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Happy New Year!

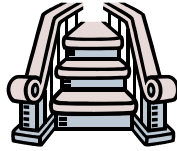


Welcome back! We hope the new year brings many good things for all.

Keep your eyes open for these upcoming professional development opportunities in the new year.

- **CCIP Training 2/6/08 10:00am-12:00pm Polaris CC**
 The CCIP training session for Northeast Administrators will be led by Jeff Gove. Changes to the CCIP format and process will be explained. All those working with the CCIP are encouraged to attend.
- **Portfolio Training 2/29/08 9:30am-3:30pm Henn Mansion**
 This training will focus on providing classroom teachers with practical tools to use as they work with students to build a portfolio that captures the students' academic growth while in their programs. Presenters will model conferencing techniques and use portfolio sample activities to help teachers design a meaningful, useable, and efficient portfolio system for their classrooms.
- **NTO Part II 3/7/08 9:30am-3:00pm Henn Mansion**
 Registration begins at 9:00am, the training begins at 9:30am. Participants must complete Online New Teacher Orientation Part I in order to attend this training. Participants will learn to apply adult learning principles and system requirements within the classroom and gain an understanding of the support systems available for teachers through the Resource Center Network. Please bring homework from New Teacher Orientation Online.
- **NTO Part II 3/15/07 9:30am-3:00pm Henn Mansion**
This is a Saturday Training
- **BEST Plus 4/16/08 9:30am-3:30pm Henn Mansion**
 Registration and continental breakfast begin at 9:00am, the training begins at 9:30am. The BEST Plus Training Workshop prepares participants to administer and score the test by providing an overview of the test, opportunities to practice delivery and scoring, and clarification of administration and scoring issues. Participants will recognize the importance of assessing oral language proficiency and be able to administer and score the test and interpret BEST Plus scores. If available, please bring your program's "Test Administrator Guide" book.
 PLEASE NOTE: TEST ADMINISTRATOR TRAINING IS REQUIRED BY THE

CENTER FOR APPLIED LINGUISTICS, IN ORDER TO RECEIVE CERTIFICATION CAL REQUIRES THAT PARTICIPANTS NOT MISS MORE THAN 30 MINUTES OF THE TRAINING.



Step Up to Success...

The Heights Parent Center and the Literacy Cooperative of Greater Cleveland have partnered to offer ***Families Learning Together***. This program is eligible to families who have at least one child under five years old. It offers the following areas of interest: adult education, literacy, job skills, parent enrichment, parent and child activities and quality child care. This program is designed to give families the opportunity to learn and grow together.

The parent will:

- Prepare for a GED
- Participate in literacy activities
- Improve reading, writing and math abilities
- Learn computer skills
- Develop ways to find and keep a job
- Learn how to help their child succeed in school
- Find a supportive community

The child will:

- Develop learning and social skills
- Learn to enjoy school
- Prepare for success in school
- Have fun reading with parents
- Enroll in a quality child care program
- Meet new friends
- Enjoy learning activities with parents

The family will:

- Play and learn as a family
- Become partners in education
- Learn ways to solve daily problems
- Find resources for basic needs
- Join a supportive community

To learn more about Step Up to Success... ***Families Learning Together*** contact:
Heights Parent Center
(216) 321-0079

A Visit from the Mayor



Mayor Frank Jackson

Visits ESOL and GED Students

Submitted by: Anne Siebert

Adult ESOL and GED students had the rare privilege of meeting and talking with Cleveland Mayor, Frank Jackson, on December 13, 2007 at the Max Hayes Adult and Continuing Education Building.

Jacquelyn Comeaux, Manager, introduced the Mayor, explaining that

Cleveland's program was the largest in the state serving over 1,400 students in many different areas such as literacy, job training, and English to Speakers of Other Languages.

The focus of the Mayor's talk was on "What It Means to Be a Better Citizen." In this regard, the Mayor stressed the importance of citizen involvement in their government. "That's the way to make the city better," he emphasized. He said that he welcomes comments, questions, and concerns. "If you don't tell us what you think, what concerns you, we won't know," he concluded.

He then took questions and comments from the audience. These ranged from how to make Cleveland a safer city, job opportunities, to invitations from ESOL students to visit their native countries. All responded enthusiastically to the Mayor's talk with a standing ovation.

The visit concluded with students and staff having their pictures taken with the Mayor. All agreed that the Mayor's visit was the highlight of their school year. The visit was arranged by ESOL teacher, Anne Siebert, as part of the citizenship curriculum.



OAACE Call for Presenters

Great news! The call for presenters for the April, 2008 OAACE Conference is now available on the website: www.oaace.org. The theme for this event is "The Times They Are a Changing!" OAACE is looking forward to an engaging conference and welcomes your submissions for a wide variety of session types to match your preferred presentation style.

Check out the topics and think about sharing your expertise with your adult education colleagues. The call for presenters deadline is January 16th.

Online Certificate Foundation Course



The Online Certificate Course (PP 100) begins January 14, 2008 and runs for six weeks. It is a prerequisite for all other courses in TESOL's Principles and Practices of Online Teaching certificate program.

Principles and Practices of Online Teaching certificate program is designed for English language teachers and course designers, at all levels of experience, who design and deliver courses online. Whether your course is run fully or partially online, this TESOL certificate program will help you develop the skills you need to effectively teach English language courses online or blend online segments with your traditional face-to-face courses.

To register or learn more about the program, go to:
http://www.tesol.org/s_tesol/seccss.asp?CID=664&DID=2635



The Gift of Peer Coaching

Submitted by: Sharon Reynolds

Perhaps you have heard about the Peer Coaching program. Maybe your director mentioned it in a staff meeting. Or you may have heard about it at the Fall Directors' meeting. You may even have seen the Peer Coaching brochure.

A Peer Coach:

- Supports another person taking action toward his or her goals while simultaneously helping them develop expertise in planning, reflecting, problem solving and decision making.
- Takes a non-judgmental stance, uses highly effective skills of listening and speaking, tools of open-ended questions, pausing, paraphrasing and probing.
- Focuses on the assumptions, perceptions, thinking and decision-making process of the other person to mediate resources, clarify intentions and identify options.

But—what is it really?

Peer Coaching is a form of professional learning that is available to all ABLE staff in Ohio through the C/SE ABLE Resource Center and the OLRC.

Peer coaches are trained to help ABLE staff process challenges they may be facing in their programs. They ask specific questions and practice reflective listening.

Currently, the expectation is that peer coaching is for those individuals who have completed the LD Training Series and are trying to implement strategies they learned about in the workshops. This includes teachers, support staff and program administrators. So – if you cannot remember how to implement multi-sensory instruction, or cannot decide how to talk to students about diagnosis or what to include in your LD plan, CALL A COACH!

How is Peer Coaching different from mentoring?

Mentoring involves a relationship between a novice or beginner and an expert. The novice comes to the expert with questions and the expert gives the needed advice.

The people who request coaching are not inexperienced. Peer coaches are not necessarily “experts” in topics that are covered in coaching. Peer coaches are experienced in ABLE and trained in the art of coaching. They offer feedback and ask leading questions to help the partner find the answers themselves.

Who are the coaches?

They are a group of ABLE instructors, administrators and support staff who have attended training in coaching techniques.

ABLE Peer Coaches:

- Mary Grace DeStefanis
- Diane Morawski
- Katrina Seymore
- Nancy Moshtagi
- Fran Holthaus
- Brad Carrel
- Claudia Irwin
- Judy Wilson
- Karen Hibbert
- Holly Pletcher

Does it count as PD?

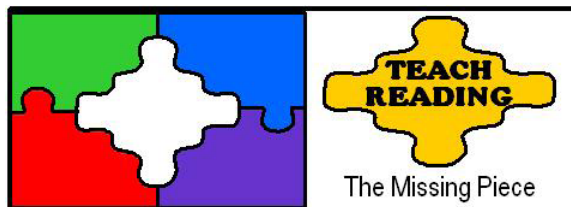
Of Course! Peer coaching is a form of professional development. You can include it on your IPDP and then request a stipend following the ABLÉ Stipend Policy below:

- Stipends of \$35.00 will be paid for a half-day activity (minimum of 2.5 and fewer than 4.5 hours of contact time or the equivalent).
- Stipends of \$70.00 will be paid for a full day activity (4.5 or more contact hours or the equivalent).

To learn more about Peer Coaching visit: <http://literacy.kent.edu/coaching>

Reading Slogan for Ohio ABLÉ

Thanks to the work of the Reading and Writing Steering Committee, the Southwest ABLÉ Resource Center is pleased to announce and share their reading slogan for Ohio ABLÉ. Look for this slogan and graphic in a variety of places throughout the year!



Free and Low-Cost Books

Where can your school, library, or community group find free or low-cost books for kids? There are a number of national organizations and programs that can help!

Reading Rockets offers a variety of suggestions on where to turn to find children's books to fill the shelves of your library, classroom, or literacy program and help you

put books into the hands and homes of young readers.

This article and a full listing of available resources for free and low-cost books can be found at: <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/57>

Employment Opportunities



These websites offer listings of over 10,000 jobs available in Northeast Ohio. They could be quite useful to your students. Please pass these resources on!

www.neotechjobs.com

www.jobmagnet.com



Grant Opportunities

Dollar General Adult Literacy Grants

During this request for proposals period, the Dollar General Literacy Foundation will award grants to direct service providers in one or all of the following focus areas ONLY:

- Adult Basic Education
- GED Preparation
- English for Speakers of Other Languages

The deadline for proposals is March 4, 2008. For more information, eligibility and applications, please visit: www.dollargeneral.com

The Resource Room



Alternative Delivery Professional Development Features Refugees

The newest alternative delivery professional development activities feature refugees, their lives before coming to the states, hopes and expectations in finding a new life in America, and current adjustment to their new communities.

- **Cultural Orientation for Refugees** – This PD is appropriate for both ESOL directors and teachers. It involves using a very well-written handbook and viewing a video, both put out by the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL).
- **A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier** – Appropriate for ESOL teachers and directors. Ishmael Beah, a 2004 graduate of Oberlin College, has become a United Nations spokesperson against the recruitment and kidnapping of children to fight in civil wars across the world. Read his first

person account from the first day he was dragged into military service until he was suddenly removed by UNICEF and rehabilitated.

- **God Grew Tired of Us, book and DVD** – Appropriate for ESOL teachers and directors. John Bul Dau, one of the Lost Boy's of Sudan, describes in heartbreaking detail how, at age 13, he along with thousands of other Dinka boys fled the civil war in southern Sudan in 1987. Fourteen years later, having grown up using survival skills learned on the run and in refugee camps, John left the Kenyan Kakuma refugee camp to settle in Syracuse, New York.

The Lost Boys of Cleveland, a local non-profit group of volunteers, seeks to:

- Help fund and guide the Lost Boys toward their educational goals
- Assist in their citizenship preparation

For those interested in helping achieve these goals, please contact www.sudlbc.org/

Thoughts on Leadership

Thoughts on Leadership is presented as an attachment to the Friday NewsBriefs.
