



Laubach Conference Highlights Senator Paul Simon and Dr. Thomas Armstrong

The Laubach Literacy Action Biennial Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus, OH, June 11-14, 1998. Ohio adult literacy educators are encouraged to attend this national conference, which features thirteen pre-conference workshops and over 125 seminars. Dr. Thomas Armstrong will give the keynote speech on June 11 as he introduces Howard Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences in a talk entitled "Eight Kinds of Smart." On the evening of June 12, Senator Paul Simon, longtime advocate for adult literacy, will be the keynote speaker at the conference banquet. Recently retired after 22 years in the U.S. Congress, Senator Simon was a cosponsor of the 1991 National Adult Literacy Act and continues as an advocate for literacy with his recent appointment to the board of the National Institute for Literacy.

Special-event tickets can be purchased to hear Dr. Armstrong or Senator Simon. Call Jean Stephens at the OLRC (800-765-2897, ext. 18) or Mary Passaglia at the Columbus Literacy Council (614-275-0660) for more information about the conference or the two special events.

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Ohio Adult Writers' Beginnings

Fifty adult students and their teachers gathered for a Writers' Conference at the Holiday Inn on the Lane in Columbus on May 1 to celebrate the publication of Beginnings, a collection of student writings. George Ella Lyon, the Kentucky writer of adult and children's books, shared her experiences with the process of writing. Participants attended workshop sessions to expand their interest in writing. The conference was the culmination of a new project of the Ohio Literacy Resource Center that was coordinated by Bryan Bardine.

A committee composed of faculty, staff and students chose fifty-one entries for publication in Beginnings from 130 submissions by Ohio adult students. Several teachers encouraged many students to enter. Subjects include love, families, nature, immigration and work. There are character sketches, poems, and a mystery story complete with a ghost.

All participants in the Writer's Conference received a copy of the publication. For teachers who want to use this authentic student writing to stimulate interest in their own classes, copies are available at the Regional ABLE Resource Centers and from local ABLE Program Directors or may be purchased at cost from The Ohio Literacy Resource Center (1-800-765-2897).

1998 OLRC Math Kick-Off Days: Grids, Graphs, and Great Ideas geared for the GED 2000

Come and experience some new ways to make math meaningful for all levels of instruction at the regional math kick-off days. The GED 2000 will be discussed and ways of making your instruction more efficient and meaningful will be explored.

Come with your favorite calculator prepared to participate in a morning session geared toward increased understanding of math for all students from basic math to the GED and beyond! Materials and hand-outs will be provided so you can use these ideas in your classroom right away. Ideas and materials come straight from the Adult Numeracy Network and NCTM 1998 Annual Meetings. Experience carousels in the afternoon with teachers whose ideas work! Come prepared to participate in a day of great ideas for your students!



Scheduled dates are:

Friday, August 14	Northwest Region (419) 661-7355
Tuesday, August 18	Southwest Region 1-800-558-5374
Friday, August 21	Central/Southeast Region 1-800-753-1519
Thursday, August 27	Northeast Region 1-800-361-7076

Registration is through your regional resource center, but questions can be answered by contacting Nancy Markus at phone 1-800-765-2897 x-29 or e-mail nmarkus@juno.com.

Tentative Agenda	
8:30 -9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:00 - 9:30 a.m.	Introductions and Overview of GED 2000
9:30-noon	Using Grids and Graphs
noon-12:30	Lunch
12:30-3:00 p.m.	Carousels and/or group presentations from teachers
3:00-3:30 p.m.	Evaluation and wrap-up

Current Trends in Welfare-to-Work

In October, 1997, the Governors' policy advisors on welfare reform and workforce development met in Salt Lake City and focused on work-related strategies under the TANF program. An Issue Brief by the National Governors Association summarizes the current trends and emerging issues in welfare reform implementation as reflected in that meeting:

- States are building on interagency collaborations and public-sector relationships that have developed over the years.
- Changes in governance, expectations, and services show that one size does not fit all.
- Employers are willing partners in welfare reform.
- Welfare reform is beginning to focus public and policy-maker attention on helping the working poor.
- State welfare and workforce development officials are recognizing that enhancing the skills of current employees can open up jobs for individuals leaving welfare.
- As caseloads decrease, the population that remains faces significant challenges to workplace success.
- Several states are focusing on the role of fathers in helping families become self-sufficient.
- As caseloads are reduced, states are investing resources and reinvesting savings in postemployment services for clients.
- States want to ensure that their investments are making a difference for the families being served.
- The most effective leaders are those who know how to manage service delivery culture changes.

See page 7 to order a copy of this brief.

Other Resources on Welfare

The ETA Welfare to Work web page at <<http://wtw.doleta.gov/linkpages/academic.html>> provides access to several important sources of information, including "The Center for What Works" and "The Welfare Information Network" (WIN). The "Center for What Works" identifies, evaluates and disseminates information about the most cost effective solutions to social problems through the use of comparative benchmarking. The Center is a resource for those who fund, review, or implement social programs. WIN is a free service for states and communities to obtain the information, policy analysis, and technical assistance needed to develop and implement welfare reforms.

The ERIC Clearinghouse on Adult, Career, and Vocational Education has a new Trends and Issues Alert: *Welfare Reform: What's at Stake for Adult and Vocational Education*. Copies can be ordered from Judy Wagner (800-848-4815 or

<wagner.6@osu.edu>), or by going to the web site at <www.coe.ohio-state.edu/cete/ericacve/index.html>.

Adult Education and Welfare to Work Initiatives: A Review of Research, Practice, and Policy” is by Deborah D’Amico, who wrote this report in 1996-97 under a fellowship from the National Institute for Literacy. This is a review of issues, challenges, and possible directions for those hoping to use adult education to help people get good jobs with living wages and benefits. A copy can be ordered by calling NIFL at 800-228-8813, or can be borrowed from the OLRC (see page 7).

Revised Labor Statistics

In January, 1998, the U.S. Department of Labor began showing how people with different levels of schooling fare in the job market. Labor now breaks down joblessness by educational attainment. The January labor statistics showed a national unemployment rate of 4.7%, but an unemployment figure of 7.2% for people ages 25 and older without a high school diploma. Labor statistics also show that earnings increase with education. In 1997, a college graduate working full-time earned 57% more than a high school graduate and 126% more than a high school dropout.



JM FOUNDATION

60 East 42nd Street, Room 1651
New York, NY 10165
Attn: Chris Olander, Executive Director

Funding Interests: Rehabilitation of people with disabilities; prevention and wellness with emphasis on individual responsibility for health; health-related policy; early intervention in alcohol and other drug abuse; reinforcement of the role of parents; enhancement of the quality of family life; affording of youth with productive employment, healthy lifestyles, and positive character development; educational activities which limit government and strengthen America’s pluralistic system of free markets, entrepreneurship, voluntarism, self-reliance, and private enterprise.

Eligibility: Generally does not fund the following proposal categories: arts, music, theater, capital campaigns, equipment purchases, government agencies and public schools, grants to individuals, international projects, annual appeals, dinner events, endowments, and operating funds.

Application Instructions/Funding Criteria/Deadlines: Submit a letter of inquiry. Contact foundation for specific guidelines. Submit proposals by mid March.

For Further Information Call: (212) 687-7735

RUSSELL SAGE FOUNDATION

112 East 64th Street
New York, NY 10021

Funding Interests: Social science research: future of work; immigration; inter-group relations; literacy.

Eligibility: Tends to provide support for analyzing data and writing up results more frequently than data acquisition.

Application Instructions/Funding Criteria/Deadlines: Submit a letter of inquiry. Contact foundation for specific guidelines. There is no deadline.

For Further Information Call: (212) 750-6000

RGK FOUNDATION

1301 W. 25th St., Suite 300
Austin, TX 78705-4236
Attn: Gregory Kozmetsky, President

Funding Interests: The RGK Foundation’s major giving priorities include programs that promote academic excellence in institutions of higher learning; raise literacy levels; attract minority and women students into fields of math, science and technology; improve the health and well-being of children; and medical and educational research.

Eligibility: Nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply. Grants generally are not made for equipment purchases.

Application Instructions/Funding Criteria/Deadlines: Submit a letter of inquiry. Contact foundation for specific guidelines. No deadline. The foundation reviews and awards proposals throughout the year.

For Further Information Call: (512) 474-9298 or fax (512) 474-6389

SPENCER FOUNDATION

900 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 2800
Chicago, IL 60611

Funding Interests: Research about education and its improvements. Research may be from a wide range of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives.

Eligibility: Varies depending on program/grant.

Application Instructions/Funding Criteria/Deadlines: Submit a letter of inquiry. Contact foundation for specific criteria. Varies depending on program/grant.

For Further Information Call: (312) 337-7000 or see their web page at <www.spencer.org>.

Learning Disabilities Resources and Events

The Fall 1997 issue of "Linkages: Linking Literacy and Learning Disabilities," the publication of the National Adult Literacy and Learning Disabilities Center, is filled with articles promoting self-advocacy and ways for individuals with LD to empower themselves. One of the articles, "Self Advocacy: Practical Advice to the Adult with LD," gives tips not only for recognizing a disability in yourself, but ways to accept accommodations and to become a self advocate for those needs that are not provided for. Another one of the articles, "Reasonable Accommodations: Just What Is Reasonable?" discusses what individuals with LD have the right to expect from institutions. This issue of "Linkages" also includes a list of resources available to individuals with LD. For copies of these articles, use the form on page 7.

The ERIC Clearinghouse on Adult, Career, and Vocational Education has a new ERIC Digest on Adults with Learning Disabilities. The Digest contains definitions of learning disability, successful adjustment for adults with LD, and strategies and supports for adults with learning disabilities. Copies of the digest can be obtained from Judy Wagner at ERIC <wagner.6@osu.edu> or from the OLRC.

The Ohio Literacy Network's Annual Meeting on September 15, 1998, will focus on Meeting the Needs of Adults with Learning Disabilities. Dale Jordan will be a featured speaker and information will be provided about the National Institute for Literacy's grants to support systemic change in services to adults with learning disabilities. Contact Karen Scheid at OLN (614-486-7757) for more information.

Videos for Loan

The OLRC has the following videos for loan. Use the form on page 7 to request a copy for use in your program or for your personal use.

- *Literacy Changes Lives* is a TV documentary produced by Laubach Literacy in 1997 which explores the transforming power of literacy in the lives of American adults. Former first lady Barbara Bush hosts the one-hour program, which records the stories of literacy learners in nine states. A copy of the video can also be purchased from Laubach (888-528-2224).
- *Integrating Technology into the ABE/GED Curriculum* is a 2-hour video conference that was held in April as part of the PBS/Literacy Link project. Focusing on how to bring computer technology into classroom instruction whether you are an expert or a beginner, the video features a panel of adult literacy practitioners. Topics include approaches for using computer technology to support learning, instructional strategies for classes with limited technology, how students become empowered using technology, and barriers encountered.

- *Learn to Earn: An Interactive Teleconference* was a 1996-97 NIFL fellowship product, prepared by Suzanne Knell. This video features a group of moderators discussing issues crucial to welfare reform.
- *Making School Work* is a 2-part video about school-to-work. Part 1 is "Partners That Work in School-to-Work" and Part 2 is "Creating Work-based Learning Opportunities for all Students."

Adult Numeracy



Do you teach mathematics in your adult literacy program? Are you looking for ways to incorporate mathematics with other literacy activities? The following resources and workshops should assist you.

- *Mathematics Notebook* was compiled in 1996 by a group of teachers in Ohio. It contains explanations of the new adult numeracy standards as well as instructional ideas. All ABE programs have a copy of this book and it can also be accessed from the OLRC web site at <literacy.kent.edu/Oasis/Pubs/0900.htm>.
- The OLRC has published math newsletters over the last three years. All of these contain instructional ideas. You can find them at <literacy.kent.edu/Oasis/Pubs/0900.htm> or ask for copies on the form on page 7.
- *The Math Practitioner* is a newsletter published by the national Adult Numeracy Network (ANN). For \$10 you can be a member of this national network. Request a copy of the latest newsletter on page 7. (The membership application is in that issue.)
- Join the numeracy electronic discussion listserv by sending an email message to majordomo@world.std.com and type the message `Subscribe Numeracy`. Also visit the ANN homepage at <www.std.com/anpn/>.

Teaching and Learning with Internet Resources

Susan Cowles of Oregon, a 1996-97 National Institute for Literacy Fellow, has published her findings in *Teaching and Learning with Internet Resources*. The book contains curriculum for helping instructors and learners become familiar with the Internet and use it as a teaching and learning tool. The activities and lessons have been field-tested in several states by learners in adult literacy programs, and there is also a staff development component to the project. A copy can be borrowed from the OLRC (see page 7), ordered free from NIFL (1-800-228-8813), or viewed on the web at <www.nifl.gov/susanc/inthome.htm>.

Adult Literacy Statistics/ Information

The National Institute for Literacy (NIFL) has recently distributed various publications that should assist programs and individuals in finding adult literacy statistics and information.

- *The State of Literacy in America: Estimates at the Local, State and National Levels* is available online at <www.nifl.gov/reders/reder.htm>. You can search for statistics for your state, county, county subdivision, congressional district, or city or town. Hard copies of the publication, which contain percentages of the adult population at Level 1 Literacy in all US counties, are available at the OLRC (see page 7).
- *The Directory of National and State Literacy Contacts* is a listing of literacy and literacy-related offices and organizations at the state and national level. The Directory can be found on the NIFL web site at <www.nifl.gov/NSDirectory/NSDirIndex.htm> or at the OLRC.
- *Literacy: It's a Whole New World* is the current public relations campaign being sponsored by NIFL. Request a copy of the recent publicity packet (see page 7) or find the information on the NIFL web site <www.nifl.gov/newworld/facts.htm>. Information includes Policy Success Stories, and fact sheets about key literacy topics such as family literacy, workplace literacy, welfare & literacy, health & literacy, learning disabilities, library literacy, and correctional education.



Assessment

- “*Assessment in Adult Basic Education Programs*” by Askov, Van Horn, and Carman discusses various adult education assessment strategies for individuals and programs. It emphasizes the advantages and disadvantages of standardized testing and also gives basic information about other types of assessment including informal, criterion-based, curriculum-based, and performance-based strategies. The authors offer tips for providing a supportive testing environment for adult students who are experiencing test anxiety.

This article can be found on page 65 in the journal, *New Directions for Adult & Continuing Education*, Fall 1997 (No. 75). Copies of this article are available from the OLRC (see page 7).

- “*Assessing Workplace Learning: New Trends and Possibilities*” by Inman and Vernon gives a historical review of the workplace learning trends of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and discusses present day trends. The focus of the article is on the advantages of using narratives as an assessment tool in the workplace. The authors contend that narratives give cohesion to shared beliefs within a group and that this sense of cohesion then leads to collaborative actions in the workplace.

This article can be found on page 75 in the journal, *New Directions for Adult & Continuing Education*, Fall 1997 (No. 75). Copies of this article are available from the OLRC (see page 7).

Retention/Learner Motivation

Student Retention: Creating Student Success is a publication by Fran Tracy-Mumford, State Director in Delaware, which was published by the National Adult Education Professional Development Consortium, Inc. Student attrition is a major problem facing the field because it means that both the student and the program do not succeed. This monograph grew out of a need to study student retention (students staying in a program until they reach their goals). “Two themes in student retention literature are the importance of supporting students and the ability of programs to facilitate student success.” (p. 1) The monograph provides a framework for establishing student retention strategies clustering around three parts: 1) support; 2) quality instruction; and 3) program structures/policies. A copy of Dr. Tracy-Mumford’s publication can be borrowed from the OLRC (see page 7).

The current issue of *Focus on Basics*, the quarterly publication of the National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy (NCSALL) is on learner motivation. The issue of retention is the underlying theme in all the articles and Allan Quigley provides an overview of the research in the area. According to editor Barbara Garner, one thread that runs through almost all of the articles is that of community; programs and classes in which a sense of community was established seem to have better retention. The OLRC will be mailing a copy of this issue to all Ohio ABLE programs (one copy per program). Additional copies are available at the OLRC (see page 7) or the newsletter can be viewed on NCSALL’s web site at <hugse1.harvard.edu/~ncsall>.

Equipped for the Future: How Will It Change Adult Education & Literacy Programs?

Equipped for the Future (EFF) is a national initiative designed to redefine literacy from the mastery of isolated, discrete skills to actually preparing students for their adult life roles. This National Institute for Literacy project hopes to reform the adult literacy and education system to focus on teaching adults how to be more effective in their lives and how to succeed in our rapidly changing world, rather than only learning academic subjects.

How will EFF change adult education and literacy programs? EFF will help change the system to teach what adults identified as important for adult life. Adult learners expect literacy and adult education programs to teach them the skills necessary to accomplish the four purposes of access, voice, independent action, and bridge to the future. Focusing on these skills and teaching them in new ways will help students solve problems at home, build a better community to live in, and have more employment choices.

EFF has developed a standards-based framework that will enable teachers and students to measure how well they use skills in their lives, not just in the classroom. The framework will enable adult education programs to define what counts and then measure how well students are doing in using what they learn in their lives. Some questions we hope it will answer are:

- a. Does what students learn help them make better decisions and choices?
- b. Do adult students have more flexibility in deciding what to do because they have more tools to help them decide?
- c. How do adults use the skills they have learned?
- d. What can they accomplish that they could not accomplish before?

These are all questions EFF will help answer so that we are measuring what is important for adult life, not just what is important for a test. This will help adult education and literacy programs report real successes to funders and students. It will help them measure how well they are doing according to their student's goals.

Are you interested in becoming involved in EFF? Become a part of this national initiative and join thousands of other adults by giving your input into the EFF framework. Contact Jean Stephens at the OLRC for more information on how to get involved.

Congratulations!

- **Mary Jo Alstatter of Ohio Hi-Point Career Center** **ABLE** received the second annual OLRC Leadership Development Institute award at the recent OAACE conference. Mary Jo applied the principles that she learned at the 1997 Institute to move her program beyond GED preparation. In the past year, she has added a volunteer program and workplace literacy and has expanded the types of students served and collaboration with other agencies.
- **Dale Sherman of Project: LEARN**, Medina and **Elizabeth Saunders of Reach I** at the Ohio State University represented Ohio at a national student organizational meeting at the Highlander in Tennessee in March. The new organization, named Voices for Adult Literacy United for Education (VALUE), will strengthen the voice of adult learners in the national debate about adult literacy program needs and services.
- Two Ohio programs were among eight selected by the National Institute for Literacy as models for using basic skills instruction as a fundamental part of welfare-to-work efforts. The **Adult Basic and Literacy Education (ABLE) Program in Cleveland** and the **Canton City Schools Even Start Program** were selected for this honor. In order to help other programs across the country learn from their successes, the programs will be presenting at major education, training, and welfare-to-work conferences.

For the Common Good

"For the Common Good" is a statewide project that facilitates the formation of local interagency linkage teams throughout Ohio. These local teams focus on improving services to at-risk youth and adults through the development of collaborative interagency linkages. Since 1990, 46 local linkage teams have been formed under the project. Originally initiated to make educational services available to participants through the JOBS Training Program, the project has now expanded its focus to all workforce development efforts and operates under the direction of a team composed of state-level staff.

Of the 46 teams formed through the project, 29 are still active. Many of the continuing teams are involved in other linkage activities such as One-Stop centers and Ohio Family and Children First Councils. The members of the county teams represent adult basic education, vocational education, JTPA, human services, employment services, postsecondary education, alcohol and drug addiction services, and community action agencies. For information about existing teams or for information on forming a linkage team in your county, contact Jeff Gove, Ohio Department of Education (614-466-5015) or Susan Imel, Center on Education and Training for Employment (614-292-4353 or 800-848-4815).

Adult Learning & Technology Conference

The 11th Annual National Adult Learning and Technology Conference is being held July 29-31, 1998 at Michigan State University's Kellogg Center in East Lansing, Michigan. Pre-conference sessions are being held on July 28, 1998. All those involved with adult literacy or technology are encouraged to attend. The early registration fee of \$125.00 includes breakfast and lunch for all three days.

Information about the conference, including descriptions of all the sessions and registration information, can be found at <slrc.ehhs.emich.edu/altconference/> or by calling Jean Stephens or Marty Ropog at the OLRC.

BOOK REVIEW Getting To Know Computers

by Mary Beth Lundgren

This short text is an overview of personal computers written for the adult basic and literacy education learner. Computers as a topic of conversation and as a reality within most adults' lives can be confusing and complex. Mary Beth Lundgren, from Project: LEARN in Cleveland, helps to simplify and demystify personal computers. She stresses that, although computers may seem magical, they are not. She also emphasizes that one does not have to be a programmer or advanced computer specialist in order to use computers and understand the basics of their construction. Having this basic understanding can help the learner to use the machine with more confidence.



Lundgren covers the following topics: what a computer is; the parts of a computer and what they do; how the computer works; using the computer; and a bit on "other things you can do with a computer." She also provides a glossary of the computer terms found within the text. This volume is short and concise. It can be ordered directly from Project: LEARN or by contacting them at their web site. (Price: \$10.35 including tax and shipping)

Project: LEARN
1701 Payne Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114

Phone number: (216) 621-9483

Web Site URL:
<http://www.netmarkinc.com/projectlearn/>

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For 2-week loan (copies limited; there may be a wait):

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Upcoming Events

June 11-14, 1998:	Laubach Literacy Action (LLA) National Conference, Columbus, Ohio	
July 29-31, 1998:	Adult Learning & Technology Conference, Michigan State University, E. Lansing, Michigan	
August, 1998:	OLRC Regional Math Kick-off Days	
Friday, August 14	Northwest Region	Toledo, Ohio
Tuesday, August 18	Southwest Region	Dayton, Ohio
Friday, August 21	Central/Southeast Region	
Thursday, August 27	Northeast Region	Euclid, Ohio
November 1-3, 1998:	Early Childhood Education (Family Literacy) Conference, Columbus, Ohio	

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