

Cora McGuire is honored as the 2006 adult student of the year



Cora McGuire, surrounded by friends, teachers, and county administrators, proudly displays her award.

Cora McGuire, a student from the Putnam County adult basic education (ABE) program received the 2006 Adult Student of the Year Award from the West Virginia Adult Education Association, Inc. (WVAEA, Inc.) during the annual awards luncheon on October 27, 2006.

Cora is an exceptional student. She is one of those students with whom a teacher has the pleasure of being involved from the time she walks into the classroom until the time she moves on to bigger and better things.

Cora survived a debilitating accident and managed to overcome not only the physical injuries but the mental ones as well.

On June 6, 2002 Cora was seriously injured in an automobile accident in North Carolina when an oncoming car crossed the center line and hit Cora's car head-on. She had to be cut out of the wreckage and airlifted to the hospital where she spent 4 days in a coma and the next 18 months recovering. During that time, recovering from the effects of the accident became her priority, so education fell by the wayside.

In the spring of 2005, Cora took it upon herself to move across two states and start over. During that summer she was encouraged to contact the Putnam County Adult Basic Education (ABE) Program to catch up on her education.

Cora had a lot of holes in her academic background, but her thirst for knowledge soon put all

of that behind her. She worked diligently with her classroom instructors, with her math and reading tutors, and with her Read Right instructor.

In December 2005, Cora took the GED Exam and passed it with flying colors. This encouraged her to go on to college and she is now a student at West Virginia State University studying to become a teacher.

"Over the years that the cooperative effort between Literacy Volunteers of Putnam County and the adult learning center has been in place, we have worked with many different students. None of them have demonstrated the determination and motivation of Cora McGuire to overcome the obstacles she faced to finish her high school education and to go on and further her education," said Walker Thompson of Putnam County Literacy Volunteers.

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When we were children, our parents always told us to look both ways. Well, of course they meant when crossing the street, but we can also look both ways when “crossing” into a new year, a new day, or a new experience. This is the time of year when we look back at what we have achieved, and look ahead with excitement and anticipation of what lies ahead. So take a few minutes to reflect upon your goals, celebrate your victories, and receive renewed strength from remembering past experiences. Make plans for the year that approaches, and resolve to continue what you do best-touch the lives of others. ■

Kathy

In seeking wisdom, the first step is silence; the second listening; the third remembering; the fourth practising; the fifth, teaching others.

Ibn Gabirol

Adult education student of the year . . .

Continued from front page

Cindy Winters, coordinator of the Putnam County Adult Learning Center says, “Cora’s greatest attribute to her success is her work ethic. She always completed the work required and wanted more. What a great challenge! I’ve been an adult educator for 18 years, and Cora is an exceptional student.”

“I am very proud of Cora and all her accomplishments and am even more excited for her future. I know she will be a wonderful teacher when she completes her college education. She has taken this second chance at opportunity and given it everything she’s got to give. She is truly a remarkable student.”

These are what Cora’s teachers and tutors say about her, but perhaps the best explanation of her qualifications for Student of the Year rests in her own words. See the following article written by Cora herself. ■

In her own words

By Cora McGuire, WV Adult Education Student of the Year


Editors Note: Student writing is the original work of the student and has not been edited.

I was a very good student in the tenth grade. I always did my work, I was on time, and I made good grades. I loved going to school. The day that changed my life was June 6, 2002. I had a bad car accident that left me in the hospital for one and a half years. I had to drop out of school because they could not afford to send a tutor for me the one hour distance to the hospital. Consequently, I never graduated high school.


I grew up in Franklin, North Carolina, with my mother, my older brother, Thomas, and my younger sister, Monica. I participated in school functions such as plays, football games, and school projects. I even tutored other students in social studies. My grades were A’s and B’s with an occasional C. Before my accident, school was a high priority in my life.

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In her own words . . .

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One day in June before the school year ended, I was going to pick up a friend when a 78-year-old woman crossed the center lane and hit my car head on. Still to this day no one knows why she lost control of her car, but the damage to my car was so bad that the police could not find the engine in the wreckage. I had to be cut from the vehicle and rushed to the hospital by helicopter. I remained in a coma for four days, was hospitalized for a total of 18 months, and I could not remember the first 6 months of the ordeal.



In the hospital my priority shifted toward getting better. I could not do any school work because the doctors thought I had brain damage with significant memory loss. My memory never really came back all together; it just got better over time. Even now I have trouble remembering certain events from my childhood. As my memory improved, I still could not get a tutor. So, I just focused on getting better. I got out of the hospital, and my life was significantly different. I didn't have any friends anymore, and I had to deal with continuous surgeries and depression.

I moved back to West Virginia in January 2005 to be closer to my family and get help with my depression. I met new friends who were in school and made contact with Cindy Winters over the summer about enrolling in GED class. I started class the first day in August at 8:00 a.m. with a hope that I would be able to actually do the work. I was still worried about what damage remained from my injuries. After I took the first TABE test, I was very excited to do more work because I had done better than I thought I would. I started coming to school all day every day working as hard as possible without skipping anything I thought I might need for my education. I worked with a reading tutor and a math tutor once a week for four months. With each of them I was able to go further than the GED books offered. I was willing to work harder than what was necessary to just pass the GED. Mrs. Winters told me I was ready, and it was time for me to take my GED. I took it on December 14 and 15, 2005. I was very nervous that I wouldn't pass it, even though my teachers believed that I would. I still came to class everyday after I took my test to continue studying in case I needed to retake anything. I also knew that I wanted to take the ACT so that I could go to college. On December 27, 2005, Mrs. Winters called me at home over the holiday break and read me my scores. I was so happy and excited to know that I passed!

Even though I passed the GED, I am still working in school all day everyday studying for the ACT. I am happy with myself to have completed the task of getting my GED, and I plan to use that knowledge and accomplishment toward going to college. I will go to college and study education so that I can become a teacher. I enjoy children and helping them learn; I feel that I am a good role model. I work hard for the things that I want, I accomplish goals, and I want to share that attitude with other people. ■

Finding adult learning centers just got easier

By Kathy Hollingsworth, WV Adult Basic Education Public Outreach Coordinator

All adult basic education (ABE) full-time learning centers and several "permanent" part-time centers throughout West Virginia are now more visible.

Sometimes just knowing the address is not enough for potential students and/or visitors to easily locate the adult learning center. Centers with their own entrance doors and/or "wings" within career centers, and even centers in stand-alone buildings, are often difficult to find.

As a way to identify our learning centers, a 3' X 6' aluminum sign has been custom-made for

every full-time learning program. Also, part-time adult learning centers that have a "permanent" location will receive a 3' X 3' sign.

These signs are designed to hang on the outside of a building or to hang on an interior wall within a facility to indicate the location of the adult learning center.

The signs have been delivered to the regional coordinator of adult education of each RESA (Regional Education Service Agency), and every center should be receiving theirs soon. ■

Marcia Ware named the 2006 adult education administrator of the year

The West Virginia Adult Education Association, Inc. (WVAEA, Inc.) presented the 2006 Administrator of the Year Award to Marcia Ware, learning center coordinator at the Mercer County Academy of Adult Learning. Marcia (Marcy) was surrounded by co-workers, friends, and family when she was recognized for her many accomplishments at the awards luncheon in Morgantown during the annual fall conference, *Safe & Sound*.

Marcy is an outstanding leader who is very thorough and competent with every task or challenge presented.

She is very dedicated to helping all adults who come through the doors of the Academy of Adult Learning, plus she is very active in the community seeking to find those adults who need the services available.

and advisory boards, such as Mercer County Schools Career Connections and Mercer County Literacy Volunteers.

Through her leadership and work with advisory board members, Marcy has found funding for GED tests, established job-shadowing for students, and has found funding for annual recognition ceremonies.

As coordinator she actively monitors AEMIS (Adult Education Management Information System) reports and uses this information to evaluate class locations, student achievements, and student contact hours.

Both her students and her staff are part of a cohesive family nurtured by Marcy's leadership ability.

Marcy was involved in the creation and implementation of the original WORKSKILLS



Marcia Ware, surrounded by her friends and staff, proudly displays her award.

Marcy's enthusiastic spirit is contagious to all. She creates the spark needed by her students to fight the hardships they endure. In addition, she brings enthusiasm to the entire staff as well as the community.

Her tireless efforts have built the Mercer County adult basic education (ABE) program into what many consider to be the finest in the state of West Virginia.

Marcy's efforts in recruitment and retention of her student population are virtually unparalleled. She promotes adult education through speaking engagements and membership on local committees

curriculum, WorkSCANS, and Instructional Goals and Objectives (IGOs). She tediously developed benchmark tasks for the math IGOs.

Marcy has attended and presented at the WV Adult and Technical Education Conference, the West Virginia Adult Education Association, Inc.-sponsored conference, and the Rotary International state conference.

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Adult education administrator of the year . . .

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Marcy has conducted local and regional workshop training sessions for ABE teachers and is a dedicated peer trainer and mentor.

Marcy constantly evaluates and works on ways of improving Mercer County's ABE program. At the local level, she was actively involved in acquiring space for the new state-of-the-art Academy of Adult Learning Center within the WorkForce WV building.

Marcy possesses the qualities that a competent administrator must have. One of the most important of these is the ability to deal with difficult situations in a

straight-forward and responsible manner. Marcy doesn't hesitate to make decisions that she knows are in the best interest of all.

Marcy makes it a point to show that she sincerely cares about each student and staff member. She always has time to listen and offer advice to students and staff. Through her daily involvement, Marcy strives to make the Mercer County adult education program the best that it can be. ■

Christopher Blake receives educator of the year honors at awards banquet

Christopher Blake, lead teacher for the Mt. Olive Correctional Center (MOCC) adult basic education (ABE) program, was named the 2006 Adult Educator of the Year by the West Virginia Adult Education Association, Inc. (WVAEA, Inc.) at the annual awards luncheon held on October 27, 2006 in Morgantown, WV.

Christopher began working at MOCC as a substitute teacher approximately five years ago and became a full-time teacher six months later.

Chris administers the TABE (Tests of Adult Basic Education) to all new students at MOCC. He has the responsibility for seeing that they are placed in the appropriate classroom setting based upon their functioning levels.

He prepares instructional material for 35 segregated Quality of Life students in Quilliams. Quilliams is Mt. Olive's "prison within a prison" for those students who cannot leave their living environment to come to a regular classroom. He designed and now delivers the ABE portion of Quality of Life, an 18-month, multi-level, multi-module program which those in segregation must complete successfully before being released to the mainline population.

Chris integrated the Corrections Learning Network (CLN) curriculum into the Quality of Life component. The record keeping is tremendous, and the success of the ABE portion of this program rests entirely on his shoulders. Five students in segregation, who would have not otherwise been prepared for the test, have earned GEDs as a result of Chris's work.



Susan Hayden, conference chair, presents award to Christopher Blake.

Chris has also created a Classic Literature Appreciation class, which consists of reading books, watching the accompanying video, and writing book reports. Not only was this a good experience for some of his GED students, it attracted many students who already had high school diplomas, GEDs, and even college degrees.

After a survey was conducted of those inmates who were employed in Prison Industries during the day and who could not participate in the regular GED classes, Chris arranged a late GED class to accommodate those students.

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Educator of the year . . .

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Chris has selected the ABE student of the year for the center's annual graduation and has often been the speaker who announced the award. He assists and participates in every function or activity at MOCC.

He is a mentor to the Special Needs teacher and helps place special needs students in the appropriate educational setting. He is responsible for identifying those students to be tested for special GED accommodations.

Even though MOCC is an adult institution, behavior problems among students are prevalent. Chris effectively manages these problems in his classroom. He probably has fewer behavior problems than most ABE teachers. He is respected by his students, his fellow teachers, and the Division of Corrections staff with whom he works.

Chris is known for his use of humor in the classroom. He has the type of personality that is

appreciated by his co-workers and his students. It would be hard for some teachers to maintain humor and motivation in an environment where they may have the same students for a number of years. Chris' successes have been numerous. At a recent graduation ceremony at MOCC, one of his students received his GED after working with Chris for four years on a daily basis.

Chris received his teaching degree through Concord University and has earned his master's degree since coming to MOCC. He recently added 15 hours to his certification. He serves as a tutor to homebound students in the Fayette County school system. He juggles this responsibility, has a fledgling home repair business, is involved in his church, and is a devoted husband and father. ■

Gail Bowman is honored at the 2006 awards luncheon

■ The first person students see when they enter a classroom, the person we call for information about a program, and the person whom teachers depend on is a member of the adult education program support staff - the person who stays behind the scenes but is the foundation of every program.

WVAEA, Inc. recognizes one of these individuals each year at the annual fall adult education and family literacy conference.

This year Gail Bowman was presented with the 2006 Outstanding Service Award during the awards luncheon at LakeView Resort in Morgantown, WV.

Gail is a genuine and caring person whose attitude is one of warmth and acceptance. She has been the bright spot in the adult basic education (ABE) program in Raleigh County for 26 years.

She is conscientious in her efforts to assure program and student data is correctly entered into AEMIS (Adult Education Management Information System).



Terry Farley, Raleigh County ABE Director, accepts the award for Gail Bowman from Susan Hayden, conference chair.

Gail also serves the program in many other capacities. She assists the adult education program with testing, serves on the county adult education advisory board, and is willing to do whatever is asked of her. Her soft demeanor and warm smile are contagious.

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Gail Bowman honored . . . *Continued from page 6*

This year was especially hard for Gail. As the academic year began, she received news that she had lost a son in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan. She was devastated and her heart broken beyond measure. For a period of time, she missed work; yet when she returned, her attitude was still that of a vibrant individual. She cared even more than before if that was possible.

She worked to make sure that others were treated with warmth and given the opportunities that

they deserved. Many would have thought that the loss of her son would have given her reason to be bitter, but she chose instead to love more.

Gail collects lighthouses and they are a symbol that best describes her . . . for when it seems to others that their ship may run ashore, Gail's encouragement will see them through. Her unquestionable faith in God, her love and acceptance of others, her outstanding work ethic, and her sweet attitude are an inspiration to everyone whom she meets. ■

LAMP program receives top honor at annual conference

LAMP (Literate Adults Mean Prosperity), a community-based adult education and literacy program in Summers County, was chosen as the best adult basic education (ABE) program of the year. It was honored on October 27, 2006 at the awards luncheon sponsored by the West Virginia Adult Education Association, Inc. during its annual conference, *Safe and Sound*.

When LAMP began over 15 years ago, it provided supplemental tutoring to adults already enrolled in an adult education program but who were struggling with reading. LAMP continues to work with adults who are new or beginning readers through its network of volunteer tutors. It has expanded its services and now offers three GED classes during the evening. Two of the classes are at the Summers County Public Library; the third is available on-site to residents of the Housing Authority apartments in Hinton.

The volunteer tutors are an important resource of the LAMP program, particularly because LAMP is a part-time program. The volunteers attend a 12-hour tutor training and are certified through Literacy West Virginia and ProLiteracy. LAMP tutors work one-on-one with adults who prefer that method or who cannot attend the group class. In addition, one tutor teaches a small group math class at the satellite WorkForce center.

These volunteers enable LAMP to maintain consistent high enrollment and to employ teaching techniques that are most effective with a diverse population of students.



Shalom Tazewell, coordinator of the LAMP program, proudly displays her award with Susan Hayden, conference committee chair.

In addition to facilitating student progress toward a GED or employment, or increasing reading/writing and math skills, LAMP offers activities to encourage students to grow as residents of a community and as citizens.

Each year, LAMP organizes student-centered projects. The *LampLighter*, the program newsletter that includes interviews with community leaders, short stories, etc. The students have organized a book club, "Ready to Read," in which they read a book written by a West Virginia author and then meet to discuss it. They organize an annual picnic, a voter registration drive, and participate in the Mission WV project in which 30 LAMP learners receive computers to use at home.

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LAMP award . . .

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LAMP students also publish a cookbook that features their favorite recipes.

LAMP students have been leaders in BOLT (Building Opportunities for Learning Together), the WVAEA, Inc. (West Virginia Adult Education Association, Inc.) student organization from the beginning, and they continue to participate in BOLT's new configuration, the Student Speakers Bureau.

Every January, LAMP's adult learners visit the West Virginia Legislature, are introduced on the floor of the House during the legislative session, and are given the opportunity to speak with their state representatives.

In 2004, LAMP invited candidates for the West Virginia Legislature to attend its annual picnic. Nine of the candidates attended and spoke with the students and volunteers about pending issues.

In 2005, LAMP organized a joint graduation celebration with the full-time ABE program in Summers County and the Monroe County program in which Congressman Rahall was the keynote speaker.

These activities encourage students to use their academic skills in a "real world" setting, help them to understand the democratic process and their roles as citizens, and increase the community's awareness about the importance of adult education and literacy programs by giving the students a voice.

However, these activities also serve as an effective recruitment/retention tool. Participants enjoy the "extracurricular" activities and encourage others to join. LAMP learners look forward to working on the projects and receive positive feedback for their contributions. ■

West Virginia receives an incentive grant for successful performance

By Debrah Varner, Assistant Director, Adult Basic Education

The Workforce Investment Act provides for incentive grants to reward states for successful performance in workforce and education programs. In 2004, all three programs - Workforce WV, Adult Basic Education (ABE), and Perkins Vocational and Technical Education met their performance measures and West Virginia was awarded a grant for \$685,000 to fund new activities for the three agencies. The ABE office elected to use their portion of the grant to expand the distance education program.

After utilizing several different curricula and experimenting with various methods for delivering distance education via the Internet, PLATO Web Learning Network was adopted as the core curriculum for the program.

In 2005, Nicole Vint was designated as the statewide Cyber-teacher and monitored all students who enrolled in the program. Nicole and Ellen Killion, ABE Specialist, changed and revised the delivery methods until they developed an effective online system for distance education. Sixty-six students were served in 2006 by the Cyber-teacher and an additional 213 students were online learners who were also enrolled in ABE classes.

Instructors who chose to become certified in distance education were given access to the online version of Plato for use in the classroom as well as with students who wanted supplemental work or "homework" outside of the classroom.

The incentive grant funds have provided marketing for distance education, additional curricula in science, math, and social studies, continued access to Plato for the next two years, and the addition of a second Cyber-teacher. Pam Bryan, ABE Special Projects Coordinator was recently trained and became the second Cyber-teacher. Pam works half time in her role as special projects coordinator and part-time as a cyber-teacher. Pam will be an excellent addition to the distance education team. ■

McDowell County family literacy program wins national award

By Annette Shumate, Director, Catholic Community Services of McDowell County

On September 15 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, McDowell County's Even Start Family Literacy Program received the 2006 Family Strengthening Award sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Catholic Charities USA. A project of Catholic Community Services (CCS), the McDowell County family literacy program was one of only three programs to win the award and the only literacy program to be honored. The other two winners were Catholic Charities programs in Chicago, Illinois and Juneau, Alaska. In recognition of the program's accomplishments in strengthening the families it serves, Catholic Community Services received a \$25,000 monetary award to be reinvested in the winning project.



The history leading up to this honor is a story of hard work, inspiration, and attention to the needs of McDowell County families. In 1996, Sister Libby Deliee, a Sister of Mercy from Connecticut, established the Eckman Adult Learning Center in a 100-year-old former coal company building. Since the learning center opened, more than 2,000 adults have walked through its doors and walked out with additional knowledge and skills. Sister Libby's inspiration came from a group of women in Keystone who were helping to unload a truckful of donated computers soon after Windows 95 hit the market. The women asked Sister Libby if she would teach them how to use the computers and eventually get their GEDs (General Education Development). Thus the learning center was born, with numerous donations and grant funding from the State Department's Office of Adult Education and Workforce Development which continues today.

Sister Libby and Catholic Community Services also began sponsoring the highly successful Survival Skills for Women classes at the learning center and other locations.

As those early students, mainly women, progressed through the learning center, many of them complained of the lack of available and affordable child care in the area. Soon, the local DHHR approached Sister Libby about possibly opening a day care center, but the Eckman building was unsuitable. Then, seemingly out of the blue, the Keystone Rotary Club offered to donate their meeting place to Catholic Community Services because the club was disbanding. After much scrubbing and remodeling of the decades-old double-wide trailer in order to meet strict state day care regulations, Wee Care Family Center finally opened as a licensed child care center in December 2002. Wee Care currently serves the community at large as well as learning center students with young children. It is also in the process of becoming a collaborative West Virginia preschool site.

By January 2003, Sister Libby had obtained an Even Start Family Literacy grant. With Even Start, the learning center and Wee Care would collaborate closely to assist low-income families who desire to break the cycle of poverty and low literacy and eventually attain economic self-sufficiency. By definition, a family literacy program serves the family holistically, offering adult education, early childhood education, parenting instruction, and planned interactive literacy activities between parents and children. As the Annie E. Casey Foundation states, "Kids do well when families do well, and families do better when they live in a supportive environment." CCS McDowell provides that supportive environment. The requirements of Even Start are stringent, but those who persevere reap the benefits.

Between the opening of the learning center and the advent of the family literacy project, CCS McDowell endured the devastating floods of July 2001 and May 2002. Even though the CCS offices and the bottom floor of the learning center were

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National award . . .

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essentially destroyed, CCS led the flood recovery efforts in McDowell County, rebuilding as the organization helped others to rebuild.

Winning the Family Strengthening Award has been an exciting and educational experience for Catholic Community Services.

In October, we hosted 12 representatives from Catholic Charities across the United States for a three-day site visit to learn about our family literacy program. The visitors came from Oakland, CA; Boise, ID; Austin and Houston, TX; Arcadia, FL; Covington and Lexington, KY; Washington, DC; and Portland, ME. The visit involved sharing ideas and

challenges, and CCS staff and students probably gained as much—if not more—from the cross-cultural encounter as our visitors did. The visit culminated with a huge celebratory dinner involving our guests, participating families, and friends from around the county. Guests were entertained by musicians and a live monologue by the Mother Jones character from county native Jean Battlo's historical play *Terror of the Tug*.

Winning a national award is a catalyst for Catholic Community Services to continue striving for excellence in its services. Although Sister Libby retired in May 2005, her legacy lives on. ■

Ribbon cutting commemorates literacy volunteers new location

By Susie Huggins, Monongalia and Preston County Literacy Volunteers

Recently our two county-wide adult literacy organizations, Monongalia County Literacy Volunteers and Preston County Literacy Volunteers, joined together to celebrate the grand opening of a new facility location. The organizations, each a member of the United Way family, have moved headquarters to 977 Tyrone Road in Morgantown. This location offers amenities such as a large room for tutoring or group instruction, as well as a kitchen for teaching cooking classes. Currently, the organizations are offering holiday candy making classes and beginning skills computer classes for adult learners in our community.

Monongalia and Preston County Literacy Volunteers would like to gratefully acknowledge the generous donation of our new location by thanking Ellen Hrabovsky and all who joined in contributing to our grand opening. These include the United Way's Youth United and Lisa Snyder, Sabraton Kroger, The SHACK Neighborhood House, HOSPICE Care and Kim Riley. We offer special thanks to Emily Stout, Cody Wolfe, Tina Shumaker, Karen Bright, and all other volunteers, board members, tutors, and community members who joined in making our grand opening such a memorable event.



Jim Greene, Joy Greene, Freda Leishman, Ellen Hrabovsky, Susie Huggins, Conrad Pesyna, Roxann Hare, Pete Tzavaras, Stacy Clovis Woofter, and Delisa Riley.

Please come by and visit our new location. Directions are: From Route 7 East, turn left onto Tyrone Road. We are located on the next right after the Botanical Gardens. Also, from Route 857, turn right onto Tyrone Road. We are located at the next left after the Rifle Club.

If you have questions about Monongalia or Preston County Literacy Volunteers and the programs we offer, or would like to serve as a volunteer, please call (304) 296-3400. ■

A few words from an “old-timer”

By Brenda Browning, former Cabell County ABE Instructor

Because it is so easy for us to get caught-up in all the changes and new initiatives in adult education and literacy, the Networks editors thought it would be interesting to view these new concepts through the eyes of someone who has retired. Who better than Brenda Browning from Cabell County who was involved in adult basic education for close to 30 years before retiring? Below she describes in her own words what it is like to return to an ABE classroom.

I retired in 2002 after teaching GED classes for 28 years in Cabell County. I still return to the classroom occasionally when called upon by the county adult basic education (ABE) teachers to substitute for them.

But before doing any substitute teaching, I was required to have three hours of elective professional development (PD) credit to maintain my substitute status. Instead of attending a scheduled in-service session, I chose to submit the Class Visit Report for professional development credit. I wanted to visit a classroom to see if any changes had taken place in the last four years. There have been many!

“I wanted to visit a classroom to see if any changes had taken place in the last four years. There have been many!”

The reporting system, AEMIS (Adult Education Management Information System), was just getting off the ground when I retired. Now, it is up and running and seems to be working well.

A scheduled intake system is now the norm. Instead of enrolling everyone who walks in the door like we did in the past, there is now a set time for orientation and placement level testing.

Retesting still presents a problem because some students do not stick around long enough to take a progress test. Some changes have also been made in this area. Students may now be tested after 50 hours of attendance to capture their progress.

The Essay part of the GED Test has changed from two hundred words to just having a well organized essay that gets the point across. Knowing there is no word count may take some of the pressure off the student.

Use of the PLATO® program for GED studies is the biggest change I observed. Most of the students seem to like working on the computerized program. What really blew my mind is that students can work on PLATO® outside the classroom and get credit for the number of hours they worked!

Other basic skills computer programs the students can access are KeyTrain®, which is associated with ACT training. It helps students learn employment skills and prepare for the WorkKeys assessment.

Another good site now available is <http://www.LearningExpressLibrary.com> that helps students prepare for a variety of tests.

I feel that my time visiting the adult learning center located in the Huntington Public Library was well spent. I want to thank Jackie McClellan who helped bring me up-to-date on the latest changes in the adult basic education program. ■

WV marketing materials featured on national consortium website

The National Adult Education Professional Development Consortium (NAEPDC) is currently highlighting West Virginia’s student recruitment materials on their website.

The NAEPDC, incorporated in 1990 by state adult education directors, provides professional development, policy analysis, and dissemination of information important to state staff in adult education.

Check this out, along with other information about the consortium, at <http://www.naepdc.org>.

The 2006 annual conference offers many opportunities

By Susan Hayden, Conference Chair

The annual fall adult education and family literacy conference was held October 25-27 at LakeView Resort and Spa in Morgantown, WV. The conference is sponsored each year by the West Virginia Adult Education Association, Inc. (WVAEA, Inc.) and is a collaborative effort of the association, the Department of Education's Office of Adult Education and Workforce Development, Literacy West Virginia, the DHHR Office of Family Support, and the Division of Rehabilitation Services.



Dr. Carolyn Browning engages the audience with her energetic keynote address.

Because of the growing need for understanding health issues, and with an increasing emphasis nationwide on addressing this need for adult students, the theme of this year's conference was *Safe & Sound* and focused on health and cultural issues. Sessions included Ruby Payne: A Framework for Understanding Poverty; Attitude Therapy; Stress Busters; Self-Esteem; Assertiveness Training; Personal Safety; Just Think!; and Dean Ornish among many others.

Some of the topics are expanded on from year-to-year such as mental health issues and ethics. Nina Shinaberry, a clinical psychologist and Bob Rubenstein, a professor at Marshall University College of Graduate Studies are in demand and have presented the last three years on these topics.

This year we were honored to have the Rev. Dr. Carolyn Browning, dean of the Bluefield campus for New River Community and Technical College, deliver the keynote address at the first

general session. Her high spirited presentation immediately connected her to her audience, and her energetic spirit was one of the highlights of the conference.

Every year participants look forward to the door prizes given out throughout the conference. Thanks to Bonnie Herrold who has spearheaded this committee, and Debi Felton who stepped in and helped this year, many great gifts were given to those who held the lucky numbers. It has been said that some people stay until the last session just to see if they can win something!

Over 350 practitioners and administrators throughout the state attended this year's conference. Every year, the number of participants grows.

The fall conference offers valuable information and ideas to help participants grow both personally and professionally. They return home feeling renewed and promoting the conference to their co-workers.

The opportunity to network with one another and to "put a face with a name" is also one of the most important aspects of the conference and is one of the main goals of the conference committee. The conference evaluations indicate that



Participants enjoy an activity during one of the many conference sessions.

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Annual conference . . .

Continued from page 12

this is one of the highlights of this annual conference. On January 12, 1 PM, RESA III, Dunbar, the conference committee, comprised of representatives from all partnering agencies and organizations, will begin planning the 2007 conference. If you are interested in becoming part of this team, contact

Susan Hayden, haydens@wvlc.lib.wv.us, or Kim McConnaughy, kmcconna@access.k12.wv.us.

In the meantime, mark your calendars for October 26-28, 2007 to join us at Oglebay in Wheeling for the 2007 annual fall conference. ■

Meet the director of Literacy West Virginia

By Pam Bryan, Regional Technical Assistant

Editor's Note: In the summer issue, Networks began featuring the staff of Literacy West Virginia by sharing their professional information with you, our readers. This issue highlights Judy Azulay, the state director.



Judy Azulay is the director of adult education and literacy at Monroe County Schools and Public Libraries. In 1996 Judy became the state coordinator for West Virginia Laubach Literacy. After the merger with Literacy Volunteers of America-West Virginia, Judy was named state director for Literacy West Virginia, the new statewide literacy organization.

In this position she writes and manages grants and oversees the activities of seven regional technical assistants.

Judy is a member of the Region I Workforce Investment Board and is the Partnership Development/Grants Director at Monroe County Schools. In that capacity, she directs the AmeriCorps Building a Community of Champions program, as well as the 21st Century Community Learning Centers and federally funded Telemachus Mentoring Program.

Judy co-created a pilot training module for adult basic education (ABE) teachers to address the needs of low level readers and the ABE core training module, Literacy 100.

Judy came to West Virginia in 1973 and was a professional woodworker for 20 years. Her strong belief in education as a way out of poverty led her to volunteer as a tutor in the local literacy program.

In 1989 she wrote and received a grant to start a family literacy program in the two public libraries in Monroe County. She continued to direct that program, and in 1993, combined it with teaching ABE.

She served on the board of the American Library Association Family Literacy Programs and on the initial Governor's Council on Literacy under Governor Caperton.

In 2003, she became the local evaluator for West Virginia Even Start Programs.

Judy received a master's degree in Child Development at the University of Pennsylvania and a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Tufts University. Judy has also completed 15 credit hours in adult education at Marshall University. Over the years she has participated in other trainings including Laubach Literacy Action's Supervisor Trainer Program; the Ruby Payne: A Framework for Understanding Poverty; Train the Trainer; and Rural Entrepreneurship through Action Learning at West Virginia University. Judy also was trained by Payne and Associates in Special Learning Needs Assessment and Accommodations.

Judy is a resident of Zenith, West Virginia. She has two daughters, Anna and Jessica. ■

New curriculum coordinator comes to RESA III

By Tyann Douglas, Instructional Support Coordinator

In August 2006, Tyann Douglas became the instructional support coordinator for the Department of Health and Human Resources Special Projects through the Office of Adult Education and Workforce Development. Her new office is at Regional Education Service Agency III (RESA III) in Dunbar, WV.

Her main responsibilities as instructional support coordinator include developing and assisting with implementation of the SPOKES (Strategic Planning in Occupational Knowledge for Employment and Success) curriculum, providing technical assistance to SPOKES instructors, and collaborating with the Career Development Consultants (CDCs).

Before coming to RESA, Tyann was adult basic education (ABE) county coordinator/instructor for Boone County and was one of the first Cyber-teachers for West Virginia's adult distance education program. She is a certified Payne trainer for special learning needs and is an ABE peer trainer. Tyann also serves on the board of directors of the West Virginia Adult Education Association, Inc. (WVAEA, Inc.) and is a member of the annual fall conference committee.



In 2001, she represented West Virginia in the National Training for GED 2002 Series and Instructional Strategies.

Tyann has a bachelor's degree in Business Education and a bachelor's degree in Safety from West Virginia Institute of Technology (WVUIT) in Montgomery, WV. She earned her master's degree in Adult and Technical Education with emphasis on training and development from Marshall University in Huntington, WV.

Tyann looks forward to visiting and working with the SPOKES programs around the state. ■

Information Exchange provides latest updates

By Kathy Hollingsworth, WV Adult Basic Education Public Outreach Coordinator

Now there is a way to remember and reference everything you learn at conferences or hear "through the grapevine" about adult basic education (ABE) and literacy programs.

The *Information Exchange* has been created for you to use as a reference guide. It is three-hole punched to make it easy for you to place within a binder; and it is separated by sections to allow you to easily find the most recent update on the various components of ABE and literacy.

A copy of the fall 2006 update was sent to all ABE and literacy practitioners and administrators in October. This update included information on: ABE forms, assessment, curriculum and instruction, data quality visits, SPOKES/OPTIONS, distance education, ESL, EDP, Literacy Foundation grants and

scholarships, marketing materials, on-site evaluations, professional development, listing of State and regional staff and their responsibilities, and workplace education.

Keep your *Information Exchange* close at hand and it can be a valuable addition to your office and/or classroom. As changes or new initiatives are introduced, new pages will be sent to you to add to your *Information Exchange* reference guide.

If you didn't receive a copy, if you have questions, or if you would like a hard-copy sent to you, feel free to contact the public outreach office at (800) 257-3723 ext. 201, or kwinter@access.k12.wv.us. You can also download it from the ABE website, <http://www.wvabe.org>. ■

Lincoln County Literacy Action receives grant

By Cathy Adkins, Lincoln County Literacy Council Coordinator

Editor's Note: See article on page 18 for information on other grant award winners.

Lincoln County Literacy Action (LCLA), an adult literacy program based at the Hamlin-Lincoln County Public Library, received a \$2,750.00 grant through the West Virginia Literacy Foundation for instructional books.

LCLA is an adult program that utilizes volunteers as tutors to work with literacy students. In addition to individual tutoring, LCLA holds study sessions at two libraries in the county. On Monday nights, a class is held at the Hamlin-Lincoln County Public Library that targets working adults who want to improve their literacy skills; on Wednesday mornings, a class meets at the Branchland Library for individuals

needing literacy services. LCLA works in conjunction with two Head Start Centers in our county providing books, materials and weekly instruction to the parents of Head Start children.

The grant from West Virginia Literacy Foundation will be used to purchase instructional books that LCLA's literacy students can use in their quest to improve their skills. Areas that will be addressed through this grant are reading, writing, and math. These books will be cataloged through the library's system and checked out to individual literacy students; subsequently, many students will benefit from each individual book. ■

Wyoming County participates in "Make a Difference Day"

By Sherry Palmer, former SPOKES instructor



According to <http://www.usaweekend.com>, in 2005 more than 3 million people cared enough about their communities to participate in Make a Difference Day by volunteering their time accomplishing thousands of projects in hundreds of towns.

When the Wyoming SPOKES (Strategic Planning in Occupational Knowledge for Employment and Success) program received a flyer in the mail regarding Make a Difference Day 2006, the students were raring to go. And why not? One of the modules that the SPOKES program studies is self-esteem. What better way to boost one's self-esteem than to use your skills to benefit the community in which you live?

With this in mind, the SPOKES students planned their project which included reading to the kindergarten and first grade class at Mullens Elementary School on October 25th. They chose to promote literacy by holding a story session and reading from Dr. Seuss's *ABC Book*, *The Foot Book*, *Fox in Socks*, and *The Little Red Hen* by Philemon Sturges. After the story session, the children decorated bookworm bookmarks with the statement "Reading is Fun."

Make a Difference Day is a great opportunity for anyone who wants to get involved in the community, as well as a fabulous way to build self-esteem. Students who participated in the project were: Virgie Branham, Laura Goode, Christina Lusk, and Jessie Moles. ■



West Virginia author donates books to LAMP book club

By Shalom Tazewell, LAMP Coordinator

Dr. Jay Banks, author of *House Calls from the Hills* recently donated books to the “Ready to Read” book club for adult learners in the Summers County LAMP (Literate Adults Mean Prosperity) program.

Every two months, participants in the “Ready to Read” book club select a book to read and discuss in class. The books are primarily about West Virginia or are written by West Virginia authors.

Most recently, the students read *House Calls from the Hills*, an autobiographical account of Dr. Banks’ experiences as a physician in southern West Virginia.

“Ready to Read” was started with funds from a West Virginia Literacy Foundation grant two years ago and has continued because of the enthusiasm of its student members. Some of the other books that have been read are *The Glass Castle*, *Follow the River*, *Addie*, *October Sky*, *The Liars Club*, and *River of Earth*. New students are encouraged to join the book club and to recommend a book for discussion. ■

LAMP was honored as the adult program of the year. See the article beginning on page 7 to learn more about its activities.

Billboards used to promote ABE and career technical education

By Kathy Hollingsworth, WV Adult Basic Education Public Outreach Coordinator



Highway billboards have been designed and posted along the highways within West Virginia to promote awareness of adult basic education and career technical education programs.

This is the second year the Office of Adult Education and Workforce Development and the West Virginia Adult Education Association, Inc. (WVAEA, Inc.) have collaborated on this project to promote adult basic education; and this year funds were established to design billboards to promote career technical education.

These posters are used as “fillers” where there is an un-rented billboard, so we never know where they will be placed. But we have had great placement the past two years, and these billboards have generated many phone calls to the Adult Education Hotline. In fact, the billboard companies have even received calls; and now they keep our 800 number near their phones!

So, look for these billboards in your neighborhood – they continue to “pop up” when a space becomes vacated. ■



SPOKES/OPTIONS student gets new outlook, a new smile, and a new life

By Tiffanie Bishop-O'Brien, Career Development Consultant

Karen was originally referred to the SPOKES (Strategic Planning in Occupational Knowledge for Employment and Success) program in the fall of 2005. She had just been fired from her job as a certified nursing assistant, and was uncertain what her options were for re-employment in that field.

She was depressed and resisted making contact with the public because she was in serious need of dental work. Her daughter was living in the household and was working, and Karen started to lean on her daughter for financial support.

As if things weren't bad enough, Karen's car broke down and she was forced to drop from the class.

She returned to the class in July 2006 and her attitude was very dismissive and impetuous. However, as the days went on she began to interact and develop friendships with some of the other students. She began participating in the modules and assisting others in the computer lab. She completed a good resume and began a serious job search.

In the days that followed, our SPOKES teacher managed to get Karen a consultation with a local dentist. The dentist was so impressed by Karen's attitude and outlook that he agreed to do her dental work for free.

Since getting her teeth fixed Karen has a new outlook, a new smile, and a new life. She completed all of the necessary tasks to earn the Ready to Work Certificate. She has secured a part-time position working in a doctor's office as an assistant.

She keeps an upbeat attitude and loves to show off her new smile. She has also enrolled in some online classes and is working toward a certification.

She continues to visit the center on a regular basis to look for full time jobs using her nursing experience, and visit with staff.

We are very proud of the steps that Karen has taken, and look forward to being part of her future success. ■

The Governor's Council on Literacy awards scholarships

By Debi Conrad, Governor's Council on Literacy Scholarship Committee Staff Liaison

A scholarship program for state residents who have completed the General Educational Development (GED) test or the External Diploma Program (EDP) was established in 1995 by the West Virginia Literacy Foundation in cooperation with the Governor's Council on Literacy. These programs provide adults who did not finish their high school education the opportunity to earn their diploma. The West Virginia Literacy Foundation's GED/EDP scholarship program was designed to encourage those who obtain their GED or EDP to continue their education in our state's colleges, universities, and career and technical centers.

As with most financial aid or scholarship programs, there is an annual application process that

interested applicants must complete if they meet established criteria. The criteria for scholarship consideration is: timely completion and submission of the scholarship application, residency in West Virginia, a GED score of 250 prior to January 1, 2002 or 2500 after January 1, 2002, or completion of an External Degree Program, completion and submission of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA) by the established deadline, maintain a 2.0 grade point average, and completion of 12 or more semester hours.

Staff from the West Virginia Department of Education serves as liaisons to the council to distribute the scholarship program information and

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Governor's Council scholarships . . .

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applications. The liaisons coordinate efforts with the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission to compile a list of potential recipients based on financial need, notify institutions and recipients of awards, and assist with hosting an award ceremony.

Nineteen students received the scholarships in the 2006-2007 academic year. All students are currently enrolled in school; seventeen in the state's colleges, universities, and community and technical colleges, and two in career and technical centers. One of the recipients currently enrolled at West Virginia State University was also honored as the Adult Basic Education Student of the Year at the 2006 WVAEA fall conference in Morgantown.

The application for the 2007-2008 academic year will be distributed in late December 2006 or early January 2007. It was revised this year to accommodate the name changes of several of our community and technical colleges. The community and technical colleges have all agreed to sponsor one scholarship per year beginning with the 2007-08 scholarship.

Institutions that have agreed to sponsor scholarships for 2007-08 are: Bluefield State College, Blue Ridge Community & Technical College (formerly Shepherd Community & Technical College), Cabell County Career Technology Center, Community

& Technical College of West Virginia University Institute of Technology, Glenville State College, Pierpont Community & Technology Technical College (formerly Fairmont State Community & Technical College), Marshall University, Mercer County Technical Education Center, Mountaineer Beauty College, Inc., New River Community and Technical College (all 4 campuses), Roane-Jackson Technical Center, Shepherd University, Southern WV Community & Technical College, University of Charleston, WV Northern Community & Technical College, West Virginia State University, West Virginia State Community & Technical College, West Virginia University Morgantown), West Virginia University at Parkersburg, and Wheeling Jesuit University.

Also sponsoring scholarships for prospective recipients are the West Virginia Adult Education Association, Inc. (WVAEA, Inc.) (two scholarships); and Senator Truman Chafin (two scholarships) for eligible applicants residing in his district; and the West Virginia Literacy Foundation (one scholarship).

For further information or questions, contact Debi Conrad at 304-558-6318 or at dkconrad@access.k12.wv.us. ■

The Governor's Council on Literacy awards grants

By Kathy Hollingsworth, Governor's Council on Literacy Grant Committee Staff Liaison

 The Governor's Council on Literacy, in collaboration with the West Virginia Literacy Foundation, has awarded the 2006-2007 grant awards.

These recipients receive up to \$3,000 for innovative ideas and are awarded these grants through a competitive application process.

The following programs and agencies were awarded mini-grants in 2006-2007 for special projects:

ALWAYS Big Creek People in Action - McDowell County; Communication - Putnam County LVA; Families Reading and Learning Together - Mineral

County; Five Dimensions of Reading - Harrison County LVA; Free State Book Circle - McDowell County; INSPIRE - Marion County LVA; Lincoln County Literacy Center and Technology Lab; WV Division of Rehabilitation Services - Kanawha County; Teaching Materials to Support Student Programs - Upshur County LVA; RAIL - Wyoming County; VISTA-RUBY READ - Preston County LVA. ■

Creative fund-raising ideas and activities from Upshur County Literacy Volunteers

By Linda Feola, Director of Upshur County Literacy Volunteers

Volunteer literacy tutors and students in Upshur County have been busy this fall. We have participated in community activities to raise money for our program; and we have created our own unique projects.

On Sunday, November 5, we participated in the Meadowbrook Mall's Magical Night of Giving. Students of Upshur County Literacy Volunteers (UCLVA) sell \$5 tickets to friends, family, and neighbors. For three hours on a Sunday evening, the mall provides cash prizes, store certificates, etc. to shoppers who have purchased tickets. UCLVA gets recognition, and we keep the money earned through the sale of tickets. This year we earned \$650.

Borders Express Books provided a fund-raising activity for UCLVA November 6-14. Students gave out free coupons to shoppers as they entered the store, and the program earned 20 percent of all sales during that period of time. *(At the time this issue went to print, the final profit had not been determined.)*

On December 9, students provided a gift-wrapping service for customers of Borders Express Books. Students brought the wrapping paper and bows, and accepted donations for their services.

For another creative fund-raising idea, students sold tickets for a Christmas tree raffle - \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The drawing for the Christmas tree will be held on December 24.

Students and board members donated their time to help out with the Upshur County Christmas store at the Armory. The Christmas store is set up each year for parents to shop for their children; nothing is priced over \$3. Students volunteered their time to help on the floor to keep things straightened up. Board members helped shoppers with reading and handling their money during their shopping time.

On December 13, the class celebrated with a Christmas party where each student made an ornament, played Bingo for prizes, and of course there was plenty of food for all! ■

The West Virginia Adult Education Association, Inc. (WVAEA, Inc.) elects new officers and board members

By Kathy Hollingsworth, WVAEA, Inc. Executive Director

At the annual adult education and family literacy conference in October 2006, the West Virginia Adult Education Association, Inc. (WVAEA, Inc.) elected new officers and board of directors.

Susan Hayden was elected president. She is the literacy coordinator for the West Virginia Library Commission and has served as vice-president of WVAEA, Inc. and conference committee chair. She has been active in all the activities of the association as a member of the board of directors and chair of the Legislative Committee.

Kim McConnaughy will serve as vice-president and conference committee chair. Kim is the regional coordinator of adult education at RESA VI in Wheeling, and has been an active member of WVAEA, Inc. for many years.

The newly elected secretary, Bonnie Herrold, has been a member of WVAEA, Inc., for 16 years. She has served on the board of directors, and has filled the shoes of secretary in the past.

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WVAEA, Inc. new officers and board members . . .

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Bonnie is an adult education learning center coordinator and county adult basic education coordinator for Wayne County.

David Hollingsworth was re-elected as treasurer of the association. David is a past-president, has served on the board of directors, and has been the treasurer of WVAEA, Inc. He also served as regional representative for COABE (Commission on Adult Basic Education) for three years, 2001-2004. An employee of the Office of Adult Education and Workforce Development, David is the coordinator of DHHR special projects.

Along with the new officers, four new board of directors were elected.

Tyann Douglas, DHHR special projects curriculum coordinator housed at RESA III (Regional Education Service Agency III), has been a member of WVAEA, Inc. for seven years. She previously served on the board of directors, and has been a member of the conference committee for the past four years.

Edie Jett, adult education learning center coordinator in Monongalia County has also been a valuable member of WVAEA, Inc. for the past 10

years. She has served on the board of directors, chaired the By-Laws Committee, is the parliamentarian for the association, and has been a member of the conference committee for several years.

Janelle Williams, career development consultant for the OPTIONS program in Region 1, was also elected to serve on the board of directors. Janelle is new to adult basic education, and is eager to get involved in the activities.

Denise White, an adult education learning center coordinator at Southern West Virginia Community College, will serve on the board of directors for one year to complete the three-year term of the newly elected secretary.

These newly elected officers and board members, along with the executive director and other board of directors, will guide the activities of the association, and welcome your suggestions and ideas. Go to <http://www.wvaea.org> for contact information, membership application, and the latest updates on the activities of WVAEA, Inc. ■

**Deadline for spring issue:
March 2, 2007**