



## Southwest ABLA Resource Center

# Exposure

### What am I interested in learning this year?

ABLE staff members are lifelong learners. We model that for our students. With the arrival of the updated FY2010 professional development policy materials, you will have the opportunity to answer that question. All ABLA staff members will complete a self assessment and use that information to fill out an Individual Professional Development Plan (IDPD). The next step involves conversations and/or meetings between individuals and directors to help build the Program's Professional Development Plan (PPDP). You have access to a catalog which lists offerings provided regionally and state-wide. The Resource Centers receive your plans and then we get to work making sure that you have access to training or materials to help you satisfy your learning urges. Even though reading and writing are our specialty areas, we can connect you with all kinds of information and opportunities. We hope to hear from you very soon!

### From Whole Group to Small Group— DOING PD DIFFERENTLY!

Instead of hosting the annual Southwest Professional Day in the fall, the Resource Center will be doing more local events. The topics for those have not yet been determined; we're waiting for the IPDPs and PPDPs. We're hoping that two or three programs will collaborate on topics and then the Resource Center will ensure that services are provided closer to those requesting programs. We will still be offering some events regionally; those are already on our calendar. In addition, there will be two statewide offerings focused on required trainings. We encourage you to take advantage of

### Goodbye, Denise

The Southwest region has a special place in its heart for our retiring ABLA state director. Denise Pottmeyer began her adult education work in the Springfield area and continued on to be the state consultant for the Southwest Region. We know her to be a passionate and professional advocate for our adult students and adult education. During her time as state director, she led Ohio to embrace many national initiatives and has the respect of her colleagues across the country. Most recently Denise has been the voice of ABLA as we moved from the Department of Education to the Ohio Board of Regents. We will miss her but she is always welcome to drop into an ABLA classroom.



Our best wishes go with her for some well earned relaxation.

### September 2009

#### Inside this issue:

<a href="#">Let's Celebrate</a>	2
<a href="#">ABLE Repository</a>	2
<a href="#">Tech Tips</a>	2
<a href="#">Certified Managers</a>	2
<a href="#">Library Resources</a>	3
<a href="#">Assessing Student Writing</a>	3
<a href="#">Staff Appreciation</a>	3
<a href="#">Calendar of Events/PD</a>	4

## Financial Education

Financial literacy is an important life skill for students of all ages and abilities.

Money Instructor is a valuable resource for teaching:

- \$ Money basics
- \$ Personal finance
- \$ Money management
- \$ Job and Career skills (includes computer skills and resume/ interviewing)
- \$ Business skills
- \$ Economic fundamentals
- \$ Everyday money-related life skills

Lesson plans and worksheets are included. Limited memberships are free.



## Tech Tips



The Ohio ABLÉ office and the Technology Task Force are gearing up for increasing the technology comfort level and usage by ABLÉ staff across the state. The Level 1 Technology Standards for ABLÉ staff have been released and training for programs will be coming in the next few months.

Watch for more information in your inbox!

There are a number of ways to start the technology discussion in your programs:

- Start an email distribution list or group to disseminate technology-based and other information. For help in creating a list, go to:
  - For Outlook: <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/help/HP052578011033.aspx>
  - For Gmail: <http://mail.google.com/support/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=30970>
  - For Yahoo: [http://help.yahoo.com/tutorials/cg/mail/cg\\_contbasics6.html](http://help.yahoo.com/tutorials/cg/mail/cg_contbasics6.html)
- Learn the vocabulary. Have the technology "Word of the Week." Helpful listings can be found at:
  - [www.4teachers.org/techalong/glossary/](http://www.4teachers.org/techalong/glossary/)
  - <http://whatis.techtarget.com/#>
  - [www.itglossary.net/](http://www.itglossary.net/)
- Looking for simple videos to explain technology to your staff and students? Check out Common Craft at [www.commoncraft.com](http://www.commoncraft.com). These 3-minute videos explain "in plain English" about a wide variety of topics. They can be watched for free on the website or via YouTube. They can also be purchased if interested.
- Explore an online training. A great place to start is [www.gcflernfree.org](http://www.gcflernfree.org). Offerings include computer basics, email, internet, Word, Excel and more!

*Watch for more Tech Tips in each issue of SW Exposure. If you have questions about this article or technology, please contact the Resource Center.*

## Let's Celebrate

### September 8 is International Literacy Day:

This year's theme is "The Power of Literacy" spotlighting the importance of literacy for participation, citizenship and social development. To learn more, go to:

[www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org) or  
[www.ncladvocacy.org/ild.html](http://www.ncladvocacy.org/ild.html).



### Self-Improvement Month

Adult Education is to many all about self-improvement. Celebrate your students' and your own efforts of self-improvement. This could be a chart of books read, miles walked, or healthier food choices, to name a few.

### National Courtesy Month

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." --Aesop

To check out other monthly events, visit:

- <http://www.holidayinsights.com/>
- <http://brownielocks.com/>



Looking for resources to support your ABLÉ program's Transition efforts? Check out the ABLÉ Transitions Repository at

[http://mercury.educ.kent.edu/database/uso/resources\\_all\\_bytopic.cfm](http://mercury.educ.kent.edu/database/uso/resources_all_bytopic.cfm).

This collection of books, curriculum, websites, instructional resources, publications and more has been reviewed by your ABLÉ peers and judged to be relevant and supportive to Transitions efforts. Each entry is annotated and includes Publisher and Audience information.

ABLE practitioners are encouraged to bookmark this site as well as to submit material suggestions for inclusion.

## Certified Managers

Congratulations are in order to Lynne Alexander of London, Candy Bettinger of Tolles, Kathy Petrek of Hamilton, and Kathy Stammen of Greenville. They have completed the National Leadership Excellence Academy coursework and received their Certified Manager in Program Improvement Certification. They were honored, along with nine other colleagues, at a ceremony on August 14 in Columbus. Denise Pottmeyer provided the welcome and opening statements and the certificates were awarded by Chancellor Eric Fingerhut. Please take time to ask about what was learned and how ABLÉ programs are benefitting.

## Spotlight on Library Resources

Start out the new program year with something from our library. As Ohio ABLE increases its focus on transitioning students to postsecondary education and the workplace, the resources listed below can give you and your students a heads-up on needed skills.

***Kiss My Math: Showing Pre-Algebra Who's Boss***, by Danica McKellar

In her *New York Times* bestselling books, actress and math genius Danica McKellar shatters the “math nerd” stereotype and gives students the tools to ace middle-school math in her unique style. Now, in her second book, *Kiss My Math*, McKellar empowers a new crop of students—seventh to ninth graders—to tackle the next level of mathematics: pre-algebra. While she directs her conversational tone to adolescent girls, there is no reason this book could not be used with males as well as students of any age.

Stepping up not only the math but the sass and style, McKellar helps math-phobic students chill out and finally “get” negative numbers, variables, absolute values, exponents, and more. As she did so effectively in *Math Doesn't Suck*, McKellar uses personality quizzes, reader polls, real-life testimonials, and stories from her own life—in addition to clear instruction, helpful tips, and practice problems—revealing why pre-algebra is easier, more relevant, and more glamorous than young people think. McKellar is clearly reaching her audience: parents, teachers, and especially girls are asking for more.

***Soft Skills in the Workplace (DVD)***  
JIST Publishing

Many people know that hard work is essential for getting ahead in the workplace. Yet many learn too late--after they've lost a job or have been overlooked for a raise or promotion -- that soft skills also play an important role in a person's career success. *Soft Skills in the Workplace* reveals how certain skills, such as getting to work on time, teamwork, and enthusiasm, build the foundation for success on the job. JIST's newest DVD, *Soft Skills in the Workplace*, focuses on the role these skills play in the workplace and offers insight into which skills viewers will need to develop to effectively handle a variety of work situations.

This one-of-a-kind DVD is divided into several sections, or scenarios, of specific skills in action. These scenarios demonstrate how certain soft skills influence one's performance on the job. At the end of each scenario, viewers are given key points about what they've just seen. Instructors showing this DVD in a group setting are able to break at the end of each section to discuss with viewers what they may or may not have done differently throughout the scenario.

## What? Write Worse: Assessing Student Writing

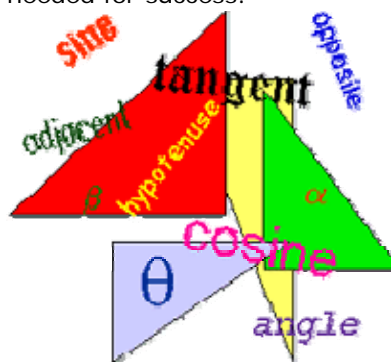
Have you ever thought of asking students to do a writing assignment that asks them to do less than their best? Sounds crazy, but research indicates that a “Make-It-Better / Make-It-Worse” (MIB/MIW) protocol may be one way for teachers and students to gain a more complete picture of what students do indeed know about writing (Bracewell, 1983; Andrews-Beck, 1989; McCracken, Bruce, Manna, Sewell & deBenedictus, 1981). In a nutshell, the strategy involves asking students to take a piece of their writing and deliberately rewrite it in ways they consider makes it “worse.” Afterwards, they make a list of all the things they did to make it worse.

Why do this? As writing teachers know, asking students to revise their writing often results in minor editing changes, such as adding or deleting punctuation. By working from the other end of the continuum, teachers gain insight into students' ability to truly think about and manipulate their writing. Gaps and competencies in their skills may be revealed – information that is difficult to gain from a standardized test. For students, MIB/MIW provides a procedure to facilitate the execution of the knowledge and competencies they have. Simply stated, by first writing inadequately, students can be awakened to what they are able to do in order to write well.

*Adapted from Ohio Journal of English Language Arts article by Deb C. deBenedictus, Kent State University. Winter/Spring 2009. Vol. 49, no. 1. If you would like to read the complete article, contact the Resource Center.*

## Register today for Math Kick-Off

ABLE teachers, do you need a brush up on your trigonometry skills? Then this interactive workshop with Nancy Markus is for you! Come and explore the concepts and content needed for success!



Friday, October 9 at Sinclair Community College  
Register today at [www.ohioable.org](http://www.ohioable.org)

## Southwest ABLE Resource Center

c/o Sinclair Community College  
 444 West Third Street  
 Room 6130  
 Dayton, Ohio 45402  
 Phone: 937-512-5375 or  
 800-558-5374 (Ohio only)  
 Fax: 937-512-3434



Visit us on the web:

[www.sinclair.edu/facilities/swable](http://www.sinclair.edu/facilities/swable)

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Please contact SWRC with training questions. You can also visit [www.ohioable.org](http://www.ohioable.org) to register for workshops across Ohio and to see what other Resource Centers are offering for Alternative PD.

## Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location
Oct 2	<b>Statewide PD Day</b>	OCLC Columbus, Ohio
Oct 9	<b>Math Kick-Off Topic: <i>Trigonometry</i></b>	Sinclair Community College
Oct 16	<b>New Staff Orientation (NSO) Part II</b>	Sinclair Community College
Nov 13	<b>Comprehension Strategies</b>	TBD
Oct 30-31	<b>Ohio TESOL Conference <a href="http://www.ohiotesol.org">www.ohiotesol.org</a></b>	Hilton Easton Columbus, Ohio

## SWABLE's Ongoing Alternative PD

Online Training	Media Packages
Reading Overview	How to Improve Your Questioning Techniques
Writing Overview	Building Academic Background Knowledge (Vocabulary)
Writing for the GED (from KET)	Comprehending Content
Developing Writers: Writing for Different Audiences	Thoughtful Reading
Creating a Community of Writers	Reading in the Content Areas
Making Writing Meaningful	Focus on Spelling
Responding to Writing: Peer to Peer	
Responding to Writing: Teacher to Student	
Teaching Multi-genre Writing	
Teaching Persuasive Writing	
Teaching Poetry	
Teaching the Power of Revision	



SWRC offers **Literacy Trunks** available for check-out in our lending library.

Trunks contain "ready-to-go" lessons and activities, including user's guide, resources, handouts and online sites.

**Titles include:** Flip Books, Map Skills, Graphic Organizers, Math and Earthquakes.