

**FRIDAY FACTS**  
**FROM JEFF GOVE, STATE ABLE DIRECTOR**  
**ADULT BASIC AND LITERACY EDUCATION**  
**August 6, 2010**

**Press Release from OBR: ABLE Makes Gains**

On July 29, 2010, Chancellor Eric D. Fingerhut released the 2009 Adult Basic and Literacy Education (ABLE) Performance Report for Ohio, which shows Ohio ABLE programs helped 11,611 unemployed adults find paid employment and achieved an 88 percent success rate for students working toward a GED or secondary school diploma. This contribution to the state's economy showcases ABLE's expanding role in raising the educational attainment of Ohio, the primary goal of the state's 10-year *Strategic Plan for Higher Education*.

The report shows Ohio's ABLE program as one of the largest in the country, ranking 11<sup>th</sup> with 50,537 students enrolled last year through 118 different local ABLE programs. In addition, Ohio continues to make steady progress in supporting students' completion of their educational goals and meeting or surpassing nearly all of their performance goals for the year.

Top priorities for continued improvement include an effort to strengthen the educational pipeline to post-secondary certificates and even college credentials for learners entering the University System of Ohio through an ABLE provider. This will include a series of local pilots supported by grants and initiatives from the Ohio Board of Regents, testing increased efforts at integrated curriculum, career advising and learning assessment, and a consistent effort to lower costs and improve instruction – a key strategy of the University System of Ohio. For the full report, visit <http://www.uso.edu/downloads/reports/index.php>.

**FY 2011 Support Staff Orientation Series**

Beginning FY 2011, the Resource Center Network (RCN) is offering a series of specialty trainings for ABLE program support staff. This year will be a pilot for the training series in anticipation of future required support staff training.

According to the FY 2011 PD policy, all support staff are required to complete the New Staff Orientation (NSO) online course. In addition, support staff may participate in one or

more sessions of a four-part series based upon the Support Staff Practitioner Standards for professional development (PD).

The Regional Resource Centers will provide introductory sessions on this series beginning in November 2010. These sessions will explain the elements of the series and how to use certain technology tools required for support staff professional development, such as web conferencing software, a wiki and Moodle (an online training and discussion tool) for NSO. Several webinars will then be offered. The topics are: Communications (January 2011); Instructional Support (February, 2011); and Data Management (March 2011). Each of these webinars will also be offered at the spring OACE event. It is recommended that support staff participates in one of the Web Conferencing trainings before the webinars.

Participants will also be asked to participate in a discussion forum on the RCN Moodle to reflect on the trainings. Postings to the forum may be done after each session or at the end of the year. The support staff section of the Moodle is designed to become a permanent location for support staff to network and find peer support.

Support staff need to register for the training series on the Calendar of Events at [www.ohioable.org](http://www.ohioable.org). Participants will be eligible for a stipend based upon the number of sessions completed. A \$30 stipend will be awarded after completion of the introductory session, a webinar and posting to the discussion forum. A \$60 stipend will be awarded after completion of all activities in the series.

## **STAR Reading Program Offered to Ohio ABE Programs**

The Ohio ABE State Office supports the STAR initiative. STAR, *Student Achievement in Reading*, is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) and began as a national initiative in FY 2004. Through professional development and on-going technical assistance, participating ABE teachers in Ohio have learned to more effectively incorporate evidence-based reading approaches into their instruction. STAR focuses on ABE students whose reading achievement are at the intermediate range—Educational Functioning Levels of 3 and 4.

For FY 2011, the Southwest Resource Center is pleased to offer an opportunity for four additional ABE programs in Ohio (ideally, one per region) to become involved with STAR training. The selected programs will participate in six days of STAR training, conference calls, web conferences, and program/teacher classroom visits. In addition, the programs will receive STAR resources. To participate in STAR, programs need to create teams consisting of one administrator and up to three teachers. **All participants must attend all training days.**

Programs that want to embed evidence-based reading approaches into their instruction should consider applying for this opportunity. Additionally, there must be a commitment to make the necessary programmatic changes.

To learn more about STAR, see the attached STAR Guide which outlines the requirements and application process. For questions or further information, please contact Lynn Reese at the Southwest Resource Center (800-558-5374 or [lynn.reese@sinclair.edu](mailto:lynn.reese@sinclair.edu)). The application deadline for consideration as a new STAR program in FY 2011 is August 27<sup>th</sup>. Programs will be notified on September 3<sup>rd</sup> and the first training will be held September 29-30 at OCLC in Columbus.

### **Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc. (EMSI)**

ABLE programs in Ohio have an opportunity to use a new tool to assist students in transitioning to postsecondary education/training and to employment. The Career Pathways section of EMSI has been purchased for use in Ohio by ABLE programs and their partners. This is a web-based module dedicated to skills and career exploration. We have had five technical support webinars conducted by the company over the last three weeks. Hopefully, everyone has had an opportunity to participate, if not let Cindy know and perhaps additional webinars can be arranged later in the year.

A half-day face-to-face training has been set for August 18<sup>th</sup> at the State Library in Columbus, Ohio. There will be two sessions on that day. The first session will be from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM. The second session will be from 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM. Because space is limited, we are asking that you only send two representatives from your list of users. The representatives could be staff from your program or someone from one of your partner programs. The registration information will be sent to you on Monday August 9<sup>th</sup>. Please register for this meeting. If you are not going to use your allotted spaces for the meeting, we will want to make sure that others get a chance to attend.

### **Meeting Held to Launch Community College-ABLE Partnership Pilot**

On July 30, a meeting was held in Columbus to kick off the Ohio Board of Regents pilot project to study the establishment and implementation of ABLE –community college partnerships for serving students who are not yet college ready. All of Ohio's 23 community colleges and 37 ABLE programs were represented at the meeting. Each college is partnering with one or more ABLE program to formally refer students to ABLE for instruction.

The college and ABLE programs forming each partnership will develop an agreement focusing on identifying students who should be referred to ABLE and the specifics of how instruction will be provided. These students will be tracked to determine, of those who successfully return to community college, who are placed in a higher level of developmental education or who are placed in credit-bearing classes.

It is hoped that as a result of the study there will be:

- An identification of best practices for developing and sustaining ABLE-community college agreements for serving students who are not college ready,
- A recommendation for a uniform statewide developmental education placement policy,
- A determination of state policies and decisions that could support ABLE-community college agreements, and
- An identification of the instructional approaches and support services that are most successful in helping students transition from ABLE back to community colleges.

Information from the project will be shared with university branch campuses and their ABLE partners and it is anticipated that a similar meeting will be held for them within the next few months.

## **Reminders**

1. *ABLE Calendar* – You can always find the ABLE Calendar on the ABLE web site at: [ABLE Calendar](#)
2. *First Quarter Reports* – The first quarter reports are due by the end of September.



## **Quote of the Week**

“Mystery creates wonder and wonder is the basis of man's desire to understand.”

Neil Armstrong – USA Astronaut –  
First man to step on the moon  
Born August 5, 1930  
In Wapakoneta, Ohio

