



# KENTUCKY ADULT EDUCATION News To Use

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## Stagnolia presents Champion Award

Darryl McGaha, associate director for workforce development, Lake Cumberland Area Development District, was presented a Kentucky Adult Education Champion award for his many years of adult education support and promotion. KYAE Champions are individuals, businesses or organizations that have made significant contributions to raising the educational level of Kentucky adults.

In presenting the award, Reecie Stagnolia, Vice President, KYAE, noted the importance of collaborative partnerships as Kentucky continues many efforts to raise the educational levels of adults.

“Darryl’s fingerprints are all over the success of the adult education programs in the Lake Cumberland area,” Stagnolia said, “and his efforts will ripple on for years to come.”



*Darryl McGaha accepts a KYAE Champion Award from Reecie Stagnolia.*

## Survey Results

With changes to the GED® test series just around the corner, newly implemented managed enrollment, and an ever-increasing menu of available resources, KYAE asked adult educators about how to best identify and share best practices and resources. Results from the survey, as well as KYAE’s response to the top four areas of interest, are available by [\*clicking here\*](#).

## GED® records page

The Kentucky GED® records request page, [www.ged.ky.gov](http://www.ged.ky.gov), has undergone a facelift. The site has been streamlined to provide answers to the most commonly asked questions, and the individual and agency request links are now separate, easily distinguishable buttons.

Please update your websites and student materials to make sure you are connecting the public and students to the correct address – [www.ged.ky.gov](http://www.ged.ky.gov) – for GED® records.

As a reminder:

- The KYAE office in Frankfort is the only location that can provide Kentucky GED® records (official transcripts or a keepsake diploma).
- Requests must be made at [www.ged.ky.gov](http://www.ged.ky.gov).
- Mailed requests are not accepted.

On average, KYAE processes approximately 1,400 GED® requests a month, providing essential documentation for GED® graduates pursuing their career and educational goals.

### Navigating computer-based GED® registration

KYAE has created a series of short instructional videos to help you navigate GED® computer-based testing registration, scheduling and payment.

Each Kentucky-specific video walks you through some element of the GED® computer-based testing process. Click the links below to view.

- [Registration for students 19 and over](#)
- [Registration for students under 19](#)
- [Scheduling and payment for all students](#)

## New GED® close-out resources

### For students

As we move closer to the end of the 2002 GED® test series, it's important for students to understand why and how the test is changing. New Readers Press has an article – with video – written specifically for students.

This is an online resource that adult educators can easily use in classrooms or in orientation sessions to make sure students are aware of the need to finish the GED® this calendar year. Check it out by [clicking here](#).

### For local programs

KYAE's support for local close-out efforts continues to grow. If you haven't checked out the [campaign resources](#) recently, you're missing new items that have been added.

Local programs can customize the following outreach materials:

- [Backpack fliers](#) – These are designed to appeal to parents. Check with local elementary schools and see if they would help their students' parents become more educated by sending fliers home in kids' backpacks. Offer to package by classrooms (21 in this classroom, 25 in that one) to make it easier on them! These would also be good to use when you staff a booth at a school event.
- [Pizza box and hamburger fliers](#) – Hit up your local restaurants and see if they will put these on top of their delivery boxes, in bags and on the counters to get some hot, fresh adult education info directly into homes!

KYAE will customize the following (see samples on the [close-out webpage](#)):

- Yard Signs
- Banners
- Billboards

**Remember – the last day for students to test on the current GED series in Kentucky is December 18, 2013.**

## Transition assistance

The Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) provides the following resources to aid adults transitioning to postsecondary education. More information is available by clicking on [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com) or calling (800) 928-8926.

- Go Higher Grants are available to adults age 24 or older who are enrolled less than half-time at a participating Kentucky college or university. Applicants must show financial need and be U.S. citizens, nationals or permanent residents. They must also be seeking their first undergraduate degree. The maximum award is \$1,000. To be considered for the grant, students must complete a Go Higher Grant application ([www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com)) and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)).
- Adults Returning to School is published by KHEAA and provides information about college entrance exams, financial aid programs and Kentucky colleges and universities. Free copies are available by e-mailing [publications@kheaa.com](mailto:publications@kheaa.com).

### COABE Resources

Presentations, materials and resources from the recent COABE conference are available by [clicking here](#). Find a wide range of resources on adult education topics, including math, reading and writing; college and career pathways; ESL; instructional technology; literacy; assessment and many others.

# Faces of KYAE

Arturo Flores is breaking the cycle



***GED graduate Arturo Flores breaks the cycle of drugs and criminal activity by making no more excuses and studying like it's an eight-hour-a-day job.***

*The following is one in an ongoing series of student success stories. To see your student successes highlighted in News to Use, contact [Missy.Brownson@ky.gov](mailto:Missy.Brownson@ky.gov).*

When Arturo Flores, 31, was a young man in California, he couldn't resist the lure of the streets. Arturo, or "Art," joined a gang at age 14. He dropped out of school during 8th grade.

"At 15 years old, I entered the juvenile hall system for the first time," Art said. His drug use and criminal activity led to being in and out of juvenile detention during his teens. The year Art turned 18, his son was born and his mother died. Despite these life-changing events, Art said, "I was so stuck in the world I was living in, I continued going." Between ages 19 and 25, he was in prison five times.

Art discovered a new life when he entered Owensboro Regional Recovery in 2010. As he was meeting his goal of getting clean and sober, he began

working toward earning his GED.

Although his academic skills were at a 6th-grade level, but he didn't let that deter him. Every day the Daviess County Adult Education program was open, Art was there, studying like it was an eight-hour-a-day job. He earned his GED within three months.

He's currently an Owensboro Community and Technical College student. His goal is to earn a masters in social work to help troubled youth, especially those who are active in gangs.

"When I was a kid, people tried to talk to me, but I didn't listen because they hadn't been where I was," Art said. "I want to let kids know there is hope to turn things around. I'll tell them, 'you've got to break the cycle.' I could use the excuse that my mom and grandparents didn't have a GED, but I have a child, I have cousins, I have nieces and nephews. I can't tell someone to do it if I haven't done it. At some point, I believe you've got to break the cycle."

## New KYAE staff member

Sharon Johnston has joined the KYAE staff as Senior Associate of Integrated Education and Training Models (IETM). She is a member of Dr. Jacqueline Korengel's Strategic Initiatives team.

Sharon's initial, primary focus in this new position is to support programs in contextualizing instruction and integrating employability skills with adult education instruction. Through this approach, students are encouraged to earn stackable credentials that will help pave their way to work.

Sharon's work will be informed by multiple models, including those piloted in Kentucky, such as [Accelerating Opportunity Kentucky](#) and Skill Up Kentucky, a contextualized GED program that emphasizes the integration of 21st Century skills through problem-based instructional activities targeting a variety of workplace contexts.

Before joining KYAE, Sharon served as strategy lead for Kentucky Department of Education's College and Career Advising Initiative. In this role, she oversaw implementation of the Individual Learning Plan (ILP) and Operation Preparation, a joint effort of KDE and the Department of Workforce Development that fostered collaboration in youth college and/or career planning among schools, students, parents and communities.

Prior to her work at KDE, Sharon directed a Barbara Bush Family Literacy Program in Scott County. Sharon holds a bachelor's degree in early childhood and elementary education from the College of New Jersey and a master's degree in family studies from the University of Kentucky.

Sharon can be reached by phone at (502) 573-5114 x126 or via email at [Sharon.Johnston@ky.gov](mailto:Sharon.Johnston@ky.gov).

## OVAE news

Here's the latest news from the Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE), U.S. Department of Education:

### Stay up to date

OVAE's new blog provides adult educators with up-to-date information about events and OVAE presentations, highlights from field visits and more.

Visit the blog online [here](#), or sign up from the [RSS feed](#) to get updates via your favorite RSS reader.

### Online career help

The U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has developed a new online guide to help students and job seekers chart their future career paths. The guide—*What's My Next Move?*—connects young people to career exploration resources available on the CareerOneStop (COS) ([www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org)) website and the O\*NET site My Next Move ([www.mynextmove.org](http://www.mynextmove.org)). The guide encourages students to think and make decisions about their futures, and to engage with career counselors, workforce professionals, teachers, and parents or guardians.

"The What's My Next Move? guide can be a powerful tool to aid exploring career pathways," said Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. "Deciding on a career may be the single biggest decision young people face in the transition from school to the workforce, and having a clear, step-by-step plan can help job seekers make more informed decisions about their role in the 21st-century economy."

## Adult education featured in telefund

A number of local adult educators and KYAE staff took part in the annual KET Telefund, raising money for KET and raising the public's awareness of adult education in Kentucky. The on-air hosts talked about the mission of adult education throughout the evening, and David Walters, Director, Program Administration, was interviewed by KET's Bill Goodman. Click [here](#) to see the interview. Thanks to all who participated.



*Adult educators from several counties and KYAE staff answered phones during the annual KET Telefund.*



## Bright Ideas • Best practices from the field

### Help students pay for GED testing.

"Our staff recycles paper and aluminum and uses all proceeds to help students pay GED fees."

– Vicki Boyd, Daviess County

"The family resources programs at both elementary schools pay the test fee for any first-time test taker who has a child in Head Start or elementary school."

– Jackie Robertson, Hancock County

"Our greatest resource for assisting

students with the GED testing fee comes from Morehead State's Commonwealth Educational Opportunity Center. A counselor from this program visits our center twice monthly and provides students with a voucher to pay for the GED testing fee."

– Cheryl Botner, Lee County

*For more details and bright ideas for reaching out to potential and current students, [click here](#). Share your own best practices for outreach by sending them to [Missy.Brownson@ky.gov](mailto:Missy.Brownson@ky.gov).*

## Parting Thought • Something to challenge or inspire

"A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops."

– Henry Adams, 1838-1913, American journalist, historian and novelist

