



Summer 2003

## The OLRC News

# Tech Talk

### Project IDEAL Updates and Highlights

Kimberly McCoy  
Distance Learning Coordinator



Sharon Halter, Kimberly S. McCoy,  
and Ella Bogard COABE in Portland, OR

started recruiting learners to participate in the Distance Learning pilot project in January 2003, and they are collectively serving 100 students. In addition to their teaching and administrative duties, each pilot participant has been maintaining various logs that pertain to teacher and administrator time, basic student demographic information, and a student seat time around the GED Connection curriculum. The data will be used to look at a number of key issues around distance instruction in the ABLE classroom, such as teacher's and administrator's time and cost, recruiting, retention and assessment. Currently, Ohio is working with 13 teachers and 7 administrators in these ABLE programs.

#### OAACE

This past April at the Ohio Association for Adult and Continuing Education Conference (OAACE), teachers and administrators from each of the pilot sites, gathered to discuss issues with Denise Pottmeyer, ABLE State Director, Cynthia Zengler, ODE Consultant, Karen Scheid, ODE Consultant, Kimberly S. McCoy, Ohio Literacy Resource Center (OLRC), Andrew Venclauskas, Northeast ABLE Resource Center, Diane Ninke, Northwest ABLE Resource Center, and Robert Mentzer, Ohio Literacy Network. The meeting provided an opportunity for pilot sites to share lessons learned to date, as well as discuss issues and concerns about the project with the committee members.

Also, during OAACE, Ella Bogard and Jerusha McClendon, Franklinton Learning Center, Lori Oliver, Canton

City Schools, Sharon Halter, Ohio-Hi Point Career Center, and Joyce Taylor, Six District Educational Compact ABLE in Kent presented a session about how they have established, developed and implemented a distance-learning environment in their ABLE programs to participants.

Another major highlight at OAACE was two of Project IDEAL's participants Sharon Halter, Ohio-Hi Point Career Center, and Nancy Schwab, Hamilton City Schools, being honored for their efforts in Adult Education. Sharon received the **Administrator of the Year Award** and Nancy received the **Teacher of the Year Award**. Congratulations again on a job well done!

#### COABE

Ella Bogard, Franklinton Learning Center, Sharon Halter, Ohio-Hi Point Career Center, and Kimberly S. McCoy, OLRC, presented Project IDEAL: A Distance Learning Pilot Project in Ohio, at this year's Commission on Adult Basic Education (COABE) conference in Portland, OR. Kimberly provided a brief overview of the project in Ohio as well as the University of Michigan, Project IDEAL duties and responsibilities. Sharon and Ella each provided information detailing how they have created and maintained a distance-learning environment in their programs. In addition, both administrators shared what they have learned to date about distance learning in the ABLE classroom.

#### FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS

Kim McCoy, Distance Learning Coordinator is in the process of scheduling on-site visits to meet with the IDEAL programs. In addition, the Project IDEAL Advisory Committee met in June at the OLRC to discuss future plans and next steps. Also, a one-day wrap session is scheduled for August 1st at Kent State University for the Project IDEAL pilot sites. Keep an eye on the Project IDEAL Website located at <http://literacy.kent.edu/ideal> for information on future plans and next steps or contact, Kimberly S. McCoy, Project IDEAL Coordinator via e-mail at [kmccoy@literacy.kent.edu](mailto:kmccoy@literacy.kent.edu) or phone at (800) 765-2897 ext. 20757 or (330) 672-0757.