



Positive Happenings Forest Lake Area Schools Community Education Adult Basic Education Program Year May 1, 2011 – April 30, 2012



A Degree and a Smile

The first time Deb Cunningham contacted the district's Adult Basic Education (ABE) program marked a very stressful time in her life. It was early 2010 and the longtime Forest Lake area resident had just found out that her job of four years was being outsourced. She had a lead on a new position, but before being offered the job, Deb needed to pass an employment exam. For Deb, that meant needing to brush-up on some skills she hadn't used in quite some time. After enrolling in the program, Deb was able to improve her basic skills, pass the exam and accept the new position.

The second time Deb contacted ABE was an uncertain time in her life. After recently taking on a new job and at the age of 51, Deb decided to tackle college! She knew passing the college entrance exam would be challenging, so she decided to re-enroll in the program for a summer filled with algebra and geometry. Deb was a very serious student and spent many long days graphing inequalities and solving quadratic equations. Her hard work paid off and Deb started college that fall.

Recently, Deb contacted ABE for the third time. This time marked an exciting time in her life! While inquiring about referring a college classmate for brush-up help, she also updated the staff on her progress.

"...I thought I would send you an email and let everyone there know that I will be graduating from college in the spring with my A.A.S. degree. I have learned so much and can't wait to get a job and start applying all these skills. I want to thank all of you for helping me to get started. My GPA is 3.86, not bad huh? Could you let Betty know that I almost got an A in algebra, just short by 5 points. It's been so long since I've seen you and every one but I hope you still offer this program for adults....."

- Deb is graduating from Century College on May 21st with a degree in Medical Office Administration. For the first time in a long time, Deb is smiling!

Community Education - Adult Basic Education

School is a Global Adventure!

English as a Second Language student hours accounted for 33% of the yearly contact hours. The following countries were represented in our classroom:

Bosnia – 1	Liberia – 1
Brazil – 3	Mexico - 17
Bulgaria - 1	Nigeria - 3
Cambodia – 3	Panama – 1
China – 7	Philippines – 2
Columbia - 1	Poland – 1
Dominican Republic - 1	Portugal – 1
Ecuador – 1	Romania – 2
El Salvador – 4	Russia – 2
Eritrea – 1	Thailand - 1
Guatemala – 1	Ukraine – 2
Honduras – 2	Vietnam - 3
Laos – 4	



How we do what we do...

The Adult Learning Center received over 3,000 instructional hours from its dedicated staff of 25 volunteers!

Site volunteers Bob Sorman, Betty Faragher and Doris Schmaltz all received service awards from the Minnesota Literacy Council. Sorman was recognized with 4,000 hours, Faragher with 2,000 hours and Schmaltz with 1,000 hours. All of this time was given directly to learners at the Forest Lake site.

Current Highlights...

ABE staff members continue to promote online learning options to students as a way to reach out to non-traditional students or those who can't attend class regularly.

Teaching staff has been invited to work with the Department of Education on creating a framework for ABE classroom instruction. This project, known as ACES, has been a two-year effort and will be introduced to other ABE instructors throughout the state this summer.

Staff and students are working hard to “phase-out” the current version of the GED exam. In January of 2014 a new on-line version of the test will be introduced as required by the GED Testing Service.

ABE is finishing a very busy year! The site is up 21% in contact hours for the current school year.

If you have questions, would like to refer a student, or are interested in volunteering, please contact Kara Rotramel at 651-982-8302 or krotramel@flaschools.org

Browse all Community Education events and opportunities at the Community Education website:
www.communityed4u.org