



August 2009
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Back to School



Welcome back everyone!! Ready for another successful school year for the After-School Programs and for the Adult Education Programs!

Welcome new Adult Education Directors:

Nicole Wolford: Devils Lake Adult Learning Center

Nicole Wolford started as Director on July 1st. Nicole has worked at LRSC for two years as the Coordinator of the Academic Skills Center and Test Director. Prior to that, she was a middle school teacher for over 15 years in the Devils Lake school system and Lisbon. She can be contacted by phone at 701-662-1543, email at nicole.m.wolford@lrsc.edu or fax at 701-662-1591.

Terry Bohan: Grand Forks Adult Learning Center

Terry Bohan will be the new director of the Adult Learning Center & Community High School in Grand Forks as of August 1st. Terry was previously at Valley Middle School in Grand Forks. He can be contacted by phone at 701-795-2277, email at Terry.bohan@gfschools.org or fax at 701-795-2770,

Minot After School Program

Nice article in the Minot Daily News on Tuesday, June 16, 2009 about the CLC students and Boyd Strand at:

<http://www.minotdailynews.com/page/content.detail/id/529088.html>

Nice article Boyd!!

Congratulations Margaret Olheiser

A student nominated Margaret Olheiser, Dickinson Adult Learning Center, for the Sax Motors/KQCD-TV Customer Service Award, which was presented to her in March. Margaret has been accepted by the Cambridge Who's Who among Executive & Professional Women for a biographical listing in their registry and was also accepted as a member of the National Association of Professional Women.

ND Resource Center Summer Trainings

BEST Training – June 2009:

The Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) held a BEST training at the Fargo Adult Learning Center in June. This training workshop was designed for individuals who intend to become BEST Plus test administrators. BEST Plus is an individually administered, face-to-face oral interview designed to assess the English language proficiency of adult English language learners. It assesses interpersonal communication using everyday English.

The BEST Plus training workshop prepared participants to administer and score the test. The trainer provided the workshop participants with an overview of the development and purpose of the BEST Plus. Participants were then guided through scoring benchmarks and practiced scoring. Finally, participants had opportunities to practice administering the test and scoring responses, and the trainer clarified participants' questions regarding test administration and scoring.

CCLC Training July 28-29, 2009

Data system training was held in Bismarck for the After School program by training facilitator Clareann Grimaldi from Cityspan.

Deanna Cleveland, Playbooks Reader's Theater, also spoke about the Reader's Theater.

Reader's Theater is reading a story like a play without memorization, props or a stage. Students each take a character role and read their part with expression, meaning and enthusiasm in small non-threatening groups. For more information go to: <http://playbooks.com/index.shtml>

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New Adult Learning Center Administrator's Training in August

New ALC Administrator's training was held August 13th in the Fort Totten Room at the Capitol in Bismarck. The orientation training for new directors as well as those directors who have been in their position for two years was sponsored by the ND DPI Adult Education staff.

BEST Plus Training in Fargo in August

The BEST Plus Oral English Proficiency Test is replacing the previously utilized oral BEST as an adult ESL assessment. Only the BEST Plus or Best Literacy will be accepted by NRS starting this fiscal year.

The BEST Plus was developed by the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL); this assessment is a computer adapted individually administered face-to-face oral interview designed to assess English language proficiency in adults.

To be qualified to administer the BEST Plus, staff must participate in a full day training taught by a certified BEST Plus trainer. Mary Schaefer, Fargo ALC has recently completed the necessary

training and procedures to be the BEST Plus trainer for North Dakota. The ND Adult Education Office recommends that any adult education program serving ESL students have staff trained to administer the BEST Plus Test.

A BEST Plus administrator training will be offered at the Fargo Adult Learning Center on Thursday, August 27th from 9am-4:30 pm. The cost of the training is \$50 to cover the Test Administrator Guide and a working lunch. Pre-registration for the training is required and space will be limited.

White House Report Urges Adult Education, Job Training Coordination

Contributed by: Valerie Fischer

The President's Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) released its new report, [Preparing the Workers of Today for the Jobs of Tomorrow](#), on July 13.

The council report notes that adult basic education, GED and English language programs are "critical" because they help American adults and immigrants improve their basic skills in reading, writing, mathematics and English language proficiency. The report focuses on the value and limitations of America's current post-high school education and training systems and the characteristics of a more effective education and training structure. A key recommendation is that "Education and training should be provided in a flexible manner with an appropriate curriculum..." The report cites Washington state's [Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training \(I-BEST\)](#) as an example of a program that appropriately "blends basic [literacy] skills and occupational training in a more effective approach to teaching adults who need both basic skills and job skills." Learn more from Christina Romer, chair of the CEA, by viewing the White House [YouTube](#) chat.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/Watch-Discuss-Engage-Christina-Romer-on-Jobs-of-the-Future/>

<http://www.btc.ctc.edu/BasicAcademic/IBEST.asp>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-6jocg8Zyk&eurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Ewhitehouse%2Egov%2Fblog%2F&feature=player_embedded

New OVAE Assistant Secretary

Tom Sticht

The Education Bews, online at www.ednews.org, reports that President Obama plans to nominate Brenda Dann-Messier, the president of the Dorcas Place Adult and Family Learning Center, Inc., an organization focused on adult literacy and learning, in Providence, R. I., as assistant secretary for vocational and adult education.

The article goes on to say, "President Obama's other new selection, Ms. Dann-Messier, would oversee the department's efforts in career and technical education, which have a budget of more than \$1 billion a year and help fund vocational and job-training classes in high schools and community colleges in subjects ranging from automotive repair to construction to health care.

At Dorcas Place, Ms. Dann-Messier has overseen a wide range of efforts, some of which have received federal funding, to improve the skills and literacy of adults, according to the organization's Web site. It has promoted cooperation between schools and family and health services, and established a program to help immigrants who were professionals find jobs in their fields, among other efforts, according to the organization.

Ms. Dann-Messier's selection seems consistent with the Obama administration's emphasis on "adult career pathways," and the connections between K-12, college, and the workforce, said Kimberly A. Green, the executive director of the National Association of State Directors of Career and Technical Education Consortium, in Silver Spring, Md.

Ms. Green said she hoped Ms. Dann-Messier could improve cooperation between high schools and community colleges, which has been lacking, and strengthen the academic plans required of recipients of federal vocational education funding under current law.

"We have an opportunity to break a lot of the stereotypes out there," said Ms. Green, referring to public perceptions of unchallenging academics within career-oriented education programs."

House Committee Boosts Adult Ed Funding for FY 2010

The House Committee on Appropriations [marked up](#) the *FY 2010 Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill* last week, giving support to President Obama's request for \$628 million for Adult

Basic Literacy Education State Grants, \$74 million over the FY 2009 level. The bill contains a one-time \$45.6 million increase for those states that from fiscal years 2003 to 2008 did not receive their full allocations because of an administrative error by the Department. The remaining increase will be distributed to states based on the statutory state grant formula. The legislation sets aside \$75 million within the state grant portion for English literacy and civics education, a \$7 million increase as requested. The committee also adopted the president's recommendation to provide no further funding for the National Institute for Literacy. The committee approved a \$10 million boost over FY 2009 levels for the Department of Labor's Career Pathways Innovation Fund, for a total of \$135 million. These funds are slated for new competitive grants to community colleges and partnerships with local adult education providers to create career pathways that prepare workers for careers in high-demand and emerging industries.

2009 Adult Education Program Blue Book

The 2009 Adult Education Program "Blue Book" is now available and can be found at:
<http://www.ncsdae.org/Final%20Blue%20-%207-1-09.pdf>.

The "Blue Book" is published annually; the most recent copy represents the 2007-2008 data submitted by each state and is taken directly from OVAE NRS data; specifically, enrollment data from NRS 07/08 Static Report 1 and Ad Hoc Report 3; participant status data from NRS Static Report 6; program percentages from NRS Table 3; program performance data from NRS Static Report 4; non federal funding from NRS 2006-2008 FSR2 and the federal grant information from OVAE. The individual state data tables are listed alphabetically; ND is on page 36/56.

The Blue Book is used to provide Congress with a snapshot of all and individual state ALC programs. This project is done by the National Council of State Directors of Adult Education and was initiated in response to House Appropriations Committee staff wanting up-to-date and consistent information on ALC programs.

Please share with your staff and feel free to prepare similar tables and charts from your local data to use as a marketing tool with your Advisory Boards, community partners, staff and students. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

Valerie Fischer
Director of Adult Education

GED® Testing Service Research Studies

Submitted by Valerie Fischer

The American Council for Education (ACE) has some valuable information on GED research. To access this information, go to:

http://www.acenet.edu/Content/NavigationMenu/ged/pubs/gedts_research.htm

This site provides information on the GED 2012 status:
http://www.acenet.edu/Content/NavigationMenu/ged/2012_Test_Info.htm

ND ALC Trainers

**Mary Schaefer -Fargo Adult Learning Center:
BEST Test Trainer (ELL)**

**Marsha Rogne – Minot Adult Learning
Center: English Language Learners. Certified
in grades K-12**

**Jennifer Kraft – Minot Adult Learning Center:
Technology**

From the Adult Education Director's Chair ...
Another year, such opportunity and filling big shoes.

Although some complain that we have yet to experience summer by temperature standards, the season has nonetheless quickly passed and a new school year approaches with each passing day. No matter my age, I've always looked forward to the excitement and renewal a new school year brings. The opportunity to impact the direction of someone's life continues to be our greatest talent and gift. The contributions made by the adult education community are hugely responsible for the success of our economy and the independence of individuals from the reliance upon social systems. As educators, you are amazing at what you do; the rewards of teaching have embedded a sense of compassion for others into all that you do. I've been an eyewitness to the passion for

learning demonstrated by ALC staff – it's contagious as well as humbling – thank you for all that you do!

This year offers many opportunities for continued growth and personal fulfillment. Fall will offer new ALC Director training, new staff instructional training, the annual Conference and GED training. I look forward to traveling across the state before winter to monitor local ALC's and spend time getting to know programs and staff. As the 'front-line' warriors, meeting your needs through collaboration and partnership has become my priority.

I feel fortunate and grateful to utilize the consultation of David Massey, former DPI Adult Education Director, who officially retired this past February. Dave's wisdom and skill will continue to be invaluable to all of us as we evaluate changes to strengthen the system and strive to raise our standards. He is a true friend and mentor.

Keep up the great work and I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Valerie Fischer
Director of Adult Education
Director of School Health

SAVE THE DATES:

**ND ASSOCIATION FOR LIFELONG
LEARNING FALL CONFERENCE:
Drawing Out People's Potential**

SEPTEMBER 29 AND 30, 2009!!

**More information will be in the September
newsletter.**

**Pre-conference meeting will be held September
28, 2009**