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University System of Ohio

FRIDAY FACTS

**FROM JEFF GOVE, ACTING STATE ABLE DIRECTOR
ADULT BASIC AND LITERACY EDUCATION**

January 8, 2010

Message from the ABLE Staff

The State ABLE Program staff wish you a happy and healthy New Year. We are excited about the many opportunities that will be available to ABLE in 2010 as we continue to integrate our services within the University System of Ohio. The Resource Center Network looks forward to supporting your professional development needs throughout the year. The centers have a number of offerings that are interactive, engaging, and designed to meet the diverse needs of our administrators, teachers, and support staff.



The New Year's resolution of the State ABLE Program Staff is to continuously improve the ABLE system and to continue to provide high quality services throughout Ohio to adults as they enhance their roles as parents, community members, and employees.

You and your staff play an important role in our success. Thank you for your successes of the past and for your continued efforts in the future growth of ABLE.

Stackable Certificates

Stackable Certificates are a formal way to document student progress. ABLE programs are not required to participate in the Stackable Certificate Initiative, but they are encouraged to do so. Remember Stackable Certificates provide the academic foundation for the work of the Ohio Skills Bank Initiative and facilitate systems integration, particularly for the introduction of Adult Basic and Literacy Education (ABLE) into the University System of Ohio. To earn a certificate, students must achieve **all** competencies (ABLE benchmarks) required for the certificate. Brief reminders of the

processes to award the Basic Certificate, Advanced Certificate, and Oral communication Certificates are outlined below.

To award a **Basic or Advanced Skills Certificate**, programs must:

- (1) administer an NRS pre and posttest in reading, language/writing, and math
- (2) administer a supplemental posttest, or acquire test data that is no more than 90 days old, to verify skill mastery in reading, language/writing, and math
- (3) document, in the student portfolio, that the student has mastered all of the benchmarks in reading, writing, and math at level 4 for a Basic Skills Certificate and all of the benchmarks at levels 6 for an Advanced Skills Certificate
- (4) report the information on the Certificate Tracking Sheet and in ABLELink

To award an **Oral Communications Certificate** for ESOL students, programs must:

- (1) administer a pre and posttest with BEST Plus to verify completion of ESOL level 6
[Note: All ESOL level 6 listening and speaking benchmarks are embedded in the competencies on this certificate and can be measured using the BEST Plus test.]
- (2) report the information on the Certificate Tracking Sheet and in ABLELink

The *Guidance for Issuing the Stackable Certificates* and FAQs are posted on the ABLE website at www.uso.edu/able.

ACT recently completed an alignment of the WorkKeys tests to the ABLE benchmarks. CTB/McGraw-Hill is doing the same for the TABE tests. *The Guidance for Issuing Stackable Certificates* will be updated to include these alignments. Test alignments to the ABLE

benchmarks will help teachers identify which competencies have been mastered using the test and which competencies need to be measured by alternative assessment. ABLE program will be notified when the updated *Guidance* is available. If you have any questions, contact the State ABLE Program Staff.

Stackable Certificates

- [Stackable Certificates FAQ](#)
- [Getting Started: Stackable Certificates Supplemental Information](#)
- [Stackable Certificates Memo and Guidance](#)

Learning to Achieve

Central/Southeast ABLE Resource Center is excited to invite participants to *Learning to Achieve*, a training program sponsored by the National Institute for Literacy (NIFL). *Learning to Achieve*, based on the most recent rigorous research on LD, addresses new topics such as English language learners and LD, provides materials, and offers numerous opportunities to practice new techniques. The training is designed as a “train the trainer” model and will be offered from Monday, May 17 through Friday, May 21, 2010 in Columbus, Ohio.



There are currently **nine additional spaces** available and **all costs are covered** by NIFL. These costs include hotel, per diem, and other travel expenses. Each participant should plan to spend the week in Columbus. There is homework every night, so teaching evening classes or participating in other activities is not recommended.

Each attendee must agree to present between four and five modules of *Learning to Achieve* to a **minimum of 20 other individuals** within six months following the completion of the institute. This may be done in several ways

such as at staff meetings, all day workshops, and so on. For more information, please contact Mary Barbara Totten-Hanna at totten@ohio.edu or 740.593.9736. For specific training details, visit www.nifl.gov/programs/learningtoachieve/training.html.

To register, click here: <http://tinyurl.com/ybtd4jd>

Note: Previously, C/SE ABLE offered an additional \$400 in incentive money to the first ten programs to register for the training. These ten spaces were quickly filled; a waiting list is available for programs interested in the incentive money program.

Important dates:

January

- Technology Training Plan due TODAY January 8, 2010
- Final FY 2009 APR due January 15, 2010

Quote of the Week

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

Eleanor Roosevelt

