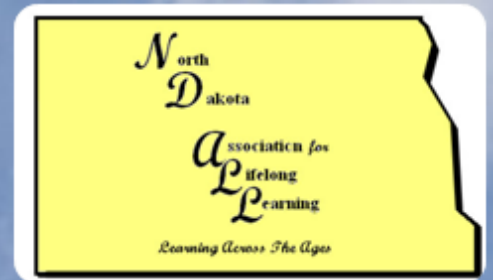


2009-2010 NDALL
President



Deb Sisco

2009-2010
NDALL Awards



Learning Across
the Ages

NDALL Awards

Educator of the Year

2009-2010—Cindy Dykema

ND Youth Correctional Center

Cindy's teaching role at ND YCC is that of adult basic education where she guides students through the GED process. She is organized and determined to make their brief educational time at ND YCC successful. Cindy holds each of her students to a high standard, taking the most lackadaisical, least motivated of students to the GED "pay window".



Many of them become the first in their family to achieve this milestone. In addition, she is very uninhibited in her teaching—if her modes of instruction are not reaching the student, she is the first to seek out other instructors' expertise to be able to best serve her students.

Cindy is the first to volunteer to learn new things academically as well as technologically. She has had the opportunity to learn such things as new feedback and instruction planning, brain-researched feedback and development of the learner. She implements them within her daily teaching. She has the most team teaching experiences logged of any other teacher on staff. She is persistent and committed to excellence.

Cindy is an active member of NDALL where she has held positions within the organization. Rolling up her sleeves and getting down to work she aided in planning past NDALL conferences.

Outstanding Leadership/Service

2009-2010—Derek Sporbert

Assistant Director of the TRIO Program, Grand Forks

Derek has personally dedicated time to work with students at the Grand Forks Adult Learning Center.



With his knowledge and guidance Derek presents information every month that covers a wide spectrum of issues surrounding post-secondary education. Derek serves as a liaison between our center and registering students into post-secondary schools and/or training. He meets with them on a one-on-one basis and often leaves his office to meet with students in the ALC, making them feel more comfortable as they attempt to charter new ground. He also allots monies to take students on tours of the various universities, colleges, and technical schools in the area.

As Derek travels from the ALC to his office at UND, from his office to his home in Grand Forks, from his home to the airport that takes him all across the United States, he never forgets about those who have earned a GED. Indeed, Derek does not shy away from challenges. He collaborates and utilizes his intellect to confront issues of separation, continually making headway for the GED movement. Derek is on the forefront as an advocate to ensure that GED students have the same rights to scholarships and college/university entrance.

Exemplary Student of the Year

2009-2010—George Jirout

Grand Forks Adult Learning Center



George came to the Learning Center through Vocational Rehabilitation with determination but with a whole lot more apprehension. On the very first day George's academic ability became exceedingly apparent. He was

smart; he just needed a dose of faith to believe that what he considered an impossible dream was right at his grasp. He began taking his GED tests, scoring a perfect score on his first test, and finishing the year as a Top 5 Honor Student among the 62 graduates from our center.

Just who is George Jirout, and what separates him from anyone else? George is filled with joy, love, faith, and inspiration. It is because of this demeanor that one would not know George has conquered some of life's most enduring situations. Not only was George a teenage father and husband, he has been seriously injured not once, but twice. The injuries were so severe that George was confined to a wheelchair for awhile. George was not able to return to work. Despite the numerous injuries, George was determined to be a supportive husband and father, modifying and altering physical movements to do something as simple as throwing around the football with his son from the seat of a wheelchair. He could have given up, but George continued to push forward, excelling beyond expectations and, at the same time, restoring his faith in God. He now is able to stand, to walk, to talk, to breathe the very essence of his life.

George may not be able to physically uphold himself at times, but he has enough courage and strength to carry the weight of many. He was the BIGGEST advocate for many of his classmates, urging them to keep going, yelling out with joy when they passed a test or just reached a pivotal milestone; in fact, George was more elated for others than he was for himself. George is going to continue his educational pursuits, starting college in the fall with his daughter. He aspires to become a counselor, which is well-suited for a man of his character.