

NEVADA

Connections

Produced by Community College Southern Nevada to connect resources for Nevada's adult workforce

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TMCC volunteers shine

For the past sixteen years, the volunteer literacy program at Truckee Meadows Community College in Reno has produced a steady stream of new readers, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Adult Basic Education personnel and willing volunteer tutors from the community.

Located on the second floor of the Reno Town Mall, the program offers one-on-one tutoring to native-born Americans reading below the 8th grade level. Naturalized ESL citizens unable to read in English at this level, but scoring above 232 on the CASAS orally, may also qualify. It's a challenge to continually maintain enough volunteer tutors to pair up with each student; however, this spring the program had 34 volunteers and 27 students.

"We take for granted our education and the fact that we can read, with the opportunities it offers. I enjoy the challenge of helping others to sharpen their reading skills, so it may improve their lives."

—Howard Craig
(Tutor for 5 years)

Over the years TMCC has recruited both volunteers and students through notices in newspapers, newsletters, flyers, TV, and radio. Volunteers have learned about the program through RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program), and via *The Reno/Sparks Newcomers Newsletter*. Program staff also worked hard on recruitment. For example, Paula Kizis, Volunteer Coordinator, speaks to institutions and organizations having promising ties to non-readers, including Early Head Start and Nevada Job Connection. Val Brady, Tutor Trainer and GED Instructor, has begun a program to train new tutors. The national Volunteers for Literacy and a Wal-Mart literacy campaign attracted prospective students as well. The

literacy team is planning an open house this fall for students and tutors to bring their spouses and friends, in the hopes that they will spread the word and more people will hear about the program.

Several of the volunteers have worked in the program from its inception in 1986. The tutors represent a broad range of ages and professions, including stay-at-home moms, people working outside the home, and retirees. Long-time volunteers even include a husband and wife team.

Paula credits the hard work of tutors, students, and her co-workers, Linda Erger and Stephen Hinman, for the success of the program. "And Val Brady keeps volunteers engaged, sometimes in the face of erratic student attendance," added ABE Director Paul Marsala. "It's a real team effort that has paid off for everyone!"

For more information, contact Paula Kizis at jkizis@charter.net. — Written by Jackie Taylor, CCSN

New voters register at CCSN

Las Vegas Valley League of Women Voters President Margi Mark (seated right) and Marge Havlik of the Southern Nevada Literacy Coalition sign up first-time Nevada voter Cynthia Pierrot in a voter registration drive at CCSN's ABE program. Cynthia, a coordinator in CCSN's program, also served as translator in the recent collaboration to register students and their families.



Another 22 educators prove performance

Twenty-two instructors and tutors from throughout Nevada submitted evidence of student outcomes and were awarded their ABE Certificates of Performance over the summer. These educators met the student retention and performance criteria outlined in the state's unique outcome-based recognition program. For more information, contact Sharyn Yanoshak, 702.253.6280, saylv@lvcm.com or visit www.literacynet.org/nvadulted.

CCSN: **Thomas W. Luscher**

GBC: **Susan Bettles, Tina Marie Bisiaux, Debra Payne Chaparro, Maria Idoya Eizaguirre-Bagan, Mary A. Gilbertson, Loralee Hall, Emily Huerta, Monica Jimenez, Tina Kerr, Eloisa Mendoza, Rebecca Norris, Sofia Schade, Sally Schumacher, Rossana Soltani, Louis M. Tousignant**

TMCC: **Eric Hansen, Stephen W. Hinman, Paula J. Kizis, Linda A. Schneider-Erger**

WNCC: **Barbara A. Lott, Mauricio E. Perez**

TOPSpro software update

? *Dimi Jefferis, Certified CASAS/TOPSpro State Trainer for NV*
702.651.4067, dimi_jefferis@ccsn.nevada.edu

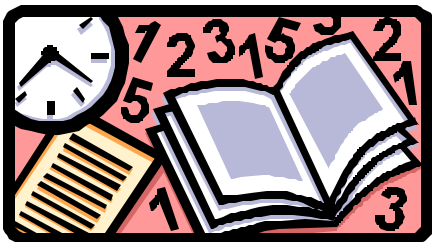
For those using the CASAS software, TOPSpro, for data collection: The current version is 3.4 with Service Pack 1. The Service Pack can be downloaded from the CASAS Web site, www.casas.org. By September there should be a new edition, 4.0.14. It will have many improved features, including "Help" which will have over 1000 items to assist users. To install 4.0, users should be current with version 3.4 and Service Pack 1.

Save the dates!

- ? November 1, 2002: Focus Day Training – Technology
- ? November 2, 2002: Literacy Awards Luncheon
- ? Place: Carson City
- ? Co-sponsored by the Nevada Literacy Coalition and the Nevada Adult Education Association
- ? Contact: *Susan Graf, 800.445.9673, sfgraf@clan.lib.nv.us*

Official GED Practice Tests available at store near you

Steven Korte, President and CEO of publisher Steck-Vaughn, recently notified Mary Katherine Moen, State Director of Adult Education, that the company is offering Form PA of the Official GED Practice Tests for sale to the general public through Barnes and Noble bookstores. The official GED Practice Tests remain the only reliable, valid, and accurate indicator of test readiness and score prediction available for the full-length GED tests.



For the first time, the GED Testing Service served over 1,000,000 test takers within a year. Steck-Vaughn and the GED Testing Service hope "to sustain and propel the unparalleled growth seen during 2001," wrote Steven.

A certified GED Scoring Service will score the practice tests, ensuring test security. Those who pass the test will be encouraged to contact their local instructional programs to confirm that they are prepared to take the real test. Those with substandard scores will be referred to America's Literacy Directory. To enroll your instructional program in this national database, visit www.literacydirectory.org.

GED cross-discipline Study Guide ready to use

Author Val Lyons-Brady (775.575.6822, valbrady@thegrid.net) recently announced that her *12-week Study Guide for GED 2002* is off the presses! The *Guide* utilizes a cross-discipline approach to cover the areas needed to pass the GED Exam. “The six lessons for each of 48 days intertwine with each other so that the material learned in one subject reinforces the material learned in the other five areas that day,” said Val. “Supplementary exercises are also provided.” Val, along with Jeanie Thibault, who edited the *Guide*, are Nevada's GED state trainers.

The *Guide* is set up for instructors, tutors and independent study. Although it is directly correlated to the Steck-Vaughn books, the lessons are easily adaptable to other GED providers. You may borrow the *Guide* now from the State Literacy Resource Center (SLRC, 800.445.9673). It will also be available at local libraries in November. Nevada's instructors, tutors, and students may request their very own copy from the SLRC while supplies last.



Val Lyons-Brady

More from the SLRC: new journals

—Susan Graf, Nevada Literacy Coalition, 800.445.9673, 775.684.3340, sfgraf@clan.lib.nv.us

The State Literacy Resource Center holds a wide variety of materials — print, electronic, audio, and video. In addition to newsletters from various adult literacy agencies, we now subscribe to several journals that may be of interest to you. All titles were highly recommended by the Northwest Literacy Resource Center. We hope that you will make use of them in curriculum development or administration.

- *Adult Basic Education*: An interdisciplinary journal for adult literacy educators.
- *Adult Education Quarterly*: A journal of research and theory in adult and continuing education.
- *CopyCat*: Ideas and activities for K-3 teachers. Easily adapted to public and school librarian needs; also good for family literacy activities.
- *The Dys*lex*ic Reader*: Published quarterly by Davis Dyslexia Association International (DDAI) to increase worldwide awareness about the positive aspects of dyslexia and related learning styles and to present methods for improving literacy, education and academic success.
- *Harvard Education Review*: A leader in educational scholarship for over 70 years.
- *Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy*: Navigating new literacies.
- *Kappan*: This professional print journal for education addresses policy issues for educators at all levels. An advocate for research-based school reform, the *Kappan* provides a forum for debate on controversial subjects. Published since 1915, the journal comes out monthly, September-June.
- *The Kettering Review*: This journal of ideas offers lively articles on a variety of subjects including the changing roles of the citizen, the press, public leadership, and public opinion. Each issue addresses a single theme. Call for a list of editions at the SLRC. (Especially helpful to EL/Civics instructors)
- *New Directions for Adult and Continuing Education*: Contemporary viewpoints on teaching adults effectively.
- *The Reading Teacher*: A peer-reviewed journal, published as a service to those interested in children's literacy learning.
- *Reading Today*: Bimonthly newspaper about the reading profession.

Current issues are displayed for on-site use and review. Past issues may be checked out by calling the Nevada Literacy Coalition, 800.445.WORD (9673) or 775.684.3340. Call with your public library card number and we will send the journals to your closest public library, at no charge to you!

Connecting resources for Nevada's adult workforce

NBSF now accepting applications

—Mara Roberts, Director NBSF

Grant applications are now being accepted for the National Book Scholarship Fund (NBSF), sponsored by Laubach Literacy International. NBSF grants distribute New Readers Press books and educational materials to qualified adult literacy providers in the U.S.

“The NBSF provides an opportunity for programs to obtain materials they might not otherwise be able to afford,” said Mara Roberts, director of Laubach's NBSF program.

During the 2001-2002 program cycle the NBSF gave \$188,735 in grants to eighty-six programs. Since 1995, the fund has given \$1,482,855 in NBSF grants to 730 programs in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The National Book Scholarship Fund gives special emphasis to grant applications from family literacy programs, followed by ESL and adult basic educational initiatives.

For more information about the NBSF or to apply, visit the NBSF Web site at www.nbsf.org. The grant application will be available online in September 2002. The deadline for grant applications is December 5, 2002.

For additional information, contact Mara Roberts, project administrator, by phone at 315.422.9121, ext. 345; by e-mail at mroberts@laubach.org; or by writing the National Book Scholarship Fund, Laubach Literacy, 1320 Jamesville Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13210.

