

THE LIGHTHOUSE

COBB/PAULDING ADULT ED CENTERS



March 1, 2010
Volume 3, Issue 1

From the Director

Mid-Year Progress

We are extremely proud of the accomplishments of our students, faculty, and staff this past semester (July 2009-December 2009). The data for this time period reflects that our students continue to improve. We commend our staff and faculty for their hard work in making this possible. Our adult learners would not be able to accomplish their goals without the dedication and determination of faculty and staff. We would like to thank and recognize our Partners (Advisory Committees) who give invaluable input and assistance to our program. As a result, many initiatives have been put into place, with many in the planning phase. We will continue to provide our adult learners with new opportunities and challenging instructional activities to assist them in reaching their goals.

The Rotary Makes a Difference

The Rotary has a strong focus on education and literacy, among other avenues of community and international service. Throughout the nation, the various local clubs have been instrumental in enriching the lives of students by opening up educational avenues (seminars, workshops, scholarships, and scholarship programs) that for some might have been impossible to obtain. Therefore, in keeping with its mission, the Rotary Club of Smyrna will present 100 dictionaries to the Adult Education Center on March 11 at 11:30 a.m. To date, the Rotary has contributed more than 12 million dictionaries across the USA in over fifteen years. The contribution of dictionaries to AEC was made possible because of the vision and dedication of Mrs. Theresa Hall, a volunteer tutor with our program, who saw the need for dictionaries and knew the difference they would make in the classrooms. As we are aware, the use of dictionaries in the classroom is vital in expanding the knowledge of students. We have asked that the media be present to photograph this notable honor.

Cherry Gipson
Principal/Director

Cobb Adult Education's first WorkReady Graduate

At the Cobb Adult Education Center, the staff delights in the achievements of our students. Today, we shine the spotlight on Damion B. Martin, our first WorkReady graduate.

Damion enrolled in classes at the Cobb Adult Education Center in July of 2009. He used his time wisely. He studied hard and explored every possible avenue to excel. He participated in the quarterly Writing Contest, and he was the first place winner for 1st Quarter 2009.

When Damion learned of Governor Purdue's WorkReady Initiative, he embraced the opportunity. He took the Pre-Assessment, Gap-Training, Post-Test, and ultimately became the first Cobb Adult Ed. Center student to receive the WorkReady certificate. During that period, Damion continued his GED preparation studies and obtained his GED in November, 2009.

Presently, Damion is a student at Chattahoochee Technical College. His goal is to become a Surgical Technician. In addition to attending college, he works part time at Cobb General Hospital.

Recently, Damion visited the Cobb Adult Ed. Center to see his former teachers. He was thrilled to relay and update Ms. Browne on what he is doing and where he is headed. He has volunteered to return to campus and speak to our student population about setting goals and working hard to achieve them. Damion is a determined young man with aspirations he will fulfill.

Francia Browne
Assistant Director

COBB/PAULDING ADULT ED CENTERS

Paulding County Highlights



Featured as this month's **MOVING ON** student is Ashley Robinson who dropped out of school in 2005 for financial reasons. With encouragement from family and friends, she enrolled in the Paulding GED program. According to Ashley, slow and steady has never been her motto so she worked hard and never missed a class. Ashley received her GED on November 11, 2009. She is a member of the 3000+ club which means she is in the top 15% of GED scores. She is currently taking classes at Chattahoochee Tech where she is majoring in technical communication. Her plan is to get in 30 hours and qualify for the Hope scholarship and then transfer to KSU and earn a double B.A. in psychology and sociology. Along with working and taking college classes, she volunteers two nights a week as an aide in the GED program. She has also taken on a major project of scrapbooking the history of the GED program in Paulding County. Ashley has certainly been an asset to our GED program. We're so happy that Ashley is **MOVING ON** with her life!

Margaret Halstead, Lead Instructor
Paulding Campus

English Literacy (Cobb)

As we pass the mid-way point of the third quarter, the effects of a new state law have become clear. Nearly half of our 900 students are no longer eligible to attend our program due to passage of House Bill 2. This new law became effective January 1, 2010. Although enrollment and class offerings have decreased, we are still offering the same high quality educational experience as before, and we are seeking more aggressive ways to reach our target populations. Some of the ways we intend to reach our target population are to advertise and to collaborate with local schools, churches, and supporting agencies in the coming months.

Maketo Moore – ESL Coordinator

English Literacy (Paulding)

The winter quarter of Paulding County ESL has us temporarily meeting at Chattahoochee Technical College all day on Monday and Wednesday and on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. We will continue this adjusted schedule until the repairs at Family Alliance Center in Hiram are completed.

In our effort to show appreciation to the Family Alliance of Paulding for their support of our adult education program, we participated in their annual fundraising event. Staff and students were able to purchase tickets for the dinner/dance and/or make donations toward a bronze level sponsorship. The event was held at the Chea'ne Rouge Wedding and Special Events facility February 27th, from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. The theme was "Carnival in Rio de Janeiro!" Dinner and dancing, auctions and raffles, as well as, entertainment were provided.

Dana Velasco - ESL Coordinator

WorkReady

Testers Goin' for the Gold!

In Olympic style, well over 60 Adult Education students are in "Gap Training" for Bronze, Silver, Gold and even Platinum WorkReady certificates. Increasing numbers of GED candidates are participating in WorkReady assessments and Gap training. In partnership with Chattahoochee Tech, students are able to take the WorkReady assessments at the Adult Education facility and thus earn Work Ready certifications while at the same time continuing their GED studies. The opportunity to upgrade certificate levels is available during regularly scheduled school hours. Students are given access to KeyTrain, an online educational software program, which is designed to help improve skill levels and assessment scores. We are pleased that our GED graduates can enter employment armed not only with the GED diploma, but also with a Work Ready certificate that highlights skill levels needed for workplace success. More than 175 Georgia companies are currently using the Work Ready certifications for job placement and hiring. In this economy, our students are smart to arm themselves with every advantage available to them; Work Ready is certainly one of them.

Jan Edmunds - Instructor

Work Ready is based on a skills assessment and certification for job seekers and a job profiling system for businesses. By identifying both the needs of business and the available skills of Georgia's workforce, the state can more effectively generate the right talent for the right jobs. For more information visit www.gaworkready.org.

Student Services Updates

We are so excited by our new program to assist students with their transition to Chattahoochee Technical College. Once each quarter, we have scheduled both an AM and PM information session at the Adult Education Center. This info session is followed up the next week with a campus tour at the college. Dr. Dawn Hodges, Dean of Academic Support at Chattahoochee Technical College, is conducting both the tour and the information sessions. She is diligently working with us to make the move to college an easy transition for our students.

Our first information session was conducted on Tuesday, Feb. 2, followed by a tour of the campus on Tuesday, Feb. 9. It was a huge success, and 33 students attended. See below for the list of remaining information sessions and campus visits thru Spring Quarter.

Winter Quarter

PM Mon. - March 1 Information Session Rm 16
PM Wed. - March 10 Tour of the Campus

Spring Quarter

AM Mon. - May 10 Information Session Lab
AM Mon. - May 17 Tour of the Campus
PM Tues - May 4 Information Session Rm 16
PM Tues - May 11 Tour of the Campus

Paula Cohen-Tsanos
Counselor

In the Spotlight

EAGLE Award Winner Honored

Cobb County's Lucera Alejandra Garcia was recognized by the Technical College System of Georgia, along with 29 other adult learners, for outstanding achievement in Georgia's Adult Education Program. Lucera participated in the annual Leadership Institute held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Atlanta, February 8-10. She was nominated by her instructor at the Cobb Adult Education Center. The exceptional effort that she put forth in her studies and the success she has achieved makes Lucera an outstanding role model for the many Georgians who have never obtained their high school diploma or GED credential.



Ron Jackson, TCSG Commissioner, Josephine Reed-Taylor, TCSG Asst. Commissioner and Michael Thurmond, DOL Commissioner presented the students with their EAGLE award. Mr. Jackson noted that each student is considered to be an ambassador for Georgia's Adult Education Program and a spokesperson for the positive effect that working toward and earning a GED credential can have on people's lives. He said, "Through hard work and perseverance, you've proven to yourself and others that it's possible to overcome life's obstacles and get the education and respect that you've always deserved. Now, I call on you to not only continue your education, but also help spread the word that obtaining a GED is a very important step toward discovering your potential, getting a better job, and improving the future for you, your family, and your community."

As an Exceptional Adult Georgian in Literacy Education (EAGLE), Lucera's participation in the EAGLE Leadership Institute prepared her for success in the workplace and in college. Lucera will be able to share her experience with adult education students and she will be a great spokesperson for adult literacy in our community.

Congratulations again to Lucera Garcia for earning her GED and being our EAGLE award winner. We at Cobb Adult Ed. look forward to working closely with our ambassador, Lucera, to promote adult education in Cobb County.

Reece Vermeer
Instructor