



Welcome New Administrators



Texas LEARNS welcomed our newest colleagues to adult education and EL Civics while they attended the New Administrators' Training Meeting in October 2005. Standing left to right: Ricky Mitchell, Cynthia Davies, Gil Ontiveros, Vonda Staton, Donna Byrum, Gwen Robinson Greene, Merri Lynn Rideout, Shirley McMillan, Elya Garcia, Lisa Dunn, Lucien Costley. Bottom Row: Gordon Peterson, Paula Cavazos, Jose Rayas, April Malone, Homero Villarreal, Christia Moore, Jane Marie Heidt, Dannell Price.

Ricky Mitchell has been the Director of State and Federal Programs at Grand Prairie ISD for the last 2 years. With over 28 years of experience in education, this is his first position, including administering EL Civics, Adult GED classes, a GED Testing Center, and Even Start. While experiencing the steep learning curve of adult education, Ricky appreciates the commitment exhibited in the programs. "The dedication of both the teachers and the students is what is so impressive about adult

education in Grand Prairie. It's great to see the adults be so enthusiastic and dedicated to their learning. It's what education is all about."

Cynthia Davies is the new EL-Civics Coordinator for Humble ISD. She has worked for the school district for 16 years and she loves helping others achieve their educational goals.

Gil Ontiveros, has been named the Adult Education Interim Director at Houston Community College. Gil has served in the community college for 14 years

with the majority of his experience in various positions in the community and adult education division. Gil enjoyed the New Directors Meeting because he had the opportunity to network with other program administrators.

Vonda Staton is the new EL-Civics Coordinator for Grayson County College. She plans to soak up as much information possible to do her job the best. "I still need more training and plan to attend all the conferences

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If you have any questions, concerns, comments, success stories, or articles that you would like published in the TLC newsletter, please send them to: Lori Ruiz-Wamble,

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I can in the future. I find it beneficial to meet and network with all the personnel and I need to contact and know who can answer questions pertinent to my position.”

Donna Byrum, Interim Director of Adult Education at Grayson County College, is very content with adult education. “I am lifelong educator who has found my niche in adult education. The challenges and rewards of a small, but growing, rural co-op are what make every day an adventure.”

Gwen Robinson Greene, Program Administrator for Austin ISD, found the training to be worthwhile and she had several action items to share with her staff and instructors. “The session with my Grant Service Manager and GREAT Center manager was especially helpful on TEAMS, professional opportunities, and I even participated in a web conference that could significantly improve communication with staff and the GREAT Center.”

Merri Lynn Rideout, the new Abilene ISD Adult Education Director, is new to adult education, but is no stranger in Abilene. Merri, native of Abilene, has previously served as a teacher and principal in Abilene ISD.

Shirley McMillan, is the new EL-Civics Coordinator at Fondren Middle School in Houston ISD.

Elva Garcia, Adult Education Director for Region I Education Service Center, started her official day on the job at the meeting. Elva has worked for the service center for the past six years and she is looking forward to working with all the adult learners and staff.

Lisa Dunn, Even Start Coordinator at Victoria ISD, has almost a decade of experience in early childhood education. Lisa taught five years as a Kindergarten and 2nd grade teacher, along with three years of experience as an Early Childhood Specialist for Even Start in Victoria ISD.

Lucien Costley, works for Region XX Education Service Center. Lucien is one of the new Adult Education Supervisors at the Education Service Center.

Gordon Peterson has been the EL Civics Coordinator for 3 years at Paris Junior College and he recently received his Master’s Degree in Adult Education with an emphasis in distance learning. Gordon enjoys his students tremendously. “What I like about EL Civics— when in front of these students, I become a fellow student, as I learn as much about their culture as they do about English and our culture. These students are the greatest.” Seeing his students later graduating with a GED and working within the community is a great satisfaction for him. One of Gordon’s crusades is to help distance learning become a reality in Texas Adult Education.

Paula Cavazos, Rio Hondo EL Civics Coordinator, has been an educator for 32 years mostly with the Rio Hondo ISD. During this time, she has taught various business subjects, microcomputer applications, and ESL. “I started working with ESL students because that is where my heart felt I needed to be. Now, I am with EL-Civics as a part-time teacher and part-time coordinator.” Paula’s latest endeavor has been as a TEAMS trainer with the GREAT South Region.

Jose Rayas, Instructional Coordinator at Texas A&M Colonias, finds great fulfillment in his job. “Our motto is ‘Si se puede!’ Our goal is to impact positively the lives of our students and their families to become productive and active members of the community.”

April Malone, Director of Adult Education at North Harris College, was announced director at NHC campuses of GED, ESL, and EL-Civics programs in August 2005. April has over 18 years of program and fiscal management of federal and state grants combined with ex-

perience in student development in secondary education, completion, and post-secondary education enrollment.

Homero Villarreal, Adult Education Director at Corpus Christi ISD, has over 30 years of experience in education. He has been a principal with the Corpus Christi Independent School District since 1989. “I am very proud to have the opportunity to work in a special campus for adult learners,” said Mr. Villarreal, “where our motto is- You are never too old to learn.” Mr. Villarreal is married to Drusilla who is a homebound teacher and has two daughters with four grandchildren.

Christia Moore, Adult Education Program Director at Seguin ISD, attended the meeting and although, many of you know Christia for her program’s innovativeness, we have to be reminded that she started in January 2005. She was very pleased with the meeting: “The New Directors Meeting was outstanding. It provided a time to network and get acquainted with colleagues who share the same joy and frustrations that this position of leadership encounters.”

Jane Marie Heidt, the Interim Adult Education Director at Laredo Community College, was previously the Adult Education Coordinator at the college under Carmen Seibert-Martinez until this transition. Jane Marie has lived in Laredo for the past two years.

Dannell Price, is the new Adult Education Coordinator at Region VI Education Service Center. Dannell started working for Region VI in June 2005. Dannell has several caps to wear as the Self Sufficient Worker Achievement Training (SWAT) Grant Evaluator/Supervisor, Adult Education Coordinator, and TEAMS trainer on data entry. “I work for a wonderful group of individuals and I have found my home in education at Region VI in Huntsville.”

Important Dates to Remember

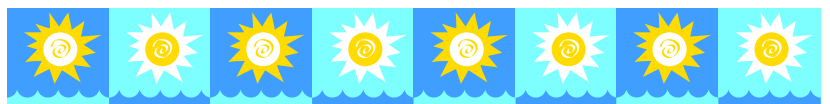
Note on Your Calendar These Upcoming Events:

Function	Date	Time
2006 National Lexile Reading Conference in Atlanta, Georgia	June 19- June 21, 2006	8:00 - 6:00pm: June 19th 8:00 - 6:00pm: June 20th 8:00 - 1:00pm: June 21st
Adult Education & Workforce Conference hosted by the South Central GREAT Center in San Antonio, Texas	July 6 - July 7, 2006	8:00 - 5:00pm: July 6th 8:00 - 5:00pm: July 7th
North GREAT Center Regional Conference in Dallas, Texas at UNT	July 14 - July 15, 2006	8:00 - 5:00pm: July 14th 8:00 - 5:00pm: July 15th
Adult Education Directors' Summer Institute in Fort Davis, Texas	July 25- July 27, 2006	9:00 - 5:00pm: July 25th 8:00 - 5:00pm: July 26th 9:00 - 3:00pm: July 27th
Texas Association of Adult Literacy Councils 2006 Conference in Austin, Texas	August 14 - August 15, 2006	8:30 - 4:30pm: Aug. 14th 8:45 - 1:30pm: Aug. 15th

Good News to Share



Mary Harris, Adult Education Director at Austin Community College, adopted a new born baby girl recently. Hope Harris was born on November 13, 2005, weighing 6 pounds, 4 ounces. Mary is back in the office now after taking care of beautiful Hope. Congratulations Mary and enjoy your little blessing of life!



An Update on the Credential Project



During the Corpus Christi Adult Education and Even Start Business Meeting held in early February, Texas LEARNS recognized program administrators who actively have teachers participating in the Credential Project. Standing Left to Right: Karen Lowe (Weatherford ISD), Mary Helen Martinez (Community Action Inc.), Janell Baker (Harris County Dept. of Education), Gilbert Ontiveros (Houston Community College), Sofia Zamarripa (Fort Worth ISD), Martin Riojas (Dallas ISD), Gwendolyn Greene (Austin ISD), Kim Sizemore (Region 9 ESC). Kneeling from left to right: Maria Cesnik (Ysleta ISD), Barbara Yoder (Cleburne ISD), and Ken Stedman (Texas State University).

process was conducted in order to verify that the rubric is clear and concise and that the end users--the teachers—understand its intent. The validation process also tests whether each of the components, performance indicators, and the rating scales are easy to use and appropriate. The validation process is very important in making certain that the rubric is truly asking teachers to do what we intend it to ask; after all, the teacher is the end user and it is the teacher's submitted work that will be scored.

With assistance from the Regional GREAT Centers, focus groups were set up in six of the eight GREAT Regions. In February, the Regional GREAT Center directors were invited to identify and recruit teachers who would be willing to participate in the validation process. The teachers invited were representative of the "most likely candidates" for seeking the Credential. Each of the GREAT Centers also provided logistical support and secured meeting space. This "Waltz across Texas" began on Tuesday, March 28th; the last group met on Friday, April 14th. During their travels, the Credential Project staff met many dedicated teachers who provided valuable feedback. Using feedback provided by teachers from around the state who participated in the validation focus groups, Credential Project staff will now make revisions to the Reflection Scoring Rubric. After review by the Project's external consultant, the revised scoring rubric will be released for use by teachers who are seeking the Credential.

Using a Mardi Gras theme (see related picture), Texas LEARNS officially launched the Credential Information Tracking System (CredITS) at the Administrators' Business Meeting held in early February in Corpus Christi. Teachers pursuing a Credential submit their teacher reflections and receive feedback via CredITS. Program administrators are responsible for insuring that teachers have TEASE accounts and access to CredITS.

As we pass the halfway point in FY 2006, the Credential Project is focusing on three main objectives: (1) validating the scoring rubric for scoring teacher reflections, (2) doing design work on a Credential for Administrators, and (3) conducting a follow-up "marketing campaign" with teachers who have attended a Professional Development Planning Workshops (PDPW) but have not yet committed to pursue a Credential.

Validating the Reflection Scoring Rubric required that the Credential Project staff meet with teachers from around the state to complete a process called Cognitive Interviewing. This important part of the rubric development

Most work to date on the Administrator's Credential has been in the nature of background research and preliminary planning. To date, focus groups have been conducted in two locations – Austin and El Paso. During the next few weeks, additional focus groups will be held in four additional locations statewide. A draft version of the Administrator's Credential will be developed for review by a select group of Texas program Administrators and by an external consultant (yet to be hired). A field test will be conducted during the summer of 2006. Based on results, the draft Administrator's Credential will be updated and the revised draft will be pilot tested during FY 2006-07.

The third major focus area, the "marketing campaign," involves mainly intensive follow-up directly with the teachers via letter, email and telephone calls, as well as additional work with Regional GREAT Center directors to help identify and eliminate barriers. If you would like more information about the Credential Project, go to:

<http://cie.ci.txstate.edu/credential>