**FY 2011 Fall ABLE Administrators’ Meeting**

The FY 2011 Fall ABLE Administrators’ Meeting is being held on October 18th and 19th at:

Columbus Marriott Northwest
5605 Blazer Parkway
Dublin OH 43017
Phone (614) 791-1000

The registration for the event will be posted on the Resource Center Calendar, [http://mercury.educ.kent.edu/database/rcn/calendar_results.cfm](http://mercury.educ.kent.edu/database/rcn/calendar_results.cfm), soon. Please watch for the notice as to when the registration is opened.

We have arranged for a special rate of $129.00 for the guests of the ABLE Fall Administrators’ Meeting. Please reserve your room by **September 30, 2010**, to ensure you receive the special group rate. [www.ColumbusMarriottNorthwest.com](http://www.ColumbusMarriottNorthwest.com)

As in the past, we would like to honor retirees at the Fall ABLE Administrators’ Meeting. If you are retiring or you know someone who has retired, please let us know. We need the name of the individual, the program he/she retired from, and any “gems” about him/her. Also, please include the contact information for the individual so we can extend an invitation to them for the luncheon. Forward this information to Sharon Brannon at the State ABLE Program by October 8th. The information can be e-mailed to sbrannon@regents.state.oh.us or faxed to 614-466-5886.

**Shifting Gears Update: Assessment and Advising Pilot**

The Ohio Board of Regents (OBR) is committed to strengthening the partnerships between ABLE, AWE, and community college/branch campuses within the University System of Ohio (USO). As part of the Joyce/Gates Foundations’ Shifting Gears initiative,
the OBR staff will be working with key collaborations of USO partner organizations to better understand how these organizations work together to support students, especially in terms of their approaches to assessment and advising.

Five regional collaborations have been targeted from across Ohio, based upon their history of collaboration, synergies with existing initiatives, and geographic spread. They are: Lima, Steubenville, Dayton, Lorain and Cincinnati. Initially, they are being asked to participate in discussions to map their collaborations’ current processes for assessment and advising, to identify advantages and gaps in facilitating cross-system transitions for students, and to inform the Shifting Gears Assessment and Advising Framework.

Our objective is to build a comprehensive understanding of how ABLE, AWE and higher education entities work together to support students through assessment and advising, such as, how these organizations function as a cohesive system. The OBR staff will be looking at several areas including:

- how students enter the institutions
- how they are assessed and advised
- the thresholds for entry and referrals amongst the collaborative partners
- what tools are used

The collaborations will work with us, receive support to further refine their processes where they see opportunity for improvements, and help us clearly define key systemic approaches to assessment and advising. Our goal is that these conversations will be a starting point toward defining and implementing strategies that can be applied to University System of Ohio entities across the state.

We will keep the field updated on the progress of this research. Please contact your regional consultant for more information.

**ODE GED Official Practice Center Meetings**

The Ohio Department of Education’s State GED Office is facilitating Conference Calls on:

- Monday, November 29th, 12:30pm-2:00pm
- Tuesday, November 30th, 12:30pm-2:00pm
- Monday, December 6th, 9:00am-10:30am
- Wednesday, December 8th, 9:00am-10:30am

The director and/or coordinator from the main practice center is/are expected to be part of one of these four sessions that are being repeated for easier access. Staff members from addendum sites are welcome to participate but not required to do so.
For ABLE staff members that are part of an ABLE consortium, ODE only expects the director and/or coordinator of the ABLE program who is the fiscal agent for the consortium that is also the main practice center to attend. Other ABLE staff may join.

The intent of the calls is to share pertinent information about the ODE GED Official Practice Center MOU; GED Accommodations; GED Testing Fundamentals; Student Access to SAFE accounts; and, life beyond the GED. Participation in the calls is one of the requirements to be recognized by ODE as a GED Official Practice Center.

ODE will send more information about these calls in the near future. Questions about the Conference Calls should be directed to Michael Reiser at the ODE State GED Office. Michael can be contacted at Michael.reiser@ode.state.oh.us or 614-466-1577.

**Improving Teacher Quality RFP**

The Ohio Board of Regents’ Division of Academic Affairs/Office of Academic Quality and Assurance has issued an RFP to public and private colleges and universities. The proposals are to be focused on improving the teaching of mathematics and science at the pre-college level by linking college/university faculty with elementary, middle, high school teachers, and adult educators.

Ohio public and private colleges are invited to submit proposals to OBR by October 27th. Three principal partners are required: the college/university division that prepares teachers and principals; the arts and science division/school/college within the institution of higher education; and a high-need Local Education Agency (LEA). An eligible partnership may also include other entities, including ABLE programs. This grant may have relevance for ABLE programs working with higher level students in Math and Science in preparation for the GED as well as college-readiness.

Approximately $3 million in federal funds will be available to support this work. More info can be found at [www.regents.ohio.gov/academic_programs/itqp/](http://www.regents.ohio.gov/academic_programs/itqp/) and/or contacting Dr. Russell Utgard at rutgard@regents.state.oh.us or Patty Klein at pklein@regents.state.oh.us or 614-466-1162.
Announcing the Ohio ABE Disabilities Web Portal

In recognition of Adult Education and Family Literacy week, the Central/Southeast ABLE Resource Center at the Stevens Literacy Center in Ohio University is excited to unveil the Ohio ABE Disabilities Web Portal.  www.Oh.abedisabilities.org

This national network is a gateway to current information and resources related to serving adult students with disabilities. Look for information, links, professional development, news and other resources specific to the topic. Please explore the new website and provide feedback to the Central/Southeast ABLE Resource Center on this new resource specifically for ABE disability related information.

Make sure to visit the ABE Manual while at the website. It contains a wealth of information related to serving adults with disabilities.

The Ohio ABLE disabilities web portal was developed through the work of the Central/Southeast ABLE Resource Center, the Ohio ABLE Special Needs Steering Committee and in collaboration with Minnesota PANDA  http://www.mnabedisabilities.org/

AccessText Network (ATN)

As part of the interagency collaboration between the Ohio Board of Regents and the Rehabilitation Services Commission, grant funds have been allocated to give every campus a membership to the AccessText Network (ATN). The ATN (www.accesstext.org) is an initiative of the Association of American Publishers that provides a web-based portal for post-secondary institutions to request electronic files and permissions from publishers to create accessible versions of textbooks for students with print-related disabilities. ATN represents eight college publishers, including Pearson, Cengage, McGraw-Hill, and Wiley, with more to be added in the future.

As of October 1, the Ohio ABLE system will be included in this agreement. If an ABLE student needs a textbook in an alternate format, you can make the request through Sharon Reynolds at the Central/Southeast ABLE Resource Center. You will need to verify that the student has a documented disability and is eligible for this accommodation.

More information will follow in the next few weeks.
**ABLE Professional Development System Update**

As the Ohio ABLE Professional Development System evolves, we will provide updates to keep you informed and to assist you in being part of the change process. Proposed changes to the PD system will be a topic for discussion at the Fall Administrators’ meeting.

One of the intended changes in the PD system is that stipends as they currently exist will no longer be offered in FY 2012. Funding to support professional development will continue to be available through financial support to ABLE programs.

The professional growth of all ABLE staff is very important. Attending conferences, trainings and other alternative PD should continue to be strongly encouraged and supported financially and otherwise through the local ABLE program. Since stipend funding is being proposed to no longer be available through the Resource Center Network ABLE programs will be expected to budget additional funds to more fully support the professional development of the staff. Local allocations may need to increase to help address this proposed change, but professional development is still considered part of a local ABLE program’s 15% administration cap.

**Joe McGowan Honored as “Literacy Hero of the Year”**

On August 20, at the Stevens Literacy Center Symposium, Joe McGowan, Director of The WorkStation in The Plains, Ohio, was presented the Stevens Literacy Center “Literacy Hero of the Year” award for his efforts to improve literacy in southeast Ohio.

Joe McGowan began his adult literacy odyssey in Chugach, Alaska, working in Native American villages to help 13 local villagers earn their GED. Since 1994, Joe has been with Jobs and Family Services and the Adult Basic Literacy Education (ABLE) program in Athens County. In 1999, Joe was named the Outstanding Instructor from the Ohio Association for Adult and Continuing Education (OAACE) for the Southeast Region. In the past 16 years, he has helped to more than 1,200 adults in Athens County to earn their GEDs.

Please take time to join us in congratulating Joe on being a Literacy Hero.
Khan Academy has Added Developmental Math Section

As you may recall from a previous issue of Friday Facts (March 5, 2010), Khan Academy is a wonderful site to use in your classes or to refer students to for extra help in math. The Khan Academy site hosts a slew of math video lessons simply and clearly taught by Salman Khan. The YouTube videos range from those addressing basic arithmetic to higher level math. http://www.khanacademy.org/

The site has recently added a developmental math section that contains instruction on math fundamentals that Khan produced for the Monterey Institute. Last year, the Monterey Institute received a $5 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation “to design new developmental math content which will help students overcome current obstacles to success.”

ABLE programs, particularly those who are engaged in partnerships with community colleges as a part of the ABLE-Community College Partnership Pilot, may be particularly interested in exploring ways to utilize this and other free resources to reinforce and accelerate students’ math learning.

Reminders

General Comment – Please make sure you include the program name on any documents that you submit to us. Also, check to ensure that signatures are on the necessary documents.

2. Data Checklist – The Data Certifications Checklist is due no later than September 24, 2010.
3. Quarterly Reports – The FY 2011 First Quarterly ABLELink reports are due no later than September 24, 2010.
4. FER – The FY 2010 CCIP and State Leadership Final Expenditure Reports (FER) are due no later than September 30, 2010. Remember that if you have AB-S1 or AB-S2 carryover, you will need to revise your budget and provide documentation for any changes on the addendum pages such as the budget narrative, personnel, and instructional site pages.
5. Reports on the Web – Two recent reports complied by the OSU Evaluation and Design Project are available on the ABLE website. They are the report on the transitions survey, Ohio ABLE Transitions
Implementation, and the report, *English for Speakers of Other Languages at Ohio’s Two-Year Colleges*, an initial study of ESOL services offered by public higher education institutions in Ohio.

**Quote of the Week**

“Literacy unlocks the door to learning throughout life, is essential to development and health, and opens the way for democratic participation and active citizenship.”

Kofi Annan, (1938—)  
Ghanian Diplomat, 7th UN Secretary-General

**Celebrate Adult Education and Family Literacy Week 2010!**  
**September 13 – 19, 2010**