

Changes in works for adult schooling

By Sarah D. Wire, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette (published January 1, 2012)

**Arkansas Adult Learning
Resource Center**

525 West Capitol Avenue
Little Rock, AR 72201

Phone: 800-832-6242
501-907-2490

FAX: 501-907-2492
<http://www.aalrc.org>

**BECAUSE OF COPYRIGHT ISSUES, WE ARE
UNABLE TO PUBLISH THIS ARTICLE ONLINE.**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A PRINTED
VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER'S EDITION
WHICH INCLUDES THE ARKANSAS
DEMOCRAT GAZETTE ARTICLE, PLEASE FEEL
FREE TO CONTACT THE ARKANSAS ADULT
LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER.**

Adult Learning Network

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

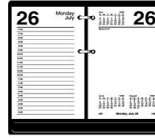
The Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center provides equal access to all programs and activities.

Continued on page 3

Calendar
All events are at the AALRC unless otherwise noted.



Professional Development/Events:



January

- January 11 – LD 101- 152053
- January 12 – LEA #2
- January 18 – Budget Review - 152054
- January 24 – AERIS New Users 101 - 152055

February

- February 1-2 – LD Comprehensive (Session 4 - rescheduled from December 6-7)
- February 2 – Skills Assessment Manager (SAM) Training
 Repetitive sessions: 1. session - AM
 2. session - PM
- February 3 – Skills Assessment Manager (SAM) Training
 Repetitive sessions: 1. session - AM
 2. session - PM
- February 3 – WAGE
- February 7 – Spring Admin Meeting - 152157
- February 9-10 – Literacy Strategies (Assessment) -
 Session 1 (days 1+2) - 152065
- February 15 – AERIS 201- 152066



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.

March

- March 1-2 – Literacy Strategies (Assessment) -
 Session 1 (days 3+4)
- March 6-7 – Teaching with Manipulatives - 152067
- March 29-30 – Literacy Strategies (Instructional Strategies)
 Session 2 (days 1+2) - 152068

Teaching with Manipulatives Workshop Coming in March



The AALRC is again offering the *Teaching with Manipulatives* workshop in March 2011. 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. 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 – almost \$250 worth of classroom tools! For a complete list of the toolkit contents, go to http://aalrc.org/resources/ld/ld_workshops.pdf, pp. 9-10.

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
Roderic
Duckworth
(interim)

Communications
Deborah
Germany

Human Resources
& Development
Pam Harris

Finance
Charles Brown

**BECAUSE OF COPYRIGHT ISSUES, WE ARE
UNABLE TO PUBLISH THIS ARTICLE ONLINE.**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A PRINTED
VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER'S EDITION
WHICH INCLUDES THE ARKANSAS
DEMOCRAT GAZETTE ARTICLE, PLEASE FEEL
FREE TO CONTACT THE ARKANSAS ADULT
LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER.**

News from the Disabilities Project Manager

Memory Strategies for Students with Learning Disabilities

Is your student having difficulty remembering what he or she learned from one class day to the next? There are some helpful strategies discussed in an *LD Online* article at <http://www.ldonline.org/article/5736>.


The article discusses a number of ideas, but it's interesting that the first strategy mentioned is to SLOW DOWN. Students with learning disabilities may need up to three times longer than other students to process information, but often, the student is so anxious to complete the adult education or literacy program that they want to cram everything in as fast as they can, which is not an effective learning strategy. I call this a "learning binge," like eating half a gallon of ice cream at one sitting. The more effective way to remember what you're learning is to slow down for processing, then drill and practice **every day** in-between classes. Again, a little at a time is more effective. Students can set aside ten-minute "snack times" for review, three or four times a day. If the student is primarily a visual learner, it may be good for them to use flash cards or graphic organizers to review what they're learning. For auditory learners, anything on tape or set to music can be a great way to practice. Tactile-kinesthetic learners should use some kind of manipulative to practice their skills, or at least include writing or typing in their practice sessions.

"WHEN YOU REALLY WANT TO DO
SOMETHING RIGHT, WHICH IS USUALLY
WHAT YOU SHOULD BE STRIVING FOR,
YOU TEND TO SLOW DOWN."

— JASON FRIED

While adult students may balk at the extra time needed for these brief learning "snacks," they will quickly learn that they CAN remember what they're learning if they remind themselves often enough just what that is.

Online Referral Process Updated



**Arkansas Adult Learning
Resource Center**

Learn More. Earn More.

About Us

Contact Us

Site Map

The AALRC's *Learning Disabilities Diagnosis Referral Process for GED Accommodations* was recently updated to include new Woodcock-Johnson III test administrators and recent contact information for WAIS-IV diagnosticians contracted with the AALRC. The referral process is available at <http://aalrc.org/resources/ld/referralProcess.aspx>. There is also a link at the top of the webpage to the document needed to request AALRC funding for WAIS-IV evaluations.

The referral process describes, in detail, the steps to take to refer a student for a learning disabilities diagnosis. It includes an explanation of how to determine if a student is eligible for a referral to Arkansas Rehabilitation Services for testing, or if the student should be referred to a private psychologist under contract with the AALRC.

News from the Disabilities Project Manager

Rights and Responsibilities of Students with Disabilities Brochure Template Now Available

The University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning, Division of Adult Studies, published a great resource in 2005 called, "Accommodating Adults with Disabilities in Adult Education Programs." This publication is available online at <http://das.kucrl.org/projects/accommodating-adults-with-disabilities-in-adult-education-programs/> under "Projects Details."



Included in the publication is a tri-fold brochure that gives a succinct overview of adult students with disabilities rights and responsibilities in an adult education or literacy program.

For years, I've been telling programs to use that brochure as a template to make their own, tailored to their own program. Recently I tried to do that, and guess what – I couldn't do it, because it's a .pdf file. Rats. So, my apologies to all of you who tried to do the impossible.

The good news is that I just made my own in Microsoft Publisher, with specific program names, info, logos, and resource links. I did this as an example for an adult education program during a pre-program review consultation, but I would be happy to share it with any other program that wants to have their own. I'll even help you tailor it to your own program's information, pictures, etc.

Contact me at prwhite@madisoncounty.net or call 800.569.3539 if you want your own brochure. It's a very helpful handout for students with disabilities, and is a great start for the student to understand their rights and responsibilities, as well as tips for self-advocacy and sample testing accommodations.

Need Help Preparing for the ADA Part of Your Program Review?

The AALRC's Disability Project Manager, Patti White, is available to come to your program and help you ensure your compliance with the ADA and the LD Policy Manual before your program review – or after, if needed. This type of on-site consultation usually takes only a couple of hours, and is available to all Arkansas Adult Education and Literacy programs upon request. Just contact me at prwhite@madisoncounty.net or call 800.569.3539 to set up your consultation and ensure your ADA and policy manual compliance.

AALRC 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

Taking the GED Tests One at a Time – Yes, for Students with Diagnosed Disabilities!

I've written about this before in the newsletter, but I've recently spoken with a healthy number of teachers who were not aware that students with diagnosed disabilities do not have to pass the whole GED Practice Test before they start taking the GED Tests. The type of disability doesn't matter; it just has to be diagnosed.

So for example, you have a student with a disability (LD, AD/HD, depression, epilepsy, etc.). That student can study in one content area – focus, focus, focus, focus – then take that part of the GED Practice Test. When they pass that part of the practice test, they can then take that same part of the GED Tests. Then they move on to the next subject area.

None of the GED Tests will be scored until the student completes ALL of the tests. But many students with disabilities have problems in the areas of memory, organization, concentration, and critical thinking. This one-subject-at-a-time approach to testing can be a vital accommodation for some people with disabilities, so please be sure that all of your students with disabilities know that this is an option.

Standing Up for Safer Environmental Chemicals

The Safer Chemicals Healthy Families blog has an article about an Arkansas educator who went to Washington D.C. to advocate for safer chemicals in the environment. The article is available online at <http://blog.saferchemicals.org/2011/09/learning-disabilities-advocate-joins-the-fight.html>, and is a first-person narrative by Tricia Smith, the director of the Learning Disabilities Association of Arkansas. Ms. Smith met with politicians, actress and advocate Jessica Alba, and other parents who came to advocate for the Safe Chemicals Act of 2011.



There was an article in the AALRC newsletter about environmental toxins in 2009 called "Toys with Lead Made in the U.S.?" If you missed it the first time around, it could be a good follow-up to the safer chemicals blog. The article is available online at <http://aalrc.org/news/newsletters/2009V2.pdf>, pp. 5-6. Another good resource for information is the Healthy Children's Project website at www.healthychildrenproject.org.

AALRC Staff

Director
Marsha Taylor

Administrative
Assistant
Wanda Johnson

Professional
Development
Coordinator
Nancy Loftis

Media
Coordinator
Klaus Neu

Secretary
Toccara 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.

Computer Tune-up



Is your office computer running slow? Are your lab computers full of spyware? Are you still waiting for that webpage to load? If so, we have a deal for you.

For an unlimited time, we are now offering free computer tune-ups for your office and lab computers. And if you act now, we'll not only fix your computer for free but any other computer in your office too! That's a mega value!

We are prepared to make this offer not for \$29.95, not for \$19.95, but for free! To take advantage of this incredible offer call 1-800-832-6242, operators are standing by. Restrictions and stipulations do apply – your computer must be part of your programs inventory.



Switch Off

Save power and time by having your computers shut down at a certain time. Instead of going to each computer in your lab and shutting it down individually, this program will automatically shut down your computers for you. Please don't leave your computers on all night, they will waste electricity and parts will wear out faster. To download this simple and free program, go to www.download.com, in the search box on the webpage type in "switch off" (without the quotes) and press enter. Install the program and set the time to automatically shut down.

**BECAUSE OF COPYRIGHT ISSUES, WE ARE
UNABLE TO PUBLISH THIS ARTICLE ONLINE.**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A PRINTED
VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER'S EDITION
WHICH INCLUDES THE ARKANSAS
DEMOCRAT GAZETTE ARTICLE, PLEASE FEEL
FREE TO CONTACT THE ARKANSAS ADULT
LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER.**