SHOP TALK # 42:
Access to TISESL’s Employability Website

For adult education programs implementing the stand alone Employability component of the Texas Industry Specific English as a Second Language (TISESL) curricula, an attractive add-on is the Employability website designed for instructors and students using the curriculum. TISESL is copyrighted by the Texas Education Agency (TEA), and licenses for in-state and out-of-state users are available by contacting TEA at copyrights@tea.state.tx.us.

The stand alone Employability component provides approximately 60 hours of instruction, including an interactive web site designed specifically to reinforce and extend instruction. The component is not industry specific but rather addresses a way to deliver ESL instruction for students with a focus on pre-employment relevant to non-specific job search. The component consists of six lessons, with lesson plans and student activities for each.

In addition to building word power associated with the world of work, the Employability component addresses a number of pertinent topics:

- working conditions and pay
- taking inventory of one’s skills and qualifications
- descriptions / videos of entry level jobs
- helpful links to finding job openings
- dressing for success
- the application process

To use the interactive web site effectively, instructor and students should have basic computer literacy/Internet skills and access to computers with high speed Internet connections. The instructor should have participated in TISESL professional development offered by a regional GREAT Center (federal state leadership project funded by the Texas Education Agency).

Providers with TISESL copyright licenses can request professional development for their instructors by completing the TISESL professional development request form found at http://www-tcall.tamu.edu/texaslearns/initiatives/tiseslpdreq.doc and submitting it to a regional GREAT Center.

The Employability web site http://www.txlearns.com is only accessible via a password that gives instructors and students access for the duration of the course of study. To obtain a password, instructors must contact Laura Aguirre at laguirre@hcde-texas.org after completing the necessary professional development for implementation of the Employment component. The enrollment form for instructor and students can be downloaded from http://www-tcall.tamu.edu/texaslearns by clicking on the TISESL web page and scrolling down to # 6 under Who has access to TISESL?

For additional information about TISESL, contact Barbara Tondre-EI Zorkani at btondre@earthlink.net.