SHOP TALK # 45:  
TISESL TRAINING A HUGE SUCCESS

They did it! The GREAT Centers sent some of their finest to Houston for the TISESL training-of-trainers event August 3-5. Fourteen individuals from across the state completed the intensive three day training for the Texas Industry Specific ESL (TISESL) curricula. Seven of the eight GREAT Centers sponsored the TISESL facilitators and participated in the training as well. Irene Ramos, Denise Guckert, and Lupe Schneider delivered high quality training. They also developed an excellent training guide designed to help TISESL facilitators prepare local programs to implement one or more of the TISESL curricular components.

So what are you waiting for? If you are a local program that has yet to implement any of the TISESL components, now is the time to schedule the necessary PD! Do you find the length of the industry-specific curricula too much to take on at once? Then start with the employability stand-alone component. Appropriate for both ESL and ABE students, it can easily be integrated into already existing classes. Another possible add-on: the communication scenarios that present work-based, problem-solving dilemmas.

If you are interested in implementing one of the three industry-related curricula (healthcare, sales and service, or manufacturing), talk to your GREAT Center and TISESL facilitator about delivering instruction in increments, selecting the module most suited to your students, time constraints, etc.

Not sure where to start? The TISESL facilitator will assist you by providing an introductory overview that will familiarize you with all the options. This six hours of training will help you and your staff decide what is best suited for your learners and program parameters. Then you’re ready to focus on one of the curricular components. The TISESL facilitator will walk you through the steps toward implementation, familiarize you with the materials, and give you tips on student recruitment and orientation. There will be plenty of hands on application, and a follow up session with the facilitator addresses unanswered questions and obstacles to successful implementation.

Why TISESL and why now? TISESL is pure gold! It can serve as a “bridge” program for adult learners interested in pursuing postsecondary education and training. It can hone those soft skills that make such a difference in an individual’s “readiness” for further studies and training. While the sheer volume of materials can be intimidating at first, instructors will find that everything they need and more has been included. Facilitators can work with you in determining what to print/not to print.

The administrator’s commitment to TISESL is an absolute must. Not designed for the faint of heart, TISESL implementation requires time and planning. The great thing is that you don’t have to do it alone. Facilitators are waiting to assist you. Contact your GREAT Center now!