



October 2010
Volume 8: Number 8



Where student success is everyone's business.



State Director's Note

Valerie Fischer

I'm riding high! The Fall Conference has just ended and I enjoyed myself immensely. For me the conference highlight was the conversations. Some of you I talk to often, others only infrequently, and some seldom, if ever. So my mission was to try to visit with as many participants as I could to reinforce the 'face to name', but also to get a sense of how things are going – what's working, what isn't and to take time to hear those incredible success stories. Not a one of you is ever at a loss to share a tale about a student who succeeded. Those stories never get old and even though I know the ending well by now, it's the journey that leads to the end that is most intriguing. What these students have been through sometimes takes my breath away – they have such tenacity, heart and fight to make it; I'm so proud of every one of them, not even knowing them.

Perhaps most often is the challenge you have to remake each student's sense of self as a learner and develop a sense of confidence. ABE and GED programs are the most important stepping stone any individual without a diploma can take. You don't just provide instruction - you connect the dots; you show the relevancy of why they need to know what you're teaching. You acknowledge the fear and anxiety each student brings with them.

The greatest gift any of you can give the students you work with is the ability to learn how to learn. Some students don't have any idea what you'll do for the rest of your lives. And that's OK, because all of them have learned the most

important thing that any school could teach – you've taught them how to learn!

The vision for our future in Adult Education in North Dakota holds opportunities galore and I hope you can see yourself a part of it all. As I said at the conference, without you on the front lines, this will not happen - you are the eyes, ears, heart and soul of the adult education system in ND. I hope you know I value your commitment and passion to what you do – you do it with integrity, excellence and unconditional regard for each student. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

2010 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.

NDALL Scholarship Winners

Sandy Wollan, Bismarck Adult Learning Center, won a scholarship to send their new ELL instructor to this year's ELL conference.

Jennifer Kraft, Minot Adult Learning Center, won a scholarship to send nine of the Minot Adult Learning Center staff to the Ropes Course. The Ropes Course is a team-building course offered at Camp Metigoshe.

2010-2011 NDALL Board

President:	Deb Sisco
Vice Pres:	Terry Bohan
Secretary:	Sandy LaRoque
Treasurer:	John Lynch
Awards:	Margaret Olheiser
Legislative:	Sandy Wollan
Membership:	Nola Storm

Ansell Casey Life Skills

This website was shared by Chuck Sanderson of Devils Lake.

<http://www.caseylifeskills.org/index.htm>

Quia Shared Activities

This website was shared by Susan Shuley from Grafton.

<http://www.quia.com/shared/>
www.honorpoint.com

Worried about schools? Meet the Office in Education blog

http://blogs.office.com/b/crabby_office_lady/archive/2010/09/23/education-blog.aspx

Flying Superman--I was watching Oprah late Monday night, and it was one of those oh-the-horror-I-can't-take-my-eyes-off-it shows. No, it wasn't adorable child performers or even Hell's Angels total makeovers; no, this time it was about the sorry state of public schools in this country and Oprah was promoting a documentary called Waiting for Superman <http://www.waitingforsuperman.com/> .

I believe in the value of public schools. My child goes to public school and I am a product of public school, but frankly, I'm worried. This generation coming up is on track to be less literate than the one before. Think about that. With all that we have and all that we know, how can this be? And it's not like this is anything new, you know? We hear about it, we complain about it, we send our kids to the best schools we can find and then we hope for the best. Yes, well, hoping for the best isn't good enough.

My goal for today's post is two fold: 1) To get you to go see Waiting for Superman <http://www.waitingforsuperman.com/>, and 2) Get familiar with the brand new Office in education blog <http://blogs.office.com/b/office-education/> . While neither of these is going to fix the public education issues in this country, both of them can be considered tools with which to get started on the problems.

http://blogs.office.com/b/crabby_office_lady/archive/2010/09/23/education-blog.aspx

<http://blogs.office.com/aggbug.aspx?PostID=2791>

View article...

http://blogs.office.com/b/crabby_office_lady/archive/2010/09/23/education-blog.aspx

Submitted by:
Margaret Olheiser, Dickinson

Getting Your GED Starts Here

<http://www.yourged.org/>

Information on getting the GED. Steps 1 -6 and a video with people's stories.

Bananagrams

Many people use Bananagrams in their classrooms. This website gives instructions on how to play Bananagrams in different ways!

<http://www.bananagrams-intl.com/checkcountry.asp?page=index.asp>

Inspired Picture Writing

Laurel Kaae



This site allows you to drag and drop words or create your own words on a picture of your choice. You can make sayings, write poetry, etc. There are nouns, adjectives, adverbs, verbs, and universal words to choose from if you want to use drag and drop. This may be useful to teach creative writing to some students.

Nice pictures to choose from and the student can save their creation for emailing, or to share on Facebook.

There is a section called "News" which gives articles on how others have used Piclit in the classroom. There is also a "Lesson" section where the student can learn to Write It, Rhyme It, or Master It. Each of the lesson sections provides information on reading and writing, but the Master section has lessons, objectives, explanations, and homework. Other people also share their writings so students could critique those.

This is an excellent website which may be used with writing students and ESL students and it is a free website!!

http://www.piclits.com/compose_dragdrop.aspx

Launch of National LINCS Website

<http://lincs.ed.gov>

With the closing of the National Institute for Literacy (NIFL) September 30, the Literacy Information and Communication System (LINCS) is being transitioned to the Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE). The new LINCS website premieres on October 1, 2010.

Visit the site for an array of new, final publications from NIFL, other publications in adult education and literacy, the *LINCS* Resource Collections (online subject-oriented collections of high-quality instructional resources), archives of all NIFL webcasts, and a continuation of popular resources such as the calendar of events, news items, and discussion lists.

Register with your email address at “Stay Informed” on the homepage and receive information about upcoming face-to-face and online professional development opportunities; links to the monthly Resource Collection Newsletters; announcements of discussion list guests and webcasts; and other items of interest to the adult education and literacy community.

We invite you to visit and bookmark the new website on October 1.

Noreen S. Lopez
Senior Program Officer, Technology
National Institute for Literacy

Why is WIA Important?

<http://blog.ncladvocacy.org/2010/09/why-wia-priorities/>

Updated Resources Available for Inmates Headed Back to School

OVAE just updated its planning guide, *Back to School: A Planning Guide to Continuing Your Education After Prison*, a planning guide by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice Prisoner Reentry Institute, which OVAE funded. This update reflects the most recent information on federal student financial aid for inmates headed for release. Topics range from setting personal educational goals and committing to a long-term education development plan to finding, accessing, and paying for an education program. Ninety-four percent of adult male inmates approaching release who were interviewed for a recent national evaluation identified education as a personal re-entry need. Free copies of the guide are available in limited quantities from EDPubs by requesting item number ED005088P.

http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/Back_to_School_Final_5.2_8.08.pdf

Career Safe

<http://skillsusa.org/educators/careersafe.shtmle>

S.T.E.P.S. Student and Teacher Education in Preventing Suicide

Below you will see a link for the brochure which has the information I shared with attendees at the conference. I am trying to locate more information on this specific program, however, I am thinking it may have just been something put together as a resource in their school districts.

Nonetheless, it has some very good information in it; specifically in the realm of symptom recognition...

Joni

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ipe/ysp/docs/steps.pdf>