

2

**SIA comes to a close**

**EveryoneOn.org**

**Student earns Platinum  
NCRC**

**Why “How did you hear  
about us?” matters**

3

**Spotlight on GED®**

**KET Fast Forward  
Science course**

4

**Looking for Math  
Strategies?**

5

**Faces of KYAE**

**Program participates in  
Earth Day clean-up**

## **Vice President Reecie Stagnolia participates in Congressional briefing on adult education**



Reecie Stagnolia, vice president for Kentucky Adult Education, participated in a Congressional briefing on adult education in Washington, D.C., on May 15. He was one of seven panelists and was the only representative of a state system.

Reecie was selected to participate in the briefing, sponsored by the Council for Advancement of Adult Literacy (CAAL), because, as it stated on the agenda, “Kentucky is one of the leadership states in adult education and workforce development and, along with a few other states, is in the forefront of national policy development.” During the briefing, Reecie shared a presentation entitled, “Kentucky’s Efforts to Transform Adult Education to Meet Current National and State Need.”

Other panelists included: Gail Spangenberg, president, CAAL; Irwin Kirsch, director, Center for Global Assessment, Educational Testing Service; James Parker, senior research/policy associate, CAAL; Margie McHugh, director, National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy, Migration Policy Institute; and Marcie Foster, senior policy analyst, Center for Postsecondary and Economic Success.

---

## **GED® webinar materials available online**

Between February 25 and May 2, KYAE staff members Rae Smith and Toni Quire hosted a series of GED® Hot Topics Webinars on the following topics:

- Overview of GED® Test Information
- Paying for the GED® Test with Vouchers
- Age Waivers and Exceptions
- GED ReadyTest™
- GED® Testing in a Correctional Setting



To view these webinars’ presentations with notes as well as handouts, go to [http://  
kyae.ky.gov/educators/GEDhottopics.htm](http://kyae.ky.gov/educators/GEDhottopics.htm).

### 3 years of Standards-in-Action comes to a close

On March 28th, Kentucky Adult Education (KYAE) Program Directors met in Lexington to celebrate the completion of their last three years' efforts to learn the four Standards-in-Action (SIA) Innovations and to look ahead at sustaining these acquired processes for implementing standards-based instruction. After a welcome from Reecie Stagnolia, vice-president of KYAE, directors were asked to discuss with their peers their recent experiences observing standards-based instruction across their programs. Much of the discussion indicated that the observation process had been worthwhile and quite informative. They were then asked, "What is one piece of advice about the observation process that you would want to give a new program director?" The many replies fell into four main areas:



- The importance of adequately preparing instructors by going over the observation form with them in advance of the visits;
- Giving instructors immediate feedback by sharing results with staff and providing appropriate supports to increase their skills in areas marked "not fully evident;"
- Advocating for using the tool on a regular basis for planned and unplanned visits, especially with new instructors; and
- The importance of emphasizing that the purpose of the observation is to improve instruction for student learning.

Effective standards-based instruction is "rooted in three crucial interlocking elements: the standards themselves, teaching to the standards, and accountability." The four SIA innovations have given us the means to implement all three of these elements. How will your program utilize them?



#### EveryoneOn.org can help close students' digital divide

Do you have students who would benefit from having computer access at home? Visit [www.everyoneon.org/adulted](http://www.everyoneon.org/adulted) to discover discounted Internet and computer offers in your area.

#### Edmonson County AE student earns Platinum NCRC

Joshua Averill, Edmonson County Adult Education student, recently earned a Platinum National Career Readiness Certificate. In order to earn the platinum designation, an individual must earn a 6 or above on all three sections of the WorkKeys assessment: Applied Math, Reading for Information and Locating Information.



NCRC Program Coordinator Joe Paul, Kentucky Career Center Central Office, sent a congratulatory email to program director Penny Poteet. In it, he wrote, "Just so you know how special that is, only between 0.2% and 0.3% of people nationwide earn that level of certificate."

#### Why "How did you hear about us?" matters

When you enter student information into KAERS, it may be tempting to mark "Other" in the "How did you hear about us?" drop-down menu and be done with it. However, entering less-than-accurate information causes your program – and Kentucky Adult Education-at-large – to miss out on valuable data.

Accurately tracking how students hear about your program can help you know which outreach efforts are working, thereby helping you decide where to invest more or less of your marketing dollars and/or staff efforts. This information also helps inform Kentucky Adult Education where it should invest its marketing funds and efforts. While this tracking is not an exact science, it does provide critical data. Please do the best you can to ensure that this information is as accurate as possible.



# Spotlight on GED®



## From GEDTS™

### Top 5 in-demand teacher tools

GEDTS™ recently shared its top five GED® test prep tools based upon educator demand. They are:

1. GED® Training Courses – FREE, self-guided online courses for educators that cover the content of the [RLA test](#) and [Math test](#).
2. [MyGED™ Student Guides](#) – Help your students navigate MyGED™ with these guides that are free to download online.
3. [Math posters for your classroom](#) – Including the Math Formula and Symbols poster and Calculator Reference Guide, free to order and to download.
4. Erasable Noteboards – Give your students a sample of the tool they'll be using on test day, available through [Brand Central](#) for the cost of shipping and handling.
5. [Spanish GED® prep materials](#) – Spanish language materials now available through Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

### Four tools to help your students pass the test

These four tools have been shared by GEDTS™ as beneficial to help students prepare for the GED® test.

1. [GED Ready™: The Official Practice Test](#) accurately predicts whether students will pass – 95% of students who score “likely to pass” on GED Ready™ go on to pass that subject of the real test.

2. [Computer-Based Test Tutorial](#) prepares students for the technology behind the test.
3. [On-screen calculator demonstration video](#) shows students how to use the test's built-in calculator.
4. [Constructed response tools](#) like the Educator Scoring Tool for GED Ready™, the Short Answer Resource Guide for Adult Educators (Science), and the Extended Response Resource Guide for Adult Educators (RLA, Social Studies) are helpful as well.

### Use GED Ready™ to improve student scores

Below are some helpful hints GEDTS™ has shared to help students improve their scores by using the GED Ready™ Enhanced Score Report.

1. Check the “How Can I Score Higher” section to see what skills they need to develop.
2. Help them review the personalized study recommendations from their score report.
3. Give feedback on their written responses using the Educator Scoring Tools, the Short Answer and Extended Response Resource Guides, Short Answer and Extended Response Prompts, and Source Texts- all available on the [2014 Test Resources page](#).
4. Encourage students who scored in the Green Zone to take that GED® test subject as soon as possible (score predictions are valid for 60 days).
5. When they're done studying, have students who scored in the Yellow or Red Zones take GED Ready™ again.

## KET Fast Forward science course – and more – now available

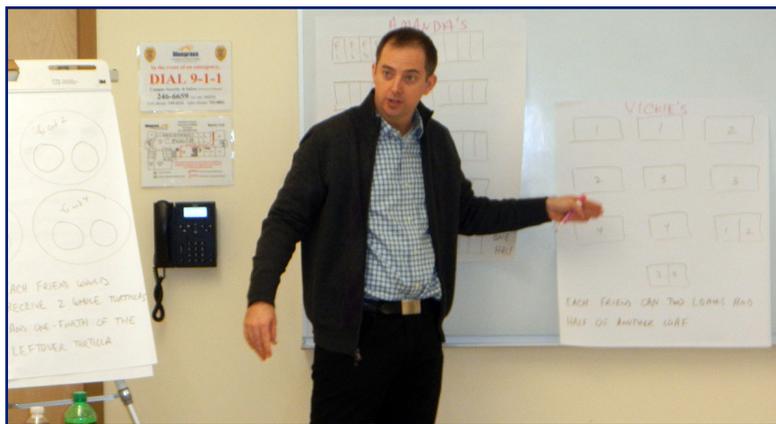
The KET Fast Forward science course became available at the end of March. To access it, just go to your Fast Forward homepage.

KET also recently announced some additions you may be interested in:

- **Video tutorials** on creating center and class rosters; found in “Fast Forward” section of the Teacher Toolkit. Just click on Instructions and Sample Emails and look in the green box titled “Specific Instructions.”
- **Background color changing tool** gives users the options to change the background color of the page. You'll find the color choices at the bottom of each page, right after Customize this page.
- **Time on Task report** allows you to review your learners' time on task. Click on Class Tools in the left sidebar under your name. Once on the Class Tools page, click on Student Roster in the Overall Reports box. From the drop-down box on the next page, choose the class roster you would like to see and click Go. The Student Roster shows you time on task information for each learner enrolled in that class. Time on task is cumulative, showing total time a learner has spent in Fast Forward.
- **FAQ page** is available to answer most of your questions. You'll find a link to the most frequently asked questions in the Help section available in the gray bar at the top of every page.
- **Error reporting** allows you to share when you find a typo or something else that “just doesn't look right.” To submit, click on Report an Error from the drop-down menu in the Help section at the top of every page.

# Looking for Math Strategies? Maybe ALAN is for you!

During March and April, a group of nine Kentucky adult education math instructors deepened their conceptual knowledge of fractions and practiced student-centered approaches for teaching math content through their participation in Cohort 1 of KYAE's ALAN (Active Learning in Adult Numeracy) Initiative. ALAN is led by Steve Hinds, mathematics curriculum and professional developer at the City Colleges of Chicago. In each face-to-face session, Steve would model sequenced fraction activities from his new mathematics curriculum with participants serving as his class. Instructors would then return to their centers to use these same activities with their students. The response to ALAN has been overwhelmingly positive; participants loved using different strategies for instruction while watching their students gain a true understanding of fractions.



**ALAN Initiative leader Steve Hinds demonstrates a student-centered approach for teaching math content to members of KYAE Cohort 1.**

## Here's what they had to say:

"I knew that the curriculum would greatly benefit my students, but I didn't know that I would learn new teaching techniques that would help me become a better teacher ... It's amazing to see the motivation go up as students learn more and are involved in class discussion more."

– Sarah Menshouse, Carter

"I am rethinking my overall math teaching/instruction ... I want to use more math tools, like the fraction circle pieces, to get students actively involved in working their math problems."

– Becky Holcomb, Harlan

"ALAN re-opened my understanding of teaching. Anyone who is truly interested in rocking the foundation of how we teach and allowing lifelong knowledge to be gained needs to join the ALAN project!"

– Amy Matthews, Mercer

"This experience has deepened my own understanding of fractions ... It has also provided me with multiple different strategies to add to the students' tool box."

– Amanda Ireland, Henderson

"I ask a lot more 'why,' 'how do you know \_\_\_,' 'show me/us \_\_\_' types of questions in my more advanced classes. Not only is it formative assessment to help me understand where students are, but it is a type of engagement that promotes critical thinking and reasoning skills."

– Erron Prickett, Fayette

"From teaching these activities, I can see that the students are more involved and are actually understanding what fractions are."

– Doyle Adams, Bullitt

"I, for one, have changed my approach to assessing students and moving past rules that are only memorized rather than learning through number sense ... I am extremely excited to get started back (Cohort 2)."

– Shannon Wells, Pulaski

"I also learned new teaching skills ... I loved the way you showed us how to work with the students. Once the students were comfortable working together and sharing ideas, they really enjoyed it."

– Sharyl Markham, Logan

"The 'out-of-the-box' thinking that Steve shares is amazing. The response from my students was enlightening and encouraging. I look forward to more lessons that I can bring back to my classroom and share."

– Contrena Potter, Letcher

**If being a part of ALAN Cohorts 2 or 3 interests you, watch for the Strengthening Adult Numeracy Teaching and Learning announcement.**

# Faces of KYAE

## GED® graduate finds success in college

Submitted by LeeAnn Branham, Greenup County

What can you do after you get your GED? Ask Vashti Watson, who received her diploma in March of 2013 after studying at the Greenup County adult learning center. Vashti is currently enrolled in college at Ashland Community Technical College, working toward a major in Nursing and a minor in Psychology. She plans to transfer to a four-year college when she finishes her requirements. She just completed 40 hours of volunteer work at Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital in Patient Information. Her current schedule includes Anatomy and Physiology and Developmental Psychology, along with Math 065 and an HSE class which provides opportunities to meet many people that work in the health sciences fields. Next semester will include CNA class and BIO 139.

Vashti says that studying at the Greenup Learning Center helped to prepare her for her college career by increasing her study skills and knowing that she has the support of the staff behind her if she needs help. Not only

did GED classes help her reach her goal of getting her GED, but she also continued coming to study for her Compass test.

Because of her dedication and extra studying, she was able

to bypass any developmental classes and intermediate reading classes and therefore focus directly on the courses she needed for her degree. Her time at the learning center helped her avoid feeling like a fish out of water and to be better prepared for the course load. Vashti's advice to others is, "Ask for help when you need it. No one is going to know you even need help if you don't ask."

In her spare time between semesters or during holidays, Vashti likes to stop in and visit the Greenup Learning Center and offer help to others that may be struggling with their classwork or may just need a few words of encouragement to take the leap into college coursework. She knows first-hand how hard it can be, but also believes in others that they can do it if they put their mind to it.



## Local program participates in Earth Day clean-up

Each year on Earth Day, the Stanco Recycling facility, located across the street from the Grant County Career Advancement Center, hosts a large recycling event. During this event, which is advertised heavily, Stanco Recycling staff offers a grilled-out lunch to individuals as they wait to have their aluminum cans and other metal weighed.

Grant County Adult Education, located in the Career Advancement Center, decided to host a special Earth Day event, too. Students, who were given United Way t-shirts for participating in a clean-up day, swept and washed windows on April 20, 2014. Participating students then took the center's aluminum cans to the recycling facility and enjoyed a complimentary lunch for their efforts.



Grant County adult education students clean up their center for Earth Day.

## Parting Thought • Something to challenge or inspire



“Man’s mind stretched to a new idea never goes back to its original dimensions.”

—Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.