

State Library/LITERACY OFFICE
300 South Second Street
Springfield, IL 62701
217/785-6921 ofc
217/785-6927 fax

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com>

(click on Departments, Illinois State Library, Who We Are, ISL Departments, then Literacy)

NETWORK NOTES for SOS Literacy Grantees: JANUARY 2009

FY2009 GRANTEE INFORMATION:

Jan 15, 2009, Reports Were Due. These reports were due on Jan. 15, 2009: Mid-term Narrative Report, Mid-term Statistical Report and Second Quarter Financial Report.

NETWORK NOTES CALENDAR: <http://literacy.kent.edu/illinois/calend.htm>

The calendar is available on line at the URL listed above. Please review the calendar carefully for events, due dates and local meeting information of interest to SOS adult literacy grantees. Please inform Diane Manning at dmanning@ilsos.net of meetings or events you want included on this calendar.

SECRETARY OF STATE ON-LINE TUTOR TRAINING

The SOS OLTT was launched statewide on Friday, January 23, 2009, to all SOS funded Adult Volunteer Literacy programs. The launch was delivered via WIMBA. The On Line Tutor Training Orientation Presentation is available to listen to at URL:

http://67.202.209.252/launcher.cgi?room=il_ISL_2009_0123_1001_14

To listen to the training, all you need to do is:

1. Click on the url above, it will take you to the "Welcome to Wimba Classroom" page,
2. Click the Participant Login box,
3. At User Login Page, at Room ID - type in il_ISL (that is an underscore between the small L and the capital I. It may already be in the box)
4. Type your name in the Name box.
5. Click "enter."

The archive will then begin to play. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Beth Paoli at 217/785-6923 or bpaoli@ilsos.net or Diane Manning at 217/524-3005 or dmanning@ilsos.net.

FY10 ADULT VOLUNTEER GRANT INFORMATION MEETINGS

All SOS Adult Volunteer Grant Information meetings will be conducted using WIMBA this year. Please join us to go over the FY10 application and get tips for enhancing your proposal. The schedule is as follows:

Family Literacy - Friday, January 30, 2009, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Adult Volunteer Literacy - Friday, January 30, 2009, 2:30-4 p.m.

Workplace Skills Enhancement - Monday, February 2, 2009, 1-2 p.m.

Please contact Jo Anne Hughes, 217.785.6922, jhughes@ilsos.net, or Diane Manning, 217.785.6921, dmanning@ilsos.net to get more information about how to log into the WIMBA classroom.

FY09 SPOTLIGHT ON ACHIEVEMENT AND SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICE NOMINATIONS AVAILABLE

The annual Spotlight on Achievement and Spotlight on Service awards recognize outstanding achievement made by adult literacy students or families, and outstanding contributions to literacy made by adult literacy volunteer tutors.

Each of the 10 adult learners or families selected as Spotlight on Achievement winners will receive \$200, a commemorative plaque and a personalized Illinois Blue Book. The 10 volunteer tutors selected as Spotlight on Service winners also will receive a plaque, a personalized Illinois Blue Book and \$200 will be donated in their name to the agency for which they tutor. All awards will be presented at a special reception in Springfield at the Illinois State Library on **May 13**.

Nominations are available online at <http://literacy.kent.edu/illinois/calend.htm> for the 16th annual awards. The Secretary of State Illinois State Library Literacy Office and Illinois Press Association are co-sponsors of this prestigious event. The deadline for submitting nominations is **March 5**.

If you have any questions, please contact Diane Manning at dmanning@ilsos.net or 1-800-665-5576, ext. 3.

ESL ONLINE RESOURCES

The Big Deal Book for Educators of English Language Learners is published twice each year. Access the content from the Fall 2008 edition online at *no charge*. Look for grant and other funding opportunities, *free* and inexpensive resources and interactive Web sites. Browse the exciting resources at <http://www.bigdealbook.com/ell> From Merriam-Webster and QA International, *Visual Dictionary Online* is an interactive dictionary with an innovative approach that will help ESL students to learn English in a visual and accessible way. From the image to the word and its definition, the *Visual Dictionary Online* is an all-in-one reference. A quick glance at the index is all it takes to connect words with images. Or students can explore the 15 major themes to access more than 6,000 images and see words like never before. The themes offer a variety of engaging, browsable topics. Additional features include a *Game of the Week*, played by associating words with images, and audio pronunciations spoken by real voices. Access it at <http://visual.merriam-webster.com/>

Raven Tree Press's popular children's picture books are sure to delight young English language learners as they enter the world of Rip Squeak, the mouse, and his lively friends. Each of the high-quality picture books in the Rip Squeak series are available in a variety of formats—bilingual, English only, Spanish only. Find *free*, downloadable activities on the book home pages. Click the Book List on left, then any image of a book cover, and then look for the blue icon called "activity sheets." Click "Reading Tips" for more handouts. Access the page at <http://www.deltapublishing.com/index2.cfm>

GETTING YOUR LEARNERS INVOLVED IN PRE AND POST TESTING

Involve your learners in understanding why we test and what tests show. These are examples from other states of programs that have done that successfully. The Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council conducts a student orientation for learners prior to their starting the program. As part of that orientation they discuss the testing process, what the scores mean, and how they are used. They share the program's success rate, which exceeds state standards by 15%. The students become active partners in the process, and sometimes will call the office themselves to ask to schedule their progress/post test! That's pretty powerful. Along the same lines, the Adult ESOL and Literacy/GED Program of Montgomery College in Maryland feels it is important for students to understand the testing process. They distribute a booklet called "Why We Test" to give to beginning learners. It clarifies the meaning of score ranges, how they relate to what a learner already knows, and provides an outline of course content for each level.

ESL RESOURCES AT THE CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

If your program is in Chicago, you can use the resources located on this web site - <http://www.chipublib.org/cplbooksmovies/espfor/esl.php>

BARBARA BUSH DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Texas Center for the Advancement of Literacy and Learning (TCALL) announces the availability of \$100,000 in Barbara Bush Fellowships for the 2009-2010 academic year. Each fellowship will consist of a one-year award, which may be used to offset the cost of travel expenses to conferences, dissertation research, and/or tuition, fees, and maintenance while a student is enrolled at Texas A&M University (TAMU). Two to four Barbara Bush Fellowships of between \$25,000 and \$33,333 each will be awarded for research on topics relevant to family literacy. DEADLINE: Friday, February 20, 2009. For further information, please contact Harriet Vardiman Smith, TCALL Director by phone (979-862-6519) or e-mail (hsmith@tamu.edu).

FIRST ANNUAL INNOVATIONS IN READING PRIZE

The National Book Foundation will award this prize to individuals, institutions and collaborative programs using innovative approaches to successfully inspire Americans to become lifelong readers. Each year, the National Book Foundation will award a number of prizes of up to \$2,500 each to individuals and institutions--or partnerships between the two--that have developed innovative means of creating and sustaining a lifelong love of reading. In addition to promoting the best of American literature through the National Book Awards, the Foundation also seeks to expand the audience for literature in America. Through the *Innovations in Reading Prizes*, those individuals and organizations that use particularly innovative methods to generate excitement and a passionate engagement with books and literature will be rewarded for their creativity and leadership. Postmark deadline for all materials is February 15, 2009. The application and details concerning who is eligible, what the prize consists of, the nomination process, and evaluation information can be accessed online at http://www.nationalbook.org/innovations_in_reading_2008.pdf



NEW VIDEO AND TEACHER GUIDE HIGHLIGHT IMMIGRANT ROAD SAFETY

The [Federal Highway Administration](#) (FHWA) reports that a disproportionate number of pedestrians killed each year by motor vehicles in the U.S. are Hispanic immigrants. Recognizing that adult English as a second language (ESL) classrooms present unique opportunities to reach out to Hispanic and other newcomers and their families, public safety officials in Montgomery County, Maryland, have developed a 24-minute, 5-module educational video and accompanying *Teacher Guide* geared toward adult learners. The video presents key safety messages in clear, simple English, reinforced by images of safe behavior in dangerous situations. Download the free resources at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/walk>.

The Center for Applied Linguistics, under a grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and in partnership with The ASPIRA Association, recently completed a pedestrian and bicycle safety curriculum for adult learners of English at the intermediate level. Bookmark the CAL web site at <http://www.cal.org/projects/aspira.html> for future updates.

TOOLKIT AVAILABLE TO HELP LIBRARIES WORK WITH IMMIGRANTS

Libraries can apply the lessons of the Urban Library Council's (ULC) acclaimed publication *Welcome, Stranger: Public Libraries Build the Global Village* with a new toolkit that turns research into learning. With exercises and worksheets, it guides readers in applying proven strategies for turning libraries into gateways for greater engagement in civic life for immigrants. "There's a huge opportunity for libraries to positively impact their communities by greasing the wheels for new immigrants' success, but they need to know how. The *Welcome, Stranger Toolkit* will teach this. With an overall framework created by Jody Kretzman of Northwestern University's Institute for Asset-Based Community Development, the *Welcome, Stranger Toolkit* consists of two components: print and CD. The print publication leads readers through exercises to identify and develop strong, locally tailored strategies to serve new Americans. The accompanying CD contains worksheets that will help readers align community assessments, collections, programs and civic engagement strategies that create a welcoming center for immigrants. The foundation is based on research from the Brookings Institution's Audrey Singer. Singer identified five broad strategies for successful immigrant inclusion and community adaptation, which the toolkit helps transform into public library outreach and programming. The *Welcome, Stranger Toolkit* can be ordered for \$20. Contact ULC at info@urbanlibraries.org for details.

ALSC'S EXCEPTIONAL WEB SITES FOR CHILDREN

The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), has added more recommended Web sites to *Great Web Sites for Kids* (www.ala.org/greatsites), its online resource containing hundreds of links to commendable Web sites for children. *Great Web Sites for Kids* (GWS) features links to beneficial Web sites of interest to children, organized by subject headings such as animals; literature and languages; sciences; the arts; and reference desk. There is also a special section with sites of interest to parents, caregivers and teachers, plus an area devoted to sites in Spanish. The ALSC *Great Web Sites for Kids* Committee maintains and updates the site. Just a few of the newly added sites are Activity TV - www.activitytv.com, Animal Fact Guide - www.animalfactguide.com, BaseballRox - www.baseballrox.com, The Eric Carle Museum of

Picture Book Art - www.carlemuseum.org, Chemicool - www.chemicool.com, Dawn - <http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/DawnKids/index.asp>, Mem Fox: Teaching, Learning, Living - www.memfox.com, and Kevin Henkes - www.kevinhenkes.com.

FREE ONLINE ADULT LITERACY TRAINING WEB SITE

Literacy Basics (www.nald.ca/literacybasics) is a free, self-directed online training website developed for Ontario literacy practitioners. This innovative training website was researched, written and designed by Community Literacy of Ontario (www.nald.ca/clo). Literacy Basics has been designed to help busy literacy practitioners access needed training at convenient times and locations. The training modules on Literacy Basics are self-directed; therefore participants can choose content and tools appropriate to their interests, needs, and skill levels. This training could be used as supplemental training for Illinois adult literacy volunteer tutors or new staff.

NEW PUBLICATION - THE DIGITAL DIVIDE: COMPUTER USE, BASIC SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT

An NRDC publication reports on research in the UK and the US on the relationships between literacy, computer use and employment. Adults who didn't finish high school in the US and who left formal education at age 16 (UK) are the subjects of a just released study comparing Portland, Oregon and London, England entitled *The Digital Divide: Computer Use, Basic Skills and Employment*. John Brynner, Steve Reder, Samantha Parsons and Clare Strawn untangle the relationships between literacy proficiency, information and communications technology (ICT) use, and employment opportunities. The full report can be found at http://www.nrdc.org.uk/publications_details.asp?ID=149

GRANT AVAILABLE TO AGENCY'S ASSISTING REFUGEES

The Ethnic Community Self-Help Program at URL - <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2008-ACF-ORR-RE-0117.html> is a grant provided by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to public, private or faith-based programs that connect refugees and their communities to resources within their new American communities. ORR is looking for national, regional or local programs that help in community building, cultural adjustment and integration of refugees into their new lives in the United States. The deadline is February 24, 2009.

RECENT STATISTICS ON IMMIGRANTS

The most up to date frequently requested statistics on immigrants in the US is at URL - <http://www.migrationinformation.org/USfocus/display.cfm?id=714> - From the Migration Policy Institute, it includes sections on historical numbers and shares; demographic, educational, and linguistic characteristics; and children with immigrant parents. These statistics may be helpful when applying for funding from foundations or other sources.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON REFUGEE POPULATIONS

At this web site - <http://www.cal.org/topics/ri/backgrounders.html#2> - sponsored by the Center for Applied Linguistics, you will find publications called Basic and Enhanced Refugee Backgrounders. These publications provide a brief introduction to the history, culture, and resettlement needs of a refugee population. The following Refugee Backgrounders are

available: Bhutanese Refugees in Nepal, The Kunama, The 1972 Burundians, and the Banyamalenge Tutsi. Enhanced Refugee Backgrounders provide more in-depth information about refugee groups. Enhanced Refugee Backgrounders describe the group's history, culture, religion, language, education, and conditions in their countries of asylum. The first Enhanced Backgrounder describes refugees from Iraq.

LEARNING DISABILITIES RESOURCE BIN

As we conduct site visits around the state, the topic of learning disabilities comes up time and time again. The Learning Disabilities (LD) resource bin contains two recently published titles, [A Parent's Guide to Response-to-Intervention](#) and [Illinois State Resources - A Publication of the National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities](#), that both provide insight into this topic. The LD resource bin contains 18 additional titles as well that provide suggestions for assessing and developing curricula for adults and children with learning disabilities. Take advantage of the opportunity to utilize free resources by checking out one of the 27 Adult and Family Literacy Resource Bins that are available through the Illinois State Library Literacy Office. For a list of bins available, check <http://literacy.kent.edu/illinois/illfamily.htm>. Contact Jo Anne Hughes at 217.785.6922 or jhughes@ilsos.net to request any of these bins.

WEB SITE - UNDERSTANDING RACE

The American Anthropological Association has a web site called, "Race: Are We So Different?" at the URL - <http://www.understandingrace.org/kids.html> Differences... they're a cause for joy and sorrow. We celebrate differences in personal identity, family background, country and language. At the same time, differences among people have been the basis for discrimination and oppression. Yet, current science tells us we share a common ancestry and the differences among people we see are natural variations, results of migration, marriage and adaptation to different environments. Looking through the eyes of history, science and lived experience, the RACE Project explains differences among people and reveals the reality - and unreality - of race. The story of race is complex and may challenge how we think about race and human variation, about the differences and similarities between people. This site has interactive games about the history and every-day effects of racism in the United States. For example, the Web site has a sports quiz on stereotypes, a timeline movie on the story of race, and a game that allows a person to walk in the shoes of a person of another race at work, at the doctor, at school, on the street, or in court. This Web site may be useful to both foreign- and American-born people as they think through the effects of race and racism.

RECENT ESTIMATED STATISTICS - COUNTY AND STATE ESTIMATES OF THE PERCENTAGE OF ADULTS AT THE LOWEST LITERACY LEVELS FOR 1992 AND 2003

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) released the National Assessment of Adult Literacy: Indirect County and State Estimates of the Percentage of Adults at the Lowest Literacy Level for 1992 and 2003, which provides estimates on the percentage of adults - for all states and counties in the U.S. - who lack basic prose literacy skills (BPLS). The study provides data for 2003 and 1992. This new data is currently the only available snapshot of adult literacy rates for individual states and counties.

To produce this study, NCES gathered data from the 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL), a nationally representative sample of more than 19,000 Americans age 16 and older, and the 2000 Census, which provided "predictor variables" such as education and income.

NAAL data were correlated with the predictor variables to see if there was a pattern among them. From this information, a model was established. Using the model, estimates were predicted for areas where there were not sufficient assessment data. The same approach was also applied to the 1992 National Adult Literacy Survey (NALS), so changes from 1992 to 2003 can be examined.

The report is accompanied by an interactive web tool, which shows the percentage of adults lacking Basic Prose Literacy Skills for all states and counties. In addition to allowing users to view adult literacy percentages for any given state, the web tool also allows for comparisons to be made between two states, two counties in the same state, two counties in different states, across years for a state, and across years for a county.

The literacy of adults who lack BPLS ranges from being unable to read and understand any written information in English to being able to locate easily identifiable information in short, commonplace prose text, but nothing more advanced. It should be noted that adults who were not able to take the assessment because they were not able to communicate in English or Spanish (i.e. language barrier cases) are included in the indirect estimates and classified as lacking BPLS because they can be considered to be at the lowest level of English literacy. These are the people who are appropriately served with the ISL Adult Literacy Grant Program.

The report can be found at:

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2009482>

The Interactive Web Tool can be accessed at:

<http://nces.ed.gov/naal/estimates/index.aspx>

DEVELOPING EARLY LITERACY REPORT AVAILABLE

The National Institute for Literacy released *Developing Early Literacy: Report of the National Early Literacy Panel*. The National Early Literacy Panel's (NELP) report will serve as the basis of research recommendations to the early childhood community - educators, caregivers, Head Start providers, and parents - on promoting the foundational skills of life-long literacy. Access the report at <http://www.nifl.gov/nifl/NELP/NELPreport.html>

ONLINE GRAPHICAL DICTIONARY

At this web site, Visuwords, - <http://www.visuwords.com/> you will find a graphical dictionary with many possibilities for developing vocabulary including word associations and concepts.

BOOKDADS WEB SITE

According to the site, "Book Dads grew out of our search for books to share with our son that emphasized fathers and the importance of fatherhood in children's lives." Book Dads reviews books with "positive representations of fatherhood" and helps parents find age-appropriate books for their families. Access the site at www.bookdads.com

FAMILY LITERACY WORKSHOP IN CHICAGO

Research shows that certain types of conversations between parents and their children can promote language and vocabulary development, as well as literacy and learning skills. In this interactive, hands-on workshop, "Talking Leads to Literacy: Helping Parents and Children Talk for Learning," Literacy Works' Adult & Family Literacy Specialist Betsy Rubin will help put research into practice. At the workshop, ideas for parent education, parent-child activities, a list of books that promote parent-child conversation, and helpful web resources will be presented. It is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 24, 2009, 2:00-4:00 pm**, in the Chicago Center for Early Education, 1900 W. Van Buren, Room 2611, in the library of Malcolm X College. The workshop is free for staff and volunteers at Literacy Works member agencies, \$25 per person for non-members. Contact Betsy Rubin at betsy@litworks.org for more information.

PROLITERACY'S FACILITATED ONLINE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ProLiteracy is offering facilitated online professional development courses. Listed below are the courses and dates, several of which open soon. Each course is facilitated, and participants have a weekly schedule for completing readings, electronic discussion posts, and activities. They can complete their coursework anytime, anywhere they can access the Internet. The only real-time course event is the Webinar, which is a combination of Internet and telephone conferencing. For those who cannot attend the Webinar due to teaching schedules, etc., we offer access to the Webinar recordings and an alternate activity to meet course completion requirements. Upon successful completion, each participant receives a certificate noting the course and PD hours.

Young Adult Education: Strategies and Materials for Ensuring Success in Adult Education (10-hour course), January 26 - February 23, Webinar 2-3 p.m. (EST) February 20. Course fee: \$149. Complete course info at:

<http://www.newreaderspress.com/Items.aspx?hierId=6650>

Young Adult Education: Program Design (10-hour course), February 23 - March 23, Webinar 2-3 p.m. (EST) March 23, Course fee: \$149. Complete course info at:

<http://www.newreaderspress.com/Items.aspx?hierId=6650>

Managing the Multilevel ESL Classroom (15-hour course), January 26 - March 9, Webinars 2-3 p.m. (EST) January 26 and March 6. Course fee: \$225 Complete course info at:

<http://www.newreaderspress.com/Items.aspx?hierId=6680>,

Trainer Tune-Up: Conducting the Training Event (10-hour course), February 9 - March 9, Course fee: \$149 Complete course info at:

<http://www.newreaderspress.com/Items.aspx?hierId=6560>

Creating Engaging ESOL Activities Using Computers II (12-hour course), March 23 - April 27, Webinar 2-3 p.m. (EST) April 24, Course fee: \$179 Complete course info at:

<http://www.newreaderspress.com/Items.aspx?hierId=6590>,

For a full listing of facilitated and self-paced courses offered by ProLiteracy and World Education, go to www.ProfessionalStudiesAE.org.

For questions about ProLiteracy's online courses or registration, please call 888-528-2224 ext. 283, or email prodev@proliteracy.org.

PUBLICATION AVAILABLE ON MULTICULTURAL COMMUNICATION

Prepared by the American Library Association, this publication, "Increasing Relevance, Relationships and Results: Principles and Practices for Effective Multicultural Communication" is available online at - <http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advocacy/publicawareness/campaign%40yourlibrary/prtools/Metropolitan%20Group%20M.pdf>

The publication outlines principles such as "Understand the Cultural Context of Your Audience" and the related practices that will enable your personnel to improve communications in recruiting tutors and in developing a strong community presence. It's filled with valuable case examples. Aimed at librarians, it is widely applicable.

"WORKFORCE LITERACY: EQUIPPING YOUR WORKFORCE FOR THE 21st CENTURY"

This 16-page booklet from ProLiteracy was written for business people. It makes the case for investing in workers' basic education and outlines how basic education planning and provision can pay off for companies. Literacy providers offering workforce literacy services will find it a useful business education tool. Access it at

<http://www.proliteracy.org/NetCommunity/Document.Doc?id=40>

ILLINOIS TESOL-BE 35th ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Illinois TESOL-BE 35th Annual Convention will be held Feb.13-14 at the Holiday Inn Select in Naperville, IL. The theme is "**Teaching from the Heart.**" Plenary speakers include Jodi Crandall, Jim Stack, Dorothy Zemach, and John Fleischman. It includes over 60 sessions of interest to ESL-BE professionals. CPDU's and professional development hours can be earned. Register by Jan. 27, 2009 for discounted fee. For more information visit www.itbe.org.

FLYERS AVAILABLE TO RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS

Last year the Adult Learning Resource Center developed downloadable flyers to recruit both learners and volunteers. The following Hotline promotional pieces target people looking for English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, adult literacy classes, GED test preparation classes, citizenship classes, and people who would like to volunteer. The flyers are available at the URL - <http://www.thecenterweb.org/alrc/hotline.html#hotline> in English, Spanish and Polish. Feel free to print, photocopy and distribute these Hotline information flyers: "Looking for a Class" Flyer, "Citizenship" Flyer, and "Would You Like to Volunteer" Flyer. More Flyers to recruit volunteers are: "[Pass on Your Passion for Reading](#)" (aimed at library users), "[Build Your Resume](#)" (aimed at students), "[VOLUNTEER](#)", (aimed at seniors), "[Help Your Community](#)" (aimed at the local community in general), and "[Help Others Integrate into your Community](#)" (aimed at recruiting volunteers interested in ESL).