



South Dakota Association for Lifelong Learning
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Everlearning



Volunteers of America

ASE/ABE

The Floyd Career Learning Center at Volunteers of America-Dakotas has made two changes in service delivery since the beginning of the year. First, we have completely integrated our English Language Learners into our three instruction levels. This has eased and encouraged transition between levels, especially for students who gain great comfort in one classroom and don't want to move up to an unknown classroom and unknown teacher. Students may spend the first hour in one level of reading, change classrooms and teachers to experience a higher level of math and transition once again in the third hour to receive instruction in whatever level of writing is appropriate. To that end, our second change is the implementation of a writing lab every morning to assist anyone who wants instruction beyond the regular classroom activities. English Language Learners as well as students counting down to testing receive the benefit of intensive, specialized instruction designed just for them.



BHSS - W

GED

On Friday, January 15, The Career Learning Center of the Black Hills held its 37th GED graduation. The ceremony honored 42 graduates. Three graduates spoke at the ceremony. Dorris "Slim" Buckley began working on his GED at the age of 49. Slim wanted a GED so that he could qualify for a full time job at the Rapid City Regional Airport. Now he has a stable job with benefits. Glory Harp worked at SCI/Sanmina for over 20 years. When the plant closed, she decided to return to school to earn her GED. This semester she is attending WDT where she is studying Business Management and Marketing. Ellis Lucas recently moved from Missouri to South Dakota. He was always embarrassed by the fact that he was a dropout. He wanted the satisfaction of knowing that he could achieve a GED. He plans to continue his education in the near future.

The staff works tirelessly to stage an impressive graduation ceremony twice each year. Although we sometimes complain about the work involved, we never get tired of seeing the joy on the faces of our graduates and their families.

Do you have outstanding AEL lessons to share with your colleagues? Post them on the SDALL website. To submit lessons, email them to Jeff Myers at jeffm.cclc@midconetwork.com. Please note that lesson plans will not be reviewed by SDALL and that all copyright laws apply.

ESL



Cornerstones

Being a parent, a full-time worker, and a student is not an easy task, but our ESL students are tackling it. They all have different reasons for wanting to learn English. Even though they come from different countries and speak different languages, they all seem to share a common desire for a better life. Students from Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, China, Burma, Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam get together three days a week for two hours at a time to further develop their English skills.

At CCLC students have the opportunity to go on field trips, such as visiting the SD State Capitol Building among others. Broad selections of guest speakers include representatives from the local sheriff's department, the chamber of commerce, and the county's emergency management team. Veterans and nursing students also serve as speakers. One-on-one learning is possible with the help of local volunteers. Classes are available year round and new students are welcome to join at any time. For more information contact Rey Colon at 605.353.7175, or visit our web site www.cornerstonescareer.com.

Guest Contribution by Becki Lemke

How the NCRC can benefit students



Since the state has opened up National Career Readiness Certification (NCRC) activities to AEL programs, we need to think about how to best use NCRC services with our students. Cornerstones Career Learning Center (CCLC) is currently working with an NCRC referral from our DOL Local Office who is also an AEL student.

This participant was referred to CCLC by the DOL local office to enroll in AEL classes for the purpose of building basic skills. Her goal was to increase her basic math and reading skills so that she would be eligible for WIA training dollars for CDL licensing courses. She initially told CCLC staff that she had no interest in obtaining her GED. She just wanted to be able to get her CDL and go to work.

As this participant continued her studies, she participated in weekly teacher/student conferences where staff members continued to work with her on goal setting. During these sessions, staff members reminded her that the skills she was learning would transfer to the GED if she changed her mind. DOL staff referred her for NCRC assessment, and once she had completed the NCRC pretest, she began to see the value of continuing her studies and pursuing her GED. The feedback from the NCRC pretest helped her to see the types of career that would be open to her at her current skill levels. The fact that her career options increased along with her skill levels became more evident, and that provided the motivation she needed to consider the GED as part of her goals.

The NCRC assessments can be a powerful tool for our AEL programs. NCRC provides a platform for discussions about goals, skills, and the need for additional training that other assessments currently used by AEL programs do not. When used in conjunction with the practices already in place for goal setting and student monitoring, NCRC assessments can truly benefit our AEL students.

Contributions to Everlearning should be submitted to Susan Gunn prairierancher@sdplains.com.

February 2010