



National Coalition For Literacy

NCL Update **January 2008**

Dollar General Presentation Series in South Carolina and at COABE

The National Coalition for Literacy and the Dollar General Literacy Foundation are sponsoring a series of presentations this year on linking education to employment through business and government partnering for adult education advocacy.

The first event is February 20, 2008 in Spartanburg, SC and the second is a pre-conference at COABE on April 28, 2008 in St. Louis, Missouri. These events will bring together advocacy leaders, adult education providers, and representatives from business for a conversation about building capacity for advocacy, finding the synergy between local, state and national efforts, and nurturing community-business partnerships.

For more information on either of these events, contact Jennifer Maloney, NCL Director, at Jennifer.maloney@ncldc.net or 301-602-6358.

New Health Literacy Information Added to NCL Website

Health literacy is defined as "The degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions." (*Healthy People 2010*, US Department of Health and Human Services)



At the December Health Literacy Policy Forum, health care professionals and adult educators engaged in a dialogue about the impact on health for individuals with low literacy and strategies to integrate health literacy and adult literacy efforts. All the presentations and notes from the Forum are available on NCL's new Health Literacy webpage (<http://www.ncldc.net/health.html>.) Visit the website today to expand your knowledge of health literacy.

Nominations Sought for NCL Board Members

Nominations are being sought for three vacancies on the Coalition's Board of Directors. The new directors will serve three-year terms beginning in September 2008. The

Nominating Committee will review nominations and select a slate of candidates for election by the Coalition's voting membership at the NCL Annual Meeting Sept. 11 in Washington, D.C. Nominations are due April 1. Please indicate your interest and qualifications in a letter of up to one page to Patricia Bennett, NCL Nominating Committee Chair, pbennett@msde.state.md.us.

National Institute for Literacy *LINCS* Sponsors Three Health Literacy Summits

The *LINCS* Regional Resource Centers funded by the National Institute for Literacy are sponsoring three Health Literacy Summits in February and March. These summits continue the emphasis and discussions on health literacy that the National Coalition for Literacy focused on in its December Health Literacy Policy Forum. The summits are open to any interested adult literacy or health care providers.

The *LINCS* Health Literacy Summits will address the role adult literacy providers partnering with health care providers can play in eliminating literacy barriers in accessing quality health care. Each summit is convening adult literacy and health professionals to share information about the research on health literacy and resources for implementing health literacy programming.

Region 1 will meet March 25-26, 2008 in Indianapolis, IN. Contact Kaye Beall (kaye_beall@worlded.org) for registration information. Region 2 will meet March 5, 2008 in Atlanta, GA. Contact Chas Durant (cdurant1@utk.edu) or register online (<http://utk-cls.ra.utk.edu/register/lincshealth.asp>). Region 3 will meet February 28, 2008 in San Francisco, CA. Contact Paul Heavenridge (pheaven@literacyworks.org) for registration information.

New Publication from the Council for Advancement of Adult Literacy

The Council for Advancement of Adult Literacy recently released *Pathways & Outcomes: Tracking ESL Student Performance*. This longitudinal study of adult ESL services at the City College of San Francisco (CCSF) completes a trilogy by CAAL about adult ESL service in community colleges.

The study will help those who plan and design community college ESL programs, those who offer adult ESL services in other institutional settings, policymakers and funding organizations. The authors note that CCSF's ESL program has features in common with many other community college programs, and is both "a typical case and a best case of adult education ESL in the United States."

The study is based on College records tracking all students over a seven-year period that first enrolled in CCSF's credit and non-credit ESL programs in 1998-2000. More than 38,000 non-credit and some 6,600 credit ESL students make up the "cohort" that was examined. The primary focus is on persistence, learning gains, and transition to credit studies, and on the success in credit courses of non-credit ESL students. Major attention is given to the various features of CCSF's ESL program that affected student outcomes and pathways -- such as terms and hours of attendance, and program design and policy.

Steven Spurling (Institutional Research Officer, Office of Research, Planning, and Grants, CCSF) conducted the data analysis and Sharon Seymour (former Chair, ESL Department, CCSF) contributed to the study's design and interpretation of its findings. Forrest Chisman was responsible for overall project direction.

The report is available at no charge from the CAAL website (www.caalusa.org) as item ESL5 of the ESL section of the publications page. Bound copies of the publication can be purchased directly from CAAL (contact bheitner@caalusa.org.) The first two reports in this series, "*Passing the Torch: Strategies for Innovation in Community College ESL*" and "*Torchlights in ESL: Five Community College Profiles*" are also available from the CAAL website.

Help Hunger in the World While Increasing Your Vocabulary

"What if just knowing what a word meant could help feed hungry people around the world? Well, at FreeRice it does---the totals have grown exponentially." (The Washington Post)

Go to the website (www.freerice.com) and play the game. For each word you get right, FreeRice donates 20 grains of rice through the United Nations to help end world hunger.

Learning new vocabulary also has tremendous benefits. It can help you:

- Formulate your ideas better
- Write better papers, emails and business letters
- Speak more precisely and persuasively
- Comprehend more of what you read
- Read faster because you comprehend better
- Get better grades in high school, college and graduate school
- Perform better at job interviews and conferences
- Be more effective and successful at your job.

(Thanks to NCL Board Member, Nickie Askov, for sharing this website. Above information was taken from the FreeRice website.)

Upcoming Adult Literacy Events

- Feb. 9-12:** Reading Recovery Council of North America, 2008 National Reading Recovery & K-6 Classroom Literacy Conference, Columbus, Ohio
- Feb.28:** National Institute for Literacy *LINCS* Region 3 Health Literacy Summit, San Francisco, CA (Contact Paul Heavenridge, pheaven@literacyworks.org for registration.)
- Mar. 5:** National Institute for Literacy *LINCS* Region 2 Health Literacy Summit, Atlanta, GA (Contact Chas Durant, cdurant1@utk.edu for registration.)
- Mar.25-26:** National Institute for Literacy *LINCS* Region 1 Health Literacy Summit, Indianapolis, IN (Contact Kaye Beall, kaye_beall@worlded.org for registration.)
- Mar. 30-Apr. 1:** National Conference on Family Literacy, Louisville KY
- Apr. 2-5:** TESOL's 42nd Annual Convention and Exhibit, New York
- Apr. 28-May 1:** COABE Conference, St. Louis
- May 6:** International Reading Association Annual Conference, Atlanta GA
- Sept. 24-27:** National Center for Developmental Education 4th International Conference on Research in Access and Developmental Education, San Juan, Puerto Rico. See www.ncde.appstate.edu for a call for proposals.

If you would like to list your event or meeting here, please send information to Jennifer Maloney at Jennifer.maloney@ncldc.net by the 5th of the month.

Upcoming Coalition Events

- Feb. 7:** Membership Meeting
- Feb. 20:** Dollar General Presentation Series, Spartanburg, SC
- Apr. 28:** Dollar General Preconference, COABE Conference, St. Louis
- May 8:** Membership Meeting
- Sept. 10:** Literacy Leadership Awards **(Change of Date)**
- Sept. 11:** Membership Meeting **(Change of Date)**
- Dec. 3:** Public Policy Forum
- Dec. 4:** Membership Meeting

Public Policy Corner:

I am sure we were all disappointed when we saw the final agreement on 2008 appropriations for adult education and Even Start. Little could we imagine that adult education would be cut by close to \$10 million and Even Start by close to \$16 million?

After witnessing an increase of \$25 million for adult education in the House, it appeared almost certain there would be some increase in funds. But somewhere during House consideration and the final agreement we suffered a loss. As a result, funding for Even Start is set at \$66,454,000 for 2008 and for adult education, at \$554,122,000.

Funding was also cut for National Programs, which were reduced from \$9,005,000 for 2007 to \$6,878,000 for 2008; and the National Institute for Literacy saw a minor cut from \$6,583,000 to \$6,468,000.

I do want to point out that our programs were not singled out since we were not the only ones to suffer a loss. However, it does mean we will have to increase our efforts next year to ensure growth in program dollars. One key element will be developing advocates in the House and Senate who will make our programs their number one priority, encourage funding increases and strongly oppose any cuts. This will require increased effort on our part and those who support adult education.

Although it appears that the Workforce Investment Act and No Child Left Behind will not be reauthorized this year, 2008 will be a busy year as we endeavor to obtain additional funds for adult education and Even Start.

On another front, we have followed up on decisions made during the last Coalition meeting to support Senator Coleman's health literacy bill and Congressman Danny Davis's amendment to the Higher Education Act to provide grants for improved workplace and community transition training for incarcerated adults.

Lynn Selmsler

Visit the National Coalition for Literacy's website for more information.

<http://www.ncldc.net>