



Southwest ABLA Resource Center

Exposure

What's Happening at SWRC

January is usually the month when folks reorganize and take inventory. Here at SWRC, we've decided to wait until the groundhog gives us the go ahead to take stock of where we are in our year's work. **What have we been doing?**

First and foremost, we've been responding to your requests for resources from the library, answering questions about your stipend dollars and planning for spring training events. We also continue to work with our six STAR programs across the state, facilitate a reading/writing committee, work with the reorganization of the New Teacher Orientation into New Staff Orientation, convene our advisory committee and participate in various other on-going commitments. AND sometimes we get to have some real fun when one or two of you actually come to visit us in Building 6 at Sinclair.

Starting back in late September, two other opportunities began demanding our attention and time. Kathy and Jenny are involved in the revision of the Reading and Writing Standards. This work was precipitated by the changes made to Levels 4 and 6 to accommodate the **Stackable Certificate** grant work being done through the Ohio Skills Bank. In addition, our entire staff has been working with the SWABLE directors on the **ABLE Collaborative** grants which ask all ABLA providers in an economic development region(EDR) to come together and partner in the creation and implementation of a transition model. Our staff is working with three of the twelve EDRs (1/4/5).

It's pretty clear that there are very few things that can be marked as finished. Are we bothered by that? Not as much as you might think! The truth is that we always have plenty of work on our plates; just as you always have students to teach and programming to manage. However, taking stock is good practice because it reminds us that we are all partners in ensuring that ABLA students have the best opportunities to meet their goals. **We know that there is more that we can do to help; let us know where, when and how!**

GED on Demand

The Ohio Literacy Network provides statewide access to the GED Connection series. This series features 39 half hour video lessons designed to correspond with the five areas on the GED Exam: Math, Science, Social Studies, Reading and Writing.

Video lessons are available via Time Warner Digital Cable or broadcast on your local Public Television Stations.

TIME WARNER CABLE
SOUTHWEST OHIO - DIVISION
LOCAL ON DEMAND CHANNEL & NAVIGATION BY COMMUNITY

Local On Demand is a service available to Digital Tier Customers ONLY

To view a GED Connection Video with your Local On Demand Channel 1111:

1. Select Channel 1111 on your digital remote.
2. Select the GED Connection tab in the bottom menu.
3. Scroll down the menu and Play the video lesson you choose.

GED on Public Television

Think [®]	Channel 14	Sundays 7:30 a.m.	937-220-1600	www.thinktv.org	Dayton/Western Ohio
	Channel 16	Sundays 6:00 a.m. Monday-Friday 12:00, 12:30 p.m.			
CET	CETConnect	Monday-Friday 6:00 a.m.	513-381-4033	www.cetconnect.org	Cincinnati/Southeast Ohio

February 2009

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GED Scholarships

As ABLA works to transition more students into post-secondary educational opportunities, the issues of financial aid and scholarships have become more important.

Many individual colleges offer scholarships specifically for GED graduates. Contact the college's financial aid office or website for more information.

Additionally, most colleges state the GED as an acceptable criterion for their general scholarship pool. Encourage students to apply for all funding opportunities.

On the state level, Ohio's OACE offer a GED scholarship (www.oaace.org).

On the federal level, check out the Robert C. Byrd Scholarship (<http://regents.ohio.gov/sgs/robertbyrd/>).

February Tech Corner

Updates to the software packages we commonly use enter the market every 3-4 years. Programs, businesses and education providers are faced with the decision of whether to update or stick with their current version.



Consider Microsoft Office. The latest version is 2007, however many programs are still using 2003. If you have Office 2003 and try to open a file that was created and saved in

a Microsoft Office 2007 format, you will get an error message.

To correct this problem, you have several options:

1. Ask that any files shared with you be saved in the version you can open.
2. Purchase the latest Office package.
3. Download a **free** converter.

The converter is good for Word, Excel and PowerPoint. It allows you to open, edit and save files from 2007. To download this free converter, please go to:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=941B3470-3AE9-4AEE-8F43-C6BB74CD1466&displaylang=en>

If you have any questions about this article or technology, please contact Jenny at the SWRC via jennifer.davis@sinclair.edu.

Staff Appreciation Corner for February



Winter Staff Parking — Reserve a parking space close to the building. Make and then laminate a parking lot sign. Randomly select a staff member who gets the parking space for the week. Announce selected staff on Friday prior to them having the space for the next week. Be creative!

February Celebrations

February is...

Black History Month: for history, issues and lesson ideas, please visit: www.infoplease.com/spot/bhm1.html

American Heart Month: cardiovascular diseases are our nation's #1 killer. To learn more about being heart healthy, please go to: www.americanheart.org

Bake for Family Fun Month: working in the kitchen can improve math, critical thinking and other skills. Visit www.aeb.org/KidsAndFamily/BakeforFamilyFunMonth.htm for more information.

To check out other February events, visit:

- <http://www.holidayinsights.com/>
- <http://library.thinkquest.org/2886/INDEX.HTM>
- <http://brownielocks.com/month2.html>
- <http://www.suelebeau.com/december.htm>

Somali Parent-Child Resources

The U.S. Department of Education has supported the development of free parent-child activities to aid in early language and literacy development. New to the series is Somali language versions.

Each of the twenty activities includes a description, and hints for making the activity fun and developmentally appropriate. In addition to the activities, you can download an activity checklist that helps parents and caregivers notice their children's skills, and also cues adults to examine and grow their own interactions with children.

The materials are specifically designed to address the three key skills of 1) language development, 2) sounds and rhythms, and 3) general book and print awareness.

The files are in PDF format to allow easy and secure downloading. To download materials go to <http://www.wlearning.com> and click on the purple button that says "Free Parent Education Handouts" on the home page.

Spotlight on Library Resources

While many resolutions have come and gone, here's a very "achievable" resolution for 2009 – check out a book from the SW Resource Center Library and try something new in your classroom!

ENERGIZERS by John Jones and William Bearley.

Students do not learn well when they have low energy; energizers can get them ready to engage with learning. This book contains "three bags full" of activities commonly used to enliven classrooms: ice-breakers, energizers, and getting-to-know-you activities. The activities take only one to five minutes, yet the results can be powerful. Here's one sample: **Counting F's**. This simply requires participants to count the number of F's in a sentence. Tell students to get paper and pens ready; tell them they are to do the task quickly and quietly. Then instruct them to count the number of F's in the sentence you are about to show. Give them 30 seconds to look at the sentence and write down the number. Sentence sample: FINISHED FILES ARE THE RESULT OF SCIENTIFIC STUDY COMBINED WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF MANY YEARS. (answers will vary, as many people miss the F in "of.")

FIFTY STRATEGIES FOR TEACHING ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS by Jordan Herrell

This practical, hands-on book provides fifty carefully-chosen strategies to help ELL pupils understand content materials while perfecting their skill at speaking, reading, writing, and listening in English. Each strategy is accompanied by a definition, rationale, and step-by-step implementation instructions; and, all are specifically tied to the most current ELL standards. One strategy is "Story Reenactment." This strategy encourages students to act out stories after they have read them or have heard them read. Props help reinforce the words encountered in the story. Story reenactment provides a unique opportunity for the teacher to observe and evaluate the students' comprehension and use of unique vocabulary and sentence structures. Older students can create dramatic reenactments of historic scenes or create scenes demonstrating a variety of points of view surrounding a current issue.

OAACE Nominations

It is that time of year again when we offer our members an excellent opportunity to serve the OAACE organization, meet new people in education and make an impact on Ohio adult education and learning. Do you know an OACCE member who would enjoy the chance to serve on the OAACE Board? Why not ask them if they would like to be nominated for a board position? Would you be willing to serve on the board? If so please consider putting your own name up for nomination. Listed below are the elected board vacancies for the coming year and positions that need filled by appointment. If you have an interest in one of these positions, please contact Alan Toops OAACE President at: alantoops@cs.com. For a description of each position and a nomination form please visit our website at: <http://www.oaace.org/>. Click on "Nominations" on the left side column. Nominations are due by March 17, 2009.

To Be Nominated for Election:

- 2nd Vice President
- Treasurer
- NW Regional Director
- C/SE Regional Director
- Adult Career and Technical Director
- Community Agencies Director
- Corrections Education Director
- Higher Education Director
- Special Needs Director
- Workplace Education Director

Vacancies for Appointment:

- Advocacy Chair
- Communications Chair
- Election/Nominations Chair
- Scholarships/Awards/Grant Chair
- Membership Chair



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Visit us on
the web:

[www.sinclair.edu/
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Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location
Feb 6 or 13	ABLE Competitive Grant Bidders Videoconference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9-11:30 a.m. for Allen through Lake counties 1-3:30 p.m. for Lawrence through Wyandot counties 	Local county offices
Feb 21	New Teacher Orientation (NTO II)	Sinclair Community College
March 13	<i>The Write Future:</i> A Statewide Writing Training	OCLC Dublin, Ohio
April 24	Advanced Technology	Sinclair Community College

SWABLE's Ongoing Alternative PD

Online Training	Media Packages
REA 101: Reading Overview	How to Improve Your Questioning Techniques
WRT101: Writing Overview	Building Academic Background Knowledge (Vocabulary)
Writing for the GED (from KET)	Comprehending Content
Developing Writers: Writing for Different Audiences	Thoughtful Reading
	Reading in the Content Areas
	Focus on Spelling

We also have **Literacy Trunks** for check-out in our library. Trunks contain "ready-to-go" lessons and activities, including user's guide, resources, handouts and online sites.

For information on upcoming trainings, please contact SWABLE at 800-558-5374 or 937-512-5375. You can also visit www.ohioable.org to register for workshops across Ohio and to see what other Resource Centers are offering for Alternative PD.