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ABLE Collaboratives

EDR Collaborative Update

Thanks to everyone for all of the thoughtful and creative approaches on our new venture. Special kudos to the group who even came up with a new acronym: *RACT* ...*Regional ABL*E Collaborative Teams!

Change can be intimidating. Sharing can be complicated. But when it comes to adapting, adopting and finding a new way, ABL

E folks are experts. Keep the great ideas flowing. For the groups that choose to, the plans are/will be posted on the WIKI : <http://edrcollaborativeplan.pbwiki.com>

Essentially, it is an ongoing word doc that everyone can contribute to. Please let me know if you have any problems or questions.

It's available at:

<http://edrcollaborativeplan.pbwiki.com>

Just follow the directions. The invite key is the same for all:

Neableedr

Call with any questions or comments!

Upcoming Events

Statewide PD Day

Hilton Easton
Columbus, OH



- **The Write Skills for Success (9:30am-3:30pm)**
The Write Skills for Success (offered as one of the trainings at the statewide ABLE PD Day). Most educators recognize that students must have strong writing skills to succeed in their academic and work lives. This workshop provides opportunities for instructors to learn what current research and practice say works in writing instruction. Participants will learn a variety of approaches in assessing and teaching writing that can help prepare students

for postsecondary education and employment-related writing skills. Writing today is not a frill for the few, but an essential skill for the many. (National Commission on Writing, 2003).

- **Learning Disabilities 202 (9:30am-3:30pm)**
This session for instructors emphasizes instructional strategies, materials, software, resources, adaptations and accommodations that are useful when working with students with learning disabilities in reading, writing and math. Instructors will have an opportunity to review materials, practice strategies and use accommodations. Pre-requisite: LD201
- **BEST Plus (9:30am-4:00pm)**
Registration begins at 9:00 am, 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.
- **Math! Math! Math! PD Day (9:30am-3:30pm)**
MATH! MATH! MATH! Come to this interactive workshop and brush up on those Algebra skills needed for the GED math test and the basic stackable certificate. This is part of the CONTENT based series of workshops that are being given this year. (This is not a classroom strategies workshop.) If you missed the Math Kick-Off, then this is for you! Materials will be provided: bring your calculator and a willingness to learn some new math. The Ohio Math Training Team will be presenting.
- **CASAS ESL (9:30am-3:30pm)**
This training is for ESL providers who would like to be trained in using CASAS (Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System) as an assessment option. Focus will be on the Reading and Listening tests. Successful completion of this training allows participants to train staff in their program to use the CASAS system. Participants will be able to: (1) administer and score tests - appraisal/locator, pretests and posttests; (2) use CASAS test results, student competencies and class profiles to plan instruction; and (3) discuss how CASAS can be used to meet Ohio and national accountability requirements.
- **The Portfolio Connection: Connecting Teaching and Learning (9:30am-3:30pm)**
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.

- ***USCIS Training Conference***

The Northeast ABE Resource Center is pleased to announce the USCIS Regional Training Conference for Civics and Citizenship Teachers of Adults as an Ohio TESOL Pre-Conference on Thursday, October 30, 2008! This training is designed to help adult civics and citizenship teachers and volunteers improve their skills in teaching U.S. history, civics and the naturalization process to immigrant students. The regional training conference will include sessions on how to effectively teach the history and ideals of our founding documents; to learn the process on how lawful permanent residents become citizens; and to impart information on the redesigned naturalization test. This regional training conference is open to the public. **Interested parties must register at www.uscis.gov/files/article/Registration_Form.pdf.**

Register for all of these training sessions (except the USCIS training) at www.ohioable.org

Ohio TESOL



Ohio TESOL Conference October 31-November 1

We're very excited for the Ohio TESOL Annual Fall Conference next week. The year's theme is *Access to Education, Access to Technology* and includes an exciting lineup of speakers and sessions! We are honored to have Chancellor Eric Fingerhut of the Ohio Board of Regents speaking at the Friday Awards Luncheon. Other featured speakers include plenary speaker and TESOL technology standards development team, Dr. Paige Ware of Southern Methodist University; Dr. Michael Jones of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services who will speak about the redesigned Naturalization test; and our very own State ABE Director, Denise Pottmeyer who will give a session on Transitioning to the University System of Ohio.

Prior to the conference on Thursday, October 30, the RCN will hold the first of two Statewide ABE PD Days. Six trainings will be delivered to over 150 ABE professionals. The trainings are BEST Plus, CASAS ESL, Learning Disabilities 202, Math Math Math, Portfolio Connection, The Write Skills for Success and the USCIS Regional Training Conference to help prepare teachers of adult civics and citizenship students.

We look forward to seeing all of our ABE participants next week!

GED Connections Training



KET/GED Connections will host a free training on the integration of GED Connections into your curriculum on October 29th, 2008 at the Western Reserve Public Media Professional Development Center in Kent, OH.

The training will include instruction on getting the most out of the GED Connections resources, video programs and website.

To register, sign up at www.westernreservepublicmedia.myworkshops.com, set up a free account, view the events and toggle down to the GED training event on October 29th.

The only cost associated with this training is a \$10.00 fee for lunch.

Toyota Family Literacy Teacher of the Year Award



Presented by the National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL) and Toyota, the Toyota Family Literacy Teacher of the Year Award is given to educators who demonstrate exemplary efforts to help parents and children achieve their academic and non-academic goals.

The 2009 Toyota Family Literacy Teacher of the Year will receive a \$7,500 award for his/her program, courtesy of Toyota. He/she will also receive a trip to the 18th Annual National Conference on Family Literacy in Orlando, Florida, where he/she will be recognized during the Opening General Session.

Nominations will be accepted online through December 5, 2008.

Visit <http://www.famlit.org/toyotateacher> for nomination guidelines.

COABE Call for Nominations



COABE offers awards, incentive grants and scholarship to members to provide financial support for small special projects or advanced study in adult education. COABE members are eligible to compete or nominate for the prestigious awards, incentive grants and scholarships.

AWARDS

Award recipients receive:

- \$1,650 financial award (includes transportation and hotel accommodations).
- Recognition at the annual COABE national conference during the awards banquet.

Successful nominators receive:

- Complimentary conference registration for the annual COABE national conference where the award is presented

INCENTIVE GRANTS

Incentive grant recipients receive:

- \$1,500 financial award.
- \$750 travel stipend to present on project at the annual COABE national conference.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship recipients receive:

- \$2,000 financial award.

To nominate an individual, go to www.coabe.org, click on Awards.

All applications must be received by December 1, 2008 for inclusion in this year's award selection process.

OCIRA 2008 Fall Conference



The Ohio Council of the International Reading Association will host its 2008 Fall Conference in Columbus, Ohio on Friday, November 7th, 2008. The Conference will feature 24 breakout sessions focusing on reading, writing, spelling and vocabulary. It will also host 3 featured guest speakers including: Seymour Simon, award winning author of hundreds of science picture books; Ann Bausum, award winning author of historical non-fiction books; Jan Kristo, co-author of Nonfiction in Focus & college reading professor at the University of Maine.

The conference will be held at:

Holiday Inn Worthington
7007 North High Street
Worthington, OH 43085
(614) 436-0700

Visit www.ocira.org for more information.

Japanese American Holiday Fair



The 39th Annual Japanese American Holiday Fair will be held Saturday, November 8th, 2008 at St. Ignatius High School from 1pm-5pm. Admission is free and features include authentic Japanese food, booths with arts, crafts and fresh Asian vegetables, and entertainment including dancing, martial arts and juggling acts. There will also be door prizes, a raffle and a silent auction.

The event will be held at:

St. Ignatius High School
1911 West 30th Street
Cleveland, OH

For more information, call (216) 921-2976 or (440) 268-9674

Top Twenty Online Learning Games



16. **ROAR: The Game** from BBC. Players have to create their own zoo, including picking habitats, the animals, their food and their feeding routines. There is audio support for some text and the English is simple. It's a fun way to learn about animals and practice language skills.
 17. **Word Connect** - It's a great Tetris-like game with various difficulty levels accessible to English Language Learners. Players get to pick the categories of words for their particular game, and the words themselves are shown on the side. It's an excellent vocabulary-reinforcing activity.
 18. **What 2 Learn** – It has a variety of templates, and a fairly easy process, that teachers and students can use to create and play learning games.
 19. **Planet Green Game** – It's basically a role-playing game where players have to minimize their carbon emissions. And it's combined with learning environmental facts. There is audio support for most of the content.
 20. **Stock News Game** – In it, you're given a very short piece of information about a company, and then have to predict if its stock goes down, stays the same, or goes up by the end of the day the news came out.
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Matt's Tech Tips



Tech Tips XIII – Healthy Computing

If you have spent long hours in front of a computer, you may have experienced discomfort in one form or another. A sore back, burning eyes, or wrist pain can make computing an uncomfortable experience. There are some easy things to remember to help you avoid or mitigate some of the more common problems that may occur from extended computer use.

1. Sit up straight
2. Take microbreaks to avoid eye strain and tense muscles, just relax your eyes and body for a few seconds every couple of minutes
3. Stand up and move around for a few minutes every hour

These are just a few of the easier tips to remember. More information on healthy computing practices can be found all over the web. Here are a few places to start:

<http://www.microsoft.com/hardware/hcg/default.html>

http://www.nycosh.org/workplace_hazards/healthy_computing_tips_1.html

<http://www.me.berkeley.edu/ergo/services/tips.html>

<http://www.safecomputingtips.com/healthy-computing.html>

Grant Opportunities



Comcast Foundation Grants Support Youth Leadership Development

The Comcast Foundation is awarding grants to maximize the impact of community investments so they yield tangible, measurable benefits to the neighborhoods Comcast serves and the people who live there. The foundation's primary focus is in funding diversity-oriented programs that address literacy, volunteerism and youth leadership development. **Maximum Award:** \$570,000.

Eligibility: 501(c)3 organizations operating within communities that Comcast serves. **Deadline:** N/A.

www.comcast.com/corporate/about/inthecommunity/foundation/comcastfoundation.html



The Resource Room

For Preview in the NEABLE Library

ESOL

- **North Star 1 and 3: Listening and Speaking and Reading and Writing, Third Edition 2009 published by Pearson Longman.** The third edition features updated materials in both themes and content with authentic reading and listening selections. MyNorthStarLab, an on-line program for students and teachers, is available through Pearson Longman. Go to www.mynorthstarlab.com for a preview.
- **Side by Side PLUS, Student books 1A, 1B, 2A and 2B, 2009 published by Pearson Longman.** Standards-based lessons develop the competencies included in CASAS and BEST Plus and other assessment systems. Built-in assessment in each unit.

GED

- **Number Sense Series by Allan D. Suter, published by McGraw Hill, 2003** For more info from the publisher, go to: <http://shop.mhcontemporary.com/cgi-bin/contemp/search.html>
 - **Whole Numbers: Multiplication & Division**
 - **Decimals: Addition & Subtraction**
 - **Ratio and Proportion**
 - **The Meaning of Percent**
- **Foundations: Social Studies published by McGraw Hill 2009.** This text introduces the core skills learners need to master social studies. Content areas include world history, U.S. history, civics and government, geography, and economics. Skills include finding the main idea, finding details, summarizing, cause and effect, comparison and contrast, predicting, historical maps, and line graphs. All chapters include a writing workshop. For

more info from the publisher, go to: <http://shop.mhcontemporary.com/cgi-bin/contemp/1404576355.html>

- ***Physical Science: Exploring Matter and Energy and Earth and Space Science: Exploring the Universe both by Dr. Gustavo Loret de Mola, published by McGraw Hill/Contemporary 2009***
Contemporary's Science series, comprised of *Biology, Physical Science, and Earth & Space Science*, “can be used as a literacy-based, alternative basal or supplemental program. The series is also ideal for collaborative classrooms and teachers who provide differentiated instruction”. For more info go to: http://www.mhcontemporary.com/scripts/cont_home.php
- ***American Civics and Government by Matthew Downey, published by McGraw Hill/ Contemporary 2007***, Student book and Teacher's Resource Binder. Binder includes teacher's annotated edition, black line masters, transparencies, and Teacher's CD. *American Civics and Government* provides the framework students need for a strong understanding of the government of the United States. Each of the three branches of government are explored in depth, as are civil liberties and civil rights, public policy, state and local government, participatory government, and comparative political and economic systems. For more info from the publisher, please go to: <http://shop.mhcontemporary.com/cgi-bin/contemp/0077044436.html>

Thoughts on Leadership

Thoughts on Leadership will return in the next issue of the Friday NewsBriefs.