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KAERS Release

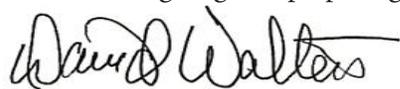
KYAE is pleased to announce that the Kentucky Adult Education Reporting System (KAERS) is now “live.”

KAERS has features that are unsurpassed in the field of adult education data reporting. KYAE, in the development of KAERS, has provided adult education programs throughout Kentucky a remarkable resource tool for capturing and analyzing data to lead to improvement in processes and services delivered to our adult population. Please remember that the system is in its infancy, as enhancements and additional features will be released in Phase II.

The system was officially activated for data reporting on Monday, September 16, 2013. Prior to release, there were 11 KAERS trainings conducted throughout the state, with 333 adult education staff trained. The process for activating staff will follow the same procedures as outlined in the KAERS training: One person in each county program will be made “active” and given the rights to activate other staff members within the program.

Any questions or concerns can be addressed to Terry Tackett (terry.tackett@ky.gov, ext. 107) and/or Tammy Powers (tammy.powers@ky.gov, ext. 114).

I want to personally thank the entire CPE/KYAE team for the vision and remarkable efforts in designing and preparing such a technologically advanced system. Great work, team!



David Walters, Director, Program Administration



The KAERS team celebrates the launch. L-R: David Walters, Yuvaraj Dhanapal, Sujith Kakulamari, Tim Meshginpoosh, Tammy Powers, Elaine Maher, Deepa Dubal. Team member Terry Tackett is not pictured.



KYAE to be featured on Education Matters on Monday, September 23

Kentucky Adult Education and upcoming GED® test changes will be in the spotlight on the premiere episode of the fifth season of Education Matters on KET on Monday, September 23, at 9:00 p.m. EST, 8:00 p.m. CDT. You will see the familiar faces of Reecie Stagnolia, vice president of KYAE; Rodney Johnson, program director of Russell County; and Cristina Marsh, program director of Carroll, Gallatin, Henry, Shelby and Trimble counties. Barry Burkett and Missy Brownson will be co-hosting a live-tweet event during the airing. To engage in the conversation, visit www.twitter.com and use #EdMatters between 9:00 and 10:00 p.m. EST, 8:00 and 9:00 p.m. CDT, on Monday, September 23.



Spotlight on GED®



Paying the price: Helping students cover the cost of GED® testing

While free GED® testing is a many-splendored thing, it is a rare and fleeting occurrence. However, paying the GED® testing fee can be less of a burden – or even a non-issue – for students if your program develops partnerships and processes that help defray these costs. [Click here](#) to find ideas based on current Kentucky adult education programs’ tried-and-true methods, as well as instructions on using funds to pay for computerized testing.

GED® graduates must use e-transcript service

If a Kentucky GED® graduate needs a GED® transcript for employment or entry to postsecondary, please instruct them to visit GED.KY.gov. Requests may no longer be made by phone or mail, so please do not share the KYAE phone number or street address for this purpose. Because electronic documents make it possible for most people to receive their documents the day the request is made or the next business day, KYAE will no longer offer the option for people to pick up their paper documents from the KYAE office in Frankfort. All GED® records (except for some military records) for tests taken in Kentucky from 1950 to present can be obtained through this request site. It costs \$10 for an official transcript, the document needed for employment or school; \$25 for a replacement diploma, a keepsake document; and \$10 for an electronic transcript delivered by email or FAX. Payment is made online with a MasterCard or Visa. Pre-paid versions of those cards are accepted.

September media campaign spreads “Time is running out!” message

Time is running out on the current GED® test, and KYAE is in the midst of a statewide, multi-tiered media campaign to ensure that Kentuckians are aware of this fact. The campaign, which is running throughout September, features:

- Television commercials on broadcast and cable channels;
- Radio spots;
- Classified advertising;
- Print advertisements in Job News and Kentucky Living publications;

- Online advertising on targeted sites, including Pandora and GSN Game Network; and
- Paid Facebook page promotions.

As new students enroll, please be sure to find out how they heard about adult education services – and share that information with us via KAERS. We rely upon this data to determine which aspects of the campaign have been most successful and what methods of advertising we will fund in future campaigns. For any questions or feedback about this campaign, please contact Missy Brownson at missy.brownson@ky.gov.

Have an accelerated GED® course? Please share your best practices!

Does your program offer a “fast track” opportunity for more advanced students to prepare for the GED® test at an accelerated pace? If so, what is working well for you? KYAE is developing a “micro site” to share suggested guidelines, best practices and materials related to accelerated GED® courses. If you are willing to contribute relevant ideas, data, syllabi, etc., please contact Toni Quire at toni.quire@ky.gov.

Faces of KYAE

Earning GED® is a “building block” for self, child

*By Michelle Jaynes,
Kentucky GED® graduate*

I was a 25-year-old single parent of a three-year-old disabled child and working a series of dead-end jobs when I decided to try and obtain my GED®. The need to provide better for my child was my inspiration.

It’s been a long road since then, but I have attended some college after obtaining my GED®. I’m not finished with my education, but I have got a promising job and intend on furthering my education in social work and becoming a school-based therapist. Obtaining my GED® was a building block of mine and my child’s life!



GED graduate Michelle Jaynes is shown with her inspiration, daughter Marissa, now 14.

Celebrate!

National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week: September 23-29

Looking for a way to draw attention to your program? Next week is National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week. Now would be an excellent time for you to call up your local newspaper or radio station to see if they would be interested in covering your program. To find out how others have celebrated this week, [go here](#). Let us know if your program does anything special!

Federal government offers student loan forgiveness

The federal government may forgive all or part of your student loans if you meet certain requirements. The forgiveness options for federal student loans, according to the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA), include teacher, public service and nursing loan forgiveness.

For complete details on these and other programs, visit www.ed.gov.



The edge Kentucky needs for the future can only come from a robust, high quality education system

By Bob King

President of the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

Note: This opinion piece was published at <http://www.lanereport.com> on 8/13/13.

At the Kentucky Business Summit hosted by the state Chamber of Commerce, Dave Adkisson, president of the Chamber, shared information about Kentucky's declining financial commitment to education. The share of the state budget going to education has been shrinking, while the share of the budget devoted to all other elements of state spending has been going (largely for Medicaid, corrections and employee benefit obligations).

Adkisson made the powerful comment that Kentucky has been approaching its task of allocating state spending "bass-ackwards." His observation was that we should start with meeting the critical needs of our education systems first, and then distribute what remains to the rest of state government.

Having previously served in a state legislature, and as a state budget director, I know how complicated state budgeting is and how difficult it is to attempt to balance all of the competing needs that are brought to state government. I also appreciate that in the past six years, the state and the nation have been through more economic challenges than at any time since the great depression. Through it all, there have been serious efforts to limit the impact of cuts on the education sector.

But the fact remains that the funding choices that have been made have diminished the capacity ... *To finish reading this piece, [click here](#).*



Please share: A message for your ESL students

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has issued a warning about a new telephone scam targeting USCIS applicants and petitioners. Scammers are using a technique called "Caller ID spoofing" to display a misleading or inaccurate phone number in a recipient's Caller ID. The scammer poses as a USCIS official and requests personal information (such as Social Security number, passport number, or A-number), identifies supposed issues in the recipient's immigration records, and asks for payment to correct these records.

USCIS says that it never asks for any form of payment or personal information over the phone. Anyone receiving a call like this is encouraged to say "No, thank you" and hang up the phone immediately.

Anyone who has been a victim of this scam is asked to report it to the Federal Trade Commission at <https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/> or report it to an appropriate state authority (<http://ag.ky.gov/civil/consumerprotection/Pages/default.aspx>).

Adult Educators On Parade!

Pamela Buchanan, Ami Isenberger, Jillian Long and Melissa Thomas (left) marched in the Morganfield Corn Festival in Union County on Saturday, September 14. On the same day, Connie Phillips and Amanda Ireland (right) participated in the Sandy Watkins Parade in Henderson.



Kentucky Career Center concept introduced statewide

In late July, Governor Steve Beshear unveiled Kentucky's newly overhauled workforce development system, the Kentucky Career Center. The concept was developed by the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (KWIB) to streamline and simplify the workforce development system to "build consistency among offices, improve services, align education and training to meet the needs of employers and reflect the state's education and economic development objectives."

The new Kentucky Career Center offers job seekers the following services: career coaching, access to local job openings, job leads and referrals, professional resume services, job search resource centers with free Wi-Fi and Internet access, unemployment claim filing system, employment services for military veterans and individuals with special needs, and training opportunities.

For more information, visit kentuckycareercenter.com.

BREAKING NEWS:

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics 2013 Regional Conference & Exposition, November 6-8, 2013, Louisville, has been added to the KYAE-Approved Conferences list.

New tools available to share info with local manufacturers

Have you been seeking a way to connect with local manufacturers to share information about the great adult education services you could provide to their employees? Manufacturing Week 2013 is being held in Kentucky September 30-October 4, by proclamation of Governor Steven Beshear and Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes. This would be an excellent time to reach out to manufacturers in your area, perhaps even inviting them to an open house at your center or hosting a manufacturing-focused career day for your students. Kentucky Adult Education will be participating by staffing a booth at the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers (KMA) Manufacturer & Employee of the Year Awards event on October 4 in Louisville.

Customizable, manufacturer-focused marketing materials have been created and may be downloaded from here, under the "Special Populations" header: <http://kyae.ky.gov/educators/13Closeout.htm>. The ½-page fliers are designed for manufacturing management; the fringe posters are designed for manufacturing employees, to be displayed in a break room or on a bulletin board in the manufacturing facility. For additional ideas or material designs, contact Missy Brownson at missy.brownson@ky.gov.



Do you teach reading? Read this!

The Center for the Study of Adult Literacy is conducting an online reading teacher research survey to better understand the kinds of texts and teaching practices used in adult literacy centers. The survey is anonymous and should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete. If you teach reading, please take the survey by [clicking here](#).

Using online TABE assessment proves to be advantageous

As more counties begin using the online TABE assessment, the benefits it has over the paper-and-pencil version are becoming even more evident. These benefits include:

- No additional programmatic expenditure is required; no more purchasing of testing forms (provided by KYAE).
- Staff time is saved, because proctoring, scoring and creation of diagnostic profile are automated.
- Questions are presented to students one at a time, helping combat attention issues.
- Students are able to build comfort with and expertise in computer-based testing, preparing them for the computer-based GED® test.

For more information about the online TABE assessment, including links to important installation and configuration documents, [go here](#).

Parting Thought • Something to challenge or inspire

"There is no greater joy, nor greater reward, than to make a fundamental difference in someone's life."

– Mary Rose McGeedy

