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KENTUCKY COUNCIL ON
POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION



Kentucky
UNBRIDLED SPIRIT

Kentucky impacts national adult education dialogue

Continuing the Commonwealth's ongoing national impact, Kentucky had four representatives at a recent gathering of all major national adult education organizations. Brenda Dann-Messier, assistant secretary, Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE), U.S. Department of Education, brought together various organizations to identify common ground and work toward a shared agenda to move adult education forward.

Attending from Kentucky were Reecie Stagnolia, vice president, KYAE, representing the National Council of State Directors of Adult Education and the National Adult Education Professional Development Consortium; Renee Harrison, program director, Hardin County Adult Education, representing COABE; Sharon Darling, president and founder, National Center for Family Literacy; and Donna Elder, National Center for Family Literacy. OVAE plans to bring the group together again later in the year.

President discusses college, adult education

The Lane Report in Lexington recently published an [interview](#) with CPE President Bob King. His comments focus on the importance of investing in education and the interconnections between college, adult education and the K-12 system.

KYAE featured on NRS site

The National Reporting System (NRS) has added State Snapshot pages to www.nrsweb.org. The new feature provides summary information on a state's performance data, resources and contact information. KYAE's page has just been added and includes a video-recorded interview with Reecie Stagnolia, KYAE vice president. [Click here](#) for the State Snapshot site.

GED test fee to increase

Beginning July 1, 2011, the GED test fee will increase to \$60 for the first-time fee and \$30 for the sub-session retest fee. The new fee

leaves Kentucky well below the \$75 national average GED test fee. Official GED test centers receive no state or federal funding. Test centers must operate on the test fees and contributions from their contracting entity – primarily boards of education and community colleges.

KYAE-sponsored free GED testing will end June 30, 2011.

KYAE staff changes

Elizabeth Kuhn has joined the KYAE staff as an administrative secretary working in the GED office. Elizabeth is a recent graduate of Troy University. She can be reached at (502) 573-5114, ext. 213, or Elizabeth.Kuhn@ky.gov.

Marilyn Lyons Montgomery is no longer employed by KYAE. For areas that Marilyn was involved in, please contact staff as follows:

AERIN or data-related issues – Terry.Tackett@ky.gov and David.Walters@ky.gov

Transitions to postsecondary education, SkillUp pilots – Gayle.Box@ky.gov

Managed program pilots – Janet.Hoover@ky.gov

All other topics – Amanda.Walker@ky.gov

Multimedia event

KET is sponsoring a “Multimedia Event” in which video/multimedia production professional and education consultants will make presentations on technology and teaching. The event is July 12 or 13 (choose which day to attend). Participants have a chance to win software and hardware door prizes. Sessions include Google Resources for educators; making do-it-yourself electronic field trips; making American history come alive with the MISSION US project, using SMART boards and much, much more. [Click here](#) for registration information. PD funds may be used to attend this KET event.

NCRC brochures

The Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet is printing a large number of brochures promoting the National Career Readiness Certification (NCRC). The brochures will be distributed to the 10 Workforce Investment Areas across the Commonwealth. The publications are also posted on the KYAE website:

[One-page flyer](#)

[Employer-oriented brochure](#)

[Job seeker-oriented brochure](#)

Byrd Scholarships discontinued for 2011-12

According to KHEAA, funding for the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship program was eliminated due to recent Congressional budget cuts. There will be no new Byrd Scholarships awarded for the 2011-12 year. KHEAA is awaiting guidance from the U.S. Department of Education regarding the future of the program.

McCracken County program honored

The Chair Academy recently presented the McCracken County Adult Education Program with a Team Exemplary Leadership Award based on the “caring and supportive learning environment designed to facilitate student success.” Adult Education Director Betty Myrick is proud of the team’s approach to student success. “We accept students where they are and assess their academic skills and learning abilities to determine the support they need from us,” she said. The program is at the West Kentucky Community and Technical College.

The Chair Academy is an international leadership-training program designed to advance academic and administrative leadership for postsecondary institutions. Each year college and university employees from around the world are chosen to showcase their outstanding programs and services at the group’s annual conference.

ESL resources

CAL materials

According to the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL), to best prepare ESL students, it is important for them to see, hear and use English in the classroom. To improve your students' listening and speaking skills, you can find activities on the CAL website at www.cal.org/adultspeak. The activities are organized with a focus on each component of the BEST Plus scoring rubric – Listening Comprehension, Language Complexity and Communication.

By using a variety of activities in your instruction, you better prepare students for communication outside of the classroom and for responding to BEST Plus and BEST Literacy questions. For information on improving reading and writing skills, please see the following resources:

[Working with Adult English Language Learners with Limited Literacy: Research, Practice, and Professional Development](#)

[Using Oral Language Skills to Build on the Emerging Literacy of Adult English Learners Practitioner Toolkit: Working with Adult English Language Learners](#)

If you have any questions, please contact CAL by e-mail at aea@cal.org or by phone at (866) 845-2378, option 1, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET.

EL/Civics Online

The [EL/Civics Online website](#) provides a wealth of EL/Civics resources, including a free, self-paced professional development opportunity for instructors. The site offers four content courses – U.S. history, U.S. government, civic engagement and the naturalization process. Also available are tutorials to strengthen teaching skills, resources to augment instruction and supplemental content modules to enhance content knowledge.

New citizenship resources

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) promotes awareness of the rights, responsibilities and importance of U.S. citizenship, and provides free resources to permanent residents as well as immigrant-serving organizations. Individuals and organizations can learn more about citizenship through the USCIS [Citizenship Resource Center](#) – a web portal offering free educational

tools. All of the initiative's materials – including a video public service announcement – are available for download at the link above. Organizations are encouraged to use them in their efforts to reach permanent residents with citizenship information. A [Civics and Citizenship Toolkit](#) is available for eligible organizations, including adult education centers.

Apps for career, college planning

More students than ever are accessing the web via smartphones. According to the Nielsen Company, one-third of youths aged 15-24 in America owns a smartphone making it possible for more students to access the web wherever they are. This provides an exciting opportunity to reach and educate young people. For example, here are four new mobile apps that will support students in their career and postsecondary planning via smartphone:

[College Plan](#) gives students and parents ways to decide which college is the best fit.

[Career Rookie](#) offers students and recent graduates the ability to search out internships, part-time jobs, and entry-level positions with the nation's top employers.

[CollegeSearch](#) allows users to optimize their searches by selecting public or private schools and by using cost, enrollment, SAT and ACT average scores, and campus location as sorting factors.

[ASVAB Mobile](#), the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) Program, a career exploration program, designed to make it easier for students to explore careers anytime, anywhere.

(Reprinted from OVAE Connection, April 14, 2011)

Valuable links

[Free online resources for GED](#) are available from New Readers Press, a division of ProLiteracy.

Check out the latest [LINCS Resource Collection in basic skills](#). The focus is on reading, writing, mathematics and numeracy, and health literacy resources that can improve instruction in basic skills. Resources in this collection can be used directly in the classroom or can provide the research findings necessary to develop contextualized instruction (e.g., work, family, health, civics) to build adults' basic skills.