis (continued)
- January 20 – Distant Learning 101 Session ID: **137059**
- January 25-26 – LD Comprehensive Series, Part 3 (continued)
- January 27-28 – Adult Numeracy Initiative - 10 participating programs (continued)

February

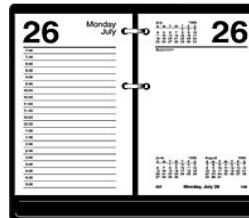
- February 8-9 – Teaching with Manipulatives Session ID: **127156**
- February 10-11– Literacy Strategies (continued)
- February 15 – Distant Learning Best Practices Session ID: **129309**
- February 25 – Woodcock Johnson Refresher Session ID: TBA

March

- March 3-4 – Literacy Strategies (continued)
- March 8-9 – LD Comprehensive Series, Part 4 (continued)
- March 17-18 – Literacy Strategies (continued)
- March 30 - April 1– Adult Numeracy Initiative - 10 participating programs (continued)

April

- April 14-15 – Literacy Strategies (continued)



Meetings/Events:

- January 19 – NW Regional Meeting with directors in Rogers Session ID: **137065**
- January 21 – SW Regional Meeting with directors in Arkadelphia Session ID: **137066**
- January 27 – SE Regional Meeting with directors in Monticello Session ID: **137067**

- February 1 – NE Regional Meeting with directors in Newport Session ID: **137068**
- February 3 – Central Regional Meeting with directors in Little Rock Session ID: **137069**
- February 4 – Wage Meeting

- April 7-8 – Wage Retreat



TRAVEL Reimbursement

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

*Governor
 Mike Beebe*

*State Board of
 Career
 Education*

*Director,
 William L. "Bill"
 Walker, Jr.*

*Division of
 Rehabilitation
 Services
 Robert Trevino*

*Adult Education
 Division
 James H.
 Smith, Jr.*

*Division of Career
 & Technical
 Education
 John Davidson*

*Communications
 Deborah
 Germany*

*Human Resources
 & Development
 Pam Harris*

*Finance
 Charles Brown*

AACAE Legislative Agenda



On Thursday, December 16, 2010, six adult educators went to visit the Governor in an effort to educate and inform him on Adult Education in Arkansas. Attending the meeting were: Wes Pillow, current AACAE President; Sandra Miller, past President AACAE; Ben Aldama, Chair, Adult Education Advisory Council; Blake Robertson, Director, Ouachita Technical College Adult Education; Lloyd Huskey, Incoming Chair, Adult Education Advisory Council; and Becky Linsky, AACAE Legislative Committee Representative.

The meeting was very productive. The Governor told the group that they didn't have to sell him on their programs - he was a big supporter, but there is no money available. If money becomes available, he will consider more funding for adult education. There is more good news! AACAE Legislative Committee received the \$5,000 grant from Dollar General Stores to pay for our legislative luncheon and to develop a listserv of AACAE members. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the Legislative Luncheon on Wednesday, February 23, 2011.

The AACAE Legislative Committee asks that everyone contact their legislators to educate and inform them about Adult Education. Many of the new legislators don't know the great story our programs have to tell. When issues come up, legislators will vote on the things they know about. Adult Education does not need to be left out!

Becky Linsky

Partnership for Health Literacy in Arkansas

The Partnership for Health Literacy in Arkansas (PHLA) met on Wednesday, December 1, 2010, at the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service state office in Little Rock. The PHLA seeks to serve as a coordination and communication hub for improving health literacy in Arkansas. The purpose of the meeting on December 1 was to:

- * Provide an update on local and national health literacy activities;
- * Encourage collaboration among those working on health literacy in Arkansas; and
- * Move the work of the PHLA workgroups forward.

In May 2010, PHLA became an official section of the Arkansas Public Health Association (APHA), which provides a fiduciary umbrella. It also offers an affordable and convenient way to host an annual health literacy conference as part of the annual APHA meeting. At the May meeting, officers were selected. They included: Jennifer Dillaha, Chair; Margaret Harris, Vice-Chair; and Fidel Samour, Secretary. It was also decided to establish the following workgroups:

- * Professional Education (resources for health professionals working with patients with low health literacy),
- * Public Education (resources for Arkansans to improve their health literacy),
- * Conference Planning (for the May 2011 APHA meeting),
- * Literacy Councils/Adult Ed (partnering with adult literacy teachers to address health literacy),
- * Evidence-based health literacy practices.

Adult Education and Literacy are excited to be a part of this partnership. It is hoped that more local programs will become involved in health literacy.

News from the Disabilities Project Manager

Effective Reading Comprehension Strategies

There is an excellent matrix available at http://www.adlit.org/strategy_library/ for determining explicit strategy instruction to increase reading comprehension. All of the strategies are fully explained regarding their purpose, how to model effectively, and how to know when to use the strategy: before, during, or after an activity. Many of the strategies can be applied across content areas, and many have links to templates you can use in the classroom immediately.

Explicit strategy instruction is at the core of good comprehension instruction, especially for students with learning disabilities. **"Before"** strategies activate students' prior knowledge and set a purpose for reading. **"During"** strategies help students make connections, monitor their understanding, generate questions, and stay focused. **"After"** strategies provide students an opportunity to summarize, question, reflect, discuss, and respond to text.

Following is an example of the matrix:

			Focus		
			Vocabulary	Comprehension	Writing
Before Reading					
Anticipation Guide	doc	pdf	○	X	○
Collaborative – Strategic – Reading Learning Logs	doc	pdf	○	X	○
Concept Sorts	doc	pdf	X	X	○

AdLit.org has many other excellent classroom resources. For those and for access to the complete matrix, go to <http://www.adlit.org/>.

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services: The Process of Student Referrals

There have been several questions lately about the process of referring a student to Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) as part of a learning disabilities evaluation for the purpose of requesting accommodations on the GED® Test. Last December, Janice Hanlon, Arkansas GED State Administrator; and Patti White, AALRC Disabilities Project Manager; met with Dr. Nicholas Paal, Director of ARS Rehabilitation Initial Diagnosis and Assessment for Clients (RIDAC); and Rachel Howell, M.A., ARS Psychological Examiner to discuss the referral process.

The important thing to remember is that this is a collaborative agreement between ARS and Arkansas Department of Career Education, Adult Education Division. The purpose of referring a

News from the Disabilities Project Manager

student to ARS is so the student with a disability will have assistance in locating employment and/or training for employment. The diagnostic evaluations provided by RIDAC are a part of the intake process for students who are determined to be eligible for ARS services; they are not provided solely for the purpose of providing disability documentation. Therefore, if a student is already employed, or if the student is unemployed but has no intention of finding employment, the student should not be referred to ARS.

Rather, the local adult education or literacy program should contact Patti White at prwhite@madisoncounty.net to determine other avenues for obtaining documentation for requesting accommodations on the GED tests.

The Commissioner of ARS authorized the referral of adult education and literacy students to ARS for (1) initial determination of eligibility for services, and (2) if eligible, subsequent diagnosis of learning disabilities. For students working towards getting their GED credentials, the diagnosis will include the WAIS-III or WAIS-IV test, required by the national GED Testing Service in Washington DC to request accommodations for a learning disability.

Therefore, if the student has no existing documentation of a learning disability, and if the student does not have a job (but does want a job), the local program should refer the student to the local ARS agency program to determine eligibility for services.

Students who are referred to ARS MUST:

- be unemployed and seeking employment;
- indicate a possible learning disability as a result of a screening process at the local adult education or literacy center; and
- complete the Woodcock-Johnson III achievement test before ARS conducts any testing.

When the student is referred to ARS, they must take the following to their initial meeting with the ARS counselor:

- any completed screening information that indicates the possibility of a learning disability; e.g., TABE or Practice Test scores both with and without accommodations applied;
- a confidential release of information form, signed by the student, that authorizes the program to share the screening results with the ARS psychologist;
- a copy of the official GED Accommodation Request for Testing Accommodations, Learning and Other Cognitive Disabilities (ACC-4), with the Woodcock-Johnson scores recorded and signed by the person who administered that test; and
- a letter (on your program's letterhead) requesting the diagnosis. Please indicate that the psychologist should complete Section 3 on the ACC-4 form. Also, include your contact information in case the psychologist has any questions.

AAELRC Advisory Committee

*Janie Carter,
Chair,
Crossett*

*Emily Barrier,
Little Rock*

*Carrie Boden,
Little Rock*

*Richard
Hampton,
Texarkana*

*Becky Linsky,
Hot Springs*

*Tara Rice,
North Little
Rock*

*Gary
Udoy,
Vice-Chair,
Fort Smith*

*Ruth Ann
Williams,
Conway*

News from the Disabilities Project Manager

Many students have benefited from an ARS referral in the past, not only for their provision of documentation needed to request accommodations on the GED test, but also for ARS assistance in finding a job. ARS is willing to participate in this collaboration with adult education and literacy students because – as we all agreed at our meeting in December – the student needs the accommodations to pass the GED, and ARS will be able to help the student find better jobs once the student obtains their GED credential.

For a complete description of the process of making referrals for learning disabilities evaluations, go to <http://aalrc.org/resources/ld/referralProcess.aspx>. This website includes a list of contacts who can provide the WJ-III testing as well as a list of psychologists and clinics contracted to provide WAIS evaluations for students who are not eligible for an ARS referral and do not have the financial resources to obtain documentation on their own.

Total GED Accommodations Requests for 2010

The results are in from the Arkansas Department of Career Education, Adult Education Division, GED Testing Program office, for the total number of requests for accommodations on the GED for 2010. The total number of approved accommodations is **137**, which is an increase of 4 from the 2009 total of 134. Below is a breakdown of the four types of accommodations requests and the totals for each category 2010.

2010 GED Accommodations Requests	
Learning Disabilities (LD)	
Approved	89
Disapproved	23
Pending	2
Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD)	
Approved	23
Disapproved	6
Physical/Chronic Health Disabilities	
Approved	10
Disapproved	0
Mental/Emotional Disabilities	
Approved	15
Disapproved	6

The good news for students with disabilities in Arkansas Adult Education and Literacy programs is that the number of requests for accommodations continues to increase each year as more and more programs and staff understand both the need for testing accommodations as well as the process.

Continued on page 8

AALRC Staff

*Director
Marsha Taylor*

*Administrative
Assistant
Wanda Johnson*

*Professional
Development
Coordinator
Nancy Loftis*

*Media
Coordinator
Klaus Neu*

*Secretary
Toccaro Baker*

*Information
Technology
Specialist
Rob Pollan*

*Disabilities
Project
Manager
Patti White*

Tech



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.

TeamViewer – Computer Remote Control



Do you need computer help? The AALRC has a new program that can remotely connect to your computers to help you solve problems. It is called TeamViewer and it is free of charge to your centers funded with adult education funds. The AALRC has an unlimited license, so we can install the program on any computer in our organization without the need to recycle licenses (having to uninstall on one computer to be able to install to another.) It works very well with all Windows computers and servers, including Windows Vista and Windows 7. The TeamViewer software may be downloaded from our website at <http://aalrc.org/index.aspx> , then click on Remote Control on the

left. The same software may also be downloaded from www.teamviewer.com . It is easy to install and setup. After the installation, you will be given a user ID and password, then let us know your ID and password and we will be able to connect to your computer. Once it is installed, you will not need to uninstall or reinstall, so future help is just an email, text, or phone call away.

TeamViewer also works well for webinar-type-presentations and even supports VoIP (Voice over IP) if you have a microphone and speakers. If you would like to use it for presentations, let us know and we can get it set up for you. This can drastically cut down on travel and save money.

Using the program is just like being there. We see exactly the same screen as you and can perform anything that needs to be done, including virus removal, program installation, fixing network and wireless problems, printer-sharing and troubleshooting, computer and program training, tune ups, and much more. We can even work on several computers at once.

Another nice thing about TeamViewer is that it's free for personal use. So if you need to connect to a remote computer or someone needs to connect to yours, I highly recommend downloading it and trying it out. It sure beats trying to explain the situation over the phone and dealing with the accompanying frustration. The only thing you need to do is install TeamViewer on both computers and give the user ID and password to the person wanting to connect to your computer. You can even trade screens and switch control over who sees whose screen.

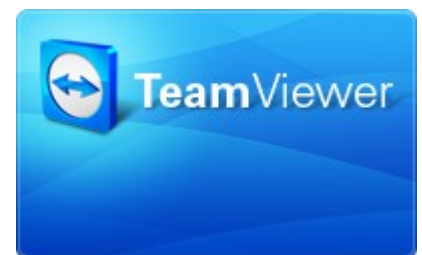
If you need remote control help, please contact:

Rob Pollan

rob@aalrc.org

479-649-5830 Office

479-806-2617 Cell and Text



Total GED Accommodations Requests for 2010

Continued from page 6

In particular, the number of requests for AD/HD accommodations has increased somewhat more than the requests for LD accommodations. This may be due to the statistically high percentage of students with LD who also have AD/HD, coupled with the dramatically less complicated request process for AD/HD accommodations on the GED test. Most students can request and receive the same accommodations with their AD/HD documentation as they can with their LD documentation, which can be much more difficult to obtain.

The requests for GED accommodations due to AD/HD that were disapproved were due to a lack of appropriate documentation accompanying the form; specifically, there was no letter from the doctor who diagnosed the AD/HD stating the date of diagnosis and suggested accommodations. The programs were advised to obtain a letter from the doctor so the request could be processed, but the GED Testing Program office did not receive any subsequent documentation.

For questions about helping a student with disabilities request and receive accommodations on the GED tests, please contact Patti White at prwhite@madisoncounty.net or 800.569.3539.

Holman Named As New ALC Executive Director



Jennifer Holman,
ALC Executive Director

Following the departure of long-time chief Marie Clinton Bruno, Arkansas Literacy Councils (ALC) named a new executive director in October of 2010. Jennifer Oglesby Holman has a background in non-profits, government, and communications. Having grown up in rural Polk County, Jennifer has a keen understanding of the literacy needs throughout the state, and is familiar with the noble work of ALC and adult education programs since immediate family members have benefitted from the programs.

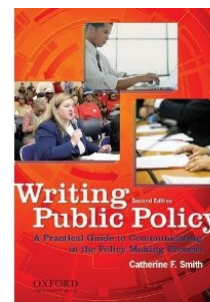
Jennifer has seen a variety of print as a copywriter, served as press secretary for U.S. Congressman Vic Snyder for over five years (one in Washington, DC; four in Arkansas), and as director of communications for a statewide campaign for governor. For the past two years, Jennifer has worked with national non-profits in the state.

Jennifer holds an undergraduate degree from Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, and was awarded a Master of Public Administration from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She was named president of the program's Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society in 2010. A graduate of Little Rock Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Greater Little Rock, Jennifer also serves on the Arkansas Earth Day Foundation Board of Directors.

Jennifer will work with ALC program coordinator Belinda Sanders and finance manager Amy Henderson to provide structure and support to the 45 non-profit county-level literacy councils throughout the state, which tutor adults in need of help with basic reading, writing, and math skills, or who want to learn English as a second language.

AALRC Library Update

"Writing Public Policy: A Practical Guide to Communicating in the Policy-Making Process" by Catherine F. Smith is one of the newest additions of the AALRC library. This book offers a hands-on approach to planning, creating, and assessing public policy documents and includes updated material on online communication. If you have participated at the "Building Effective Local Partnerships and Collaborations" workshop initiated by the Dollar General Presentation Series in October 2010 here in Little Rock, this book might be a thoughtful follow-up to learn more about this subject.



Please contact Klaus Neu, AALRC Media Coordinator, at klaus@aalrc.org if you would like to check it out.