FRIDAY FACTS
FROM JEFF GOVE, STATE ABLE DIRECTOR
ADULT BASIC AND LITERACY EDUCATION
April 29, 2011

Announcing New Consultant for Region Four

The State ABLE Program Staff is proud to announce that Lauren Massie is the new State ABLE Consultant. Lauren will be the consultant for Region Four.

Lauren received her Bachelor’s degree in Psychology and Criminal Justice from The Ohio State University and her master’s degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati. Over the last several years, Lauren was the Deputy Chief of Communications Officer for OBR where she managed the College Access Hotline Call Center and oversaw the design and content for http://students.uso.edu. She was also the liaison to institutions. Prior to her role as Deputy Chief of Communication, Lauren was the Deputy Director and Recruiter for the Ohio Job Corps program. Her background in, and passion for, adult education, makes her a great addition to the ABLE team. Please join us in congratulating her and welcoming her to ABLE and Region Four. Lauren’s contact information is as follows:

Lauren Massie
ABLE Administrator
Ohio Board of Regents
30 E. Broad Street, 36th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614.387.1594 office
614.466.5866 fax
lmassie@regents.state.oh.us

USO Launches Website for Prospective College Students

The Ohio Board of Regents recently unveiled the Ohio Higher Ed website, an online resource connecting future Ohio college students with detailed information on how to prepare, apply and pay for an education at Ohio’s public universities, community colleges and adult career centers.
This phase is geared toward middle and high school students and includes interactive communication tools such as chat and a "find answers" database. Future phases will add more personalized services for student users.

**New Reading Resource**

Reading is often described as a gatekeeper skill, the Southwest ABLE Resource Center (SWRC) recently created a brochure that offers tips on identifying when adult readers need reading instruction and provides classroom activities to meet that need. The brochure also gives reasons why having effective reading skills can really open doors for adult learners. The brochure is available on the SWRC website in pdf format. You can access the brochure directly from the SWRC website, [http://www.sinclair.edu/facilities/swable/index.cfm](http://www.sinclair.edu/facilities/swable/index.cfm) or by going to [www.ohioable.org](http://www.ohioable.org) and following the directions to the SWRC. Then click on the highlighted front section to open the brochure. If you have questions about the brochure, please contact the SWRC at 1-800-558-5374. **Happy Reading!**

**EMSI Gives Training and Career Guidance**

Imagine coming to class at one of our ABLE programs knowing that you haven’t been able to pay all your bills. Often the first step to learning is getting other issues taken care of. One of the biggest issues is finding a job. So often our students have no idea how or where to begin looking for employment. The Career Pathways of the Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc. (EMSI) spells out many options, giving students a clear vision to see what is available in the job market. Students can compare jobs, see what training is needed, and actually find job listings.

Ohio’s ABLE programs have the opportunity to use EMSI's [Career Pathways tool](http://www.sinclair.edu/facilities/swable/index.cfm) during FY 2011 and FY 2012 because of a grant through the state office. This system shows students the best training and job opportunities available based on regional job trends, wages, education levels, job listings, and skills. The tool also allows ABLE to help students with career transitions, easily showing them what it will take to move from one job to another that pays more or has a better outlook.

At Eastland Career Center students make appointments to meet one on one with the Student Services Coordinator. Students are encouraged to bring a resume, even a very rough version if that is all that the student has. Students who do not have a resume are asked to bring information about previous employment, education, and any specific training or certifications they possess. Once the...
Resume Builder is in place, it should be very simple to plug in the necessary information. Job listings require resumes to be uploaded. Applications can be filled out online. Spending as little as 20 minutes with a student can give them the opportunity to research several jobs and fill out a couple of applications.

ABLE programs in Ohio can also include EMSI-generated career talks in their lesson plans. Instructors can run through the job trends and projections, an overview of in-demand skills, training, and other relevant career info using EMSI. During presentations, teachers can include time for interested students to use Career Pathways themselves to get a feel for the job market and what local education providers offer.

If you are interested in being involved with EMSI for the remainder of this year and during FY 2012, contact Jody Angelone at the Northwest Resource Center by calling 1-800-466-9367 or e-mailing her at jody_angelone@owens.edu.

**Dragon NaturallySpeaking**

*Dragon Naturally Speaking* is a speech to text software available to ABLE programs in Ohio through the Central/Southeast Resource Center. The most helpful feature is dictation using word processing. There are several features which enhance the accuracy of Dragon, as it ‘records’ the material dictated. Dragon can be used to move among various computer programs, control the desktop, open and send email, and complete internet searches.

This software helps to make education more accessible to students by leveling. A student with poor motor skills can use the software to access a variety of computer applications. Students with writing disabilities may find that using *Dragon NaturallySpeaking* allows them to get their thoughts onto paper much more quickly.

There will be training on May 20, 2011. Sign up today for the training by going to the PD site on line or contact the Central/Southeast Resource Center at 1-740-593-4419.

**Technology Training in Small Bites**

*Tidbits of Technology* is a series of one-hour sessions. Participants investigate technology applications which support ABLE classroom instruction. The priorities listed by programs in their Technology Plans were used to identify and develop the monthly topics. The sessions are delivered using Elluminate. A stipend is offered for those who participate in three of the six sessions and complete the follow-up activities.
The next session, on April 27, will deal with Read/Write Gold and interactive Smart Boards. The topic on May 25 will focus on Graphic Organizers, exploring the benefits for learners, adding applications to existing lessons, using online resources, and creating organizers using Microsoft Word and Smart Art. The session on June 15 will be an open forum where participants share their own experiences using technology to enhance instruction. Participants will share classroom applications they have investigated and used.

Recordings of all sessions will be available as an alternate delivery staff development at a later date. **Tidbits of Technology** offers an opportunity to add to your technology skills in small doses. Please register for each session separately thru the RCN Calendar at [www.ohioable.org](http://www.ohioable.org).

**New TABE Representative**

Ohio’s new CTB McGraw-Hill TABE Representative is Aaron Hartman, Evaluation Consultant. Any purchasing information and general TABE tests and products information should be directed to Aaron. He can be reached at aaron_hartman@ctb.com or (502) 370-4110.

Remember any Ohio Assessment Policy questions, should be directed to your State Regional Consultant.

**OVAE Federal Review of State Program**

The Office of Vocational and Adult Education will be conducting a monitoring review of the State ABLE Program on August 1 through 5, 2011. The review is designed to promote continuous improvement of our state system much like we facilitate through our local program reviews. As part of the visit the reviewers will meet with local programs and speak with local administrators, staff and students. Our ABLE State Leadership system will also be part of the review. More details will be forthcoming.

**Career Pathways Institute – Credentials That Count**

Ohio is participating as one of nine states and two Indian territories in the national Career Pathways Initiative. This initiative is supported by the U.S. Departments of Labor (ETA), Education (OVAE) and Health and Human Services, Jobs for the Future and Social Policy Research Associates. The focus of the initiative is to help states build their capacity to establish and maintain adult career pathway systems. This connects education and training systems with workforce systems and employers to align services and resources to low income and unemployed/underemployed adults that lead to their employment and self-sufficiency.
The Ohio team, led by ODJFS, has members from OBR (ABLE, AWE, Community Colleges, Economic Advancement), DOD, Department of Aging, Shifting Gears, and a regional team representing local WIB 17. The Area 17 One-Stop, Mahoning County and Columbiana County Career Centers (ABLE/AWE), Kent State University, Eastern Gateway Community College, Humility of Mary Health Partners, and others attended this week’s spring Institute called “Certificates that Count” in Washington, DC,. The team benefited from quality work time together and networking with other states as they worked on building more formal adult career pathway systems. The regional Ohio Career Pathways Initiative team will be presenting on their efforts at the upcoming Spring ABLE Administrators Meeting in May.

Reminders

1. Grants due – The Grants must be submitted to ODE (LEA Authorized Representative Approved) on or before Friday, May 20th at 5:00 P.M. in order to be considered for funding.

Quote of the Week

“We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.”

-- Native American Proverb