

November 2010
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Where student success is everyone's business.



Notes From Our State Director

At the State Office, we are preparing for submission of the required annual report to the Office of Vocational and Adult Education. There are many ‘pieces’ to the report; collectively they tell our story of adult education. Data, fiscal, programmatic and regulatory details convey who, what, when, where, why, how and assure that we’ve “crossed the t’s and dotted the i’s”. The struggle is to find the opening among the number-crunching to tell the story about the heart of adult education – what brought a student to any ALC, what struggles did they bring with them that they have overcome, what dreams are now reality because they achieved their goals? Aside from the numbers, this is the true story of adult education working in North Dakota. How fortunate you are to see, and more importantly be a part of, the success stories each and every day!

In response to budget deficits, the federal government has reacted with increased data requirements to justify program existence and funding. I’m all for accountability and have no fear in ever reporting and standing behind our data. Despite our state ranking as first in ESL Beginning Literacy and ELS High Beginning, in the top 10 for seven other measures, as well as four measures being almost twice as high as the national average, North Dakota has not met our Performance Indicators the last three years. We failed to meet our Indicators for ESL advanced (2%) and GED attainment (1%). The process of negotiating Performance Indicators is difficult; North Dakota must show continuous improvement - our goals must exceed the preceding years goals - quite frankly, sometimes programs can only do so much. After all, we are working with a voluntary audience and have no authority or control over participation, progress

and goals. As the saying goes – close but no cigar. I’m not making light of the failure, nor the loss of approximately \$1,100,000 in WIA Incentive Grants. But think of what we could do with those funds! In the months to come, I hope as a group we can study the data and identify what improvements we can make in our system, processes and practice to meet all Performance Indicators and position ourselves firmly as one of the most exemplary programs in the country.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we’re all to be reminded of how blessed we are to live where we do, have the families we have and the lifestyles we do – we have much to be thankful for! I am appreciative of all you do – you do it very well. Continue to enjoy yourself in the classroom with the incredible students you’re blessed to serve.

Valerie Fischer
Director of Adult Education

WIA Reauthorization

Valerie Fischer

As of October 14, 2010 the status of the reauthorization of WIA is as follows: The Senate would like to complete the bill to reauthorize WIA before the end of the year and the subcommittee is close to having a draft bill on Title II - Adult Education. The House and Senate have now recessed until after the November elections, and so it is unlikely the Senate will produce their bill this year. On the House side, the discussion has focused on WIA Title I and II aligning adult education’s relationship with ESEA and helping young people stay in school. The House is just

beginning its WIA work so there is little likelihood they'll produce a reauthorization draft this calendar year. If both the House and Senate produce bipartisan measures, there is a chance we will see early action in the next Congress early in 2011. There is no news on fiscal allocations for states next year. Senator Kent Conrad, from ND is on the budget committee. His office has been contacted.

And the Winner is.....

Lisa Rinehart, Fargo, is the winner of the conference evaluation Walmart gift card. Congratulations Lisa!!

The Newspaper Clipping Generator



<http://www.fodey.com/generators/newspaper/snippet.asp>

Literacy Information and Communication System (LINCS)

<http://lincs.ed.gov/>

The Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) has now launched the LINCS website which used to be the old NIFL website.

LINCS is a national dissemination and professional development system, providing information on literacy research, practice, and resources.

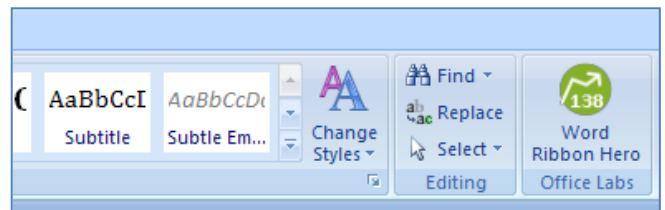


Ribbon Hero

Laurel Kaae

Ribbon Hero is a training tool designed to help you learn and boost your skills in Office 2007 and Office 2010 in Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and One Note. Ribbon Hero is a game (challenge) to help you learn the commands, tabs, and buttons on the Ribbon. This is a fun way to learn and challenge you to learn more!

<http://www.officelabs.com/Pages/Default.aspx>

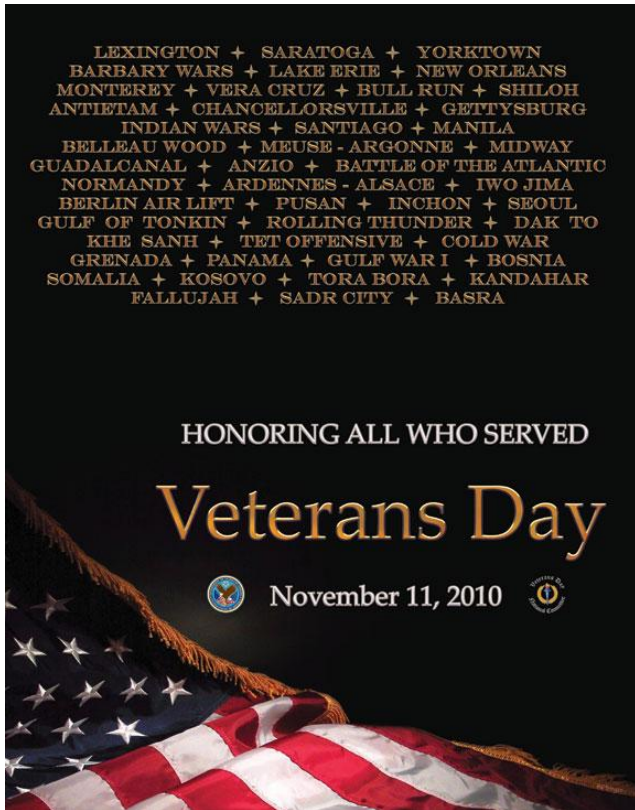


I made a tutorial for downloading and using Ribbon Hero. The tutorial can be downloaded so you have it in your classroom. If you wish to have a tutorial email me at: ndall2007@gmail.com and I will send it to you as an attachment in your email in Word or as a PDF.

Wonderful ND Article Featured in Delta Airline Magazine

<http://deltaskymag.delta.com/Sky-Extras/City-Profiles.aspx>

<http://msp.imirus.com/Mpowered/imirus.jsp?volume=ds10&issue=10&page=116>



We often take for granted the very things that most deserve our gratitude. ~Cynthia Ozick

GED HISTORY

The first GED Tests were developed in 1942 to measure the major outcomes and concepts generally associated with four years of high school education. Initiated by the United States Armed Forces Institute (USAFI), the original tests were administered only to military personnel so that returning World War II veterans could more easily pursue their educational, vocational, and personal goals.

The USAFI examination staff, composed of civilian testing experts, worked with an advisory committee established with the support and cooperation of the American Council on Education (ACE), the National

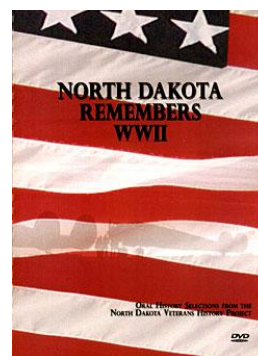
Association of Secondary School Principals, and the regional accrediting associations.

The opportunity to document the attainment of high school-level skills proved to be a significant aid to many service members whose academic careers had been disrupted during the war. During the 1950's, it became apparent that civilians could also benefit from the program-a need that the American Council on Education undertook to fulfill. From 1945-1963, the program was administered by the Veteran's Testing Service. In 1963, in recognition of the transition to a program chiefly for nonveteran adults, the name was changed to the General Educational Development Testing Service.

Since that time, the GED Testing Service has guided and directed a program which now serves more than 800,000 test takers annually at approximately 3,200 overseas, persons confined in correctional and health institutions, and U.S. civilians and foreign nationals overseas.

Veteran's Day Activity

The State Historical Society of ND has a DVD which has interviews of ND Veterans. This is a very moving DVD and can be purchased at: <http://history.nd.gov/museumStore/proddetail.asp?prod=2113&cat=4> for \$15.95.



This is a well done DVD and can be used as an activity in your classrooms.

Happy National Family Literacy Day®!

Submitted by David Massey

November 1 is a special day, no doubt. Since 1994, National Family Literacy Day has helped communities celebrate the wonders of literacy and reminded people of this vital cause.

The entire month is special as well - many families, programs and communities now join us in celebrating family literacy throughout the entire month. That's right, November is National Family Literacy Month®.

Have you ever wondered what you can do each and every day for family literacy? Look no further than Wonderopolis™.

Today, we're [celebrating National Family Literacy Day with a very special Wonder of the Day®](#). Have you ever wondered how to make bedtime easier? Between brushing teeth, setting out clothes for the morning and getting that ubiquitous glass of water, closing out another day is often harried and hectic.

Today's Wonder of the Day offers the perfect activity to help make the transition from day to night while spending some quality time with your family. Entrust the nightly bedtime story to your child's imagination, and add a new joy to your nightly bedtime routine.

Wonderopolis celebrates families learning together every day - for free. We hope you'll join us! [Visit Wonderopolis.org](#), [friend us on Facebook](#), [follow us on Twitter](#).

Libraries & family literacy funding available: Deadline fast approaching

Don't forget: Applications for the 2011 Better World Books/NCFL Libraries and Families Award are due Friday, November 12.

NCFL and Better World Books will give three \$10,000 grants to help exemplary libraries expand their literacy efforts for families in new and innovative ways. [Submit your application today!](#)

One winner will be chosen from each of the three following categories: local Friends of the Library programs, public/academic libraries and urban libraries. The winning organizations also will receive scholarships to NCFL's 2011 National Conference on Family Literacy, which will take place April 3 to 5, 2011 in Louisville, KY.

