English Language Learning University (ELL-U) Launched

The federal Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) has created an exciting new free resource available to ESOL teachers. On January 31, the English Language Learning project, ELL-University (ELL-U), launched an interactive professional development Web site to support teacher development and improvement in the overall quality of adult English language instruction at: http://www.ell-u.org.

ELL-U combines face-to-face events and online learning activities with collaborative social networking for a “virtual” university experience. The University provides ESOL teachers with access to:

- A team of subject matter expert faculty who will offer office hours for participants
- A quarterly online course catalog (to be launched in spring)
- A virtual library and a virtual student union
- Moderated forums and both small and large group discussions
- A calendar of events that includes both ELL-U and national events in the field of adult English language learning
- Interactive activities, such as learning clubs and study circles

The University’s offerings will provide opportunities for collaboration with ELL professionals who are interested in building a nationwide community of practice.

For more information, please contact info@ell-u.org.

Webinars

There are two national webinars that you or your staff might be interested in taking. Please forward this information to your staff.

1. There has been an overwhelming demand for the Webinar on Making a Difference: State Advocacy Strategies That Work!

   This webinar is hosted by the National Coalition for Literacy in partnership with the Commission on Adult Basic Education,
through the generous support of the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. A second airing will be offered on **February 14, 2011 at 2:00 – 3:30 pm Eastern.**

This 90-minute Webinar offers practical ideas and strategies to strengthen your advocacy work. During this session, participants become acquainted with key elements of effective advocacy networks and how they operate. This webinar provides an opportunity to interact with experts and ask questions. To Register: Click [here](#)

Upon completing the Webinar, you will receive free case studies that feature the advocacy networks the panelists represent.

**Guests:**
- Kenny Tamarkin, Executive Director, Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education (MCAE)
- Al Toops, Executive Director, The Ohio Literacy Network (OLN)
- JoAnn Weinberger, Chair, Legislative Committee, Pennsylvania Association for Adult Continuing Education (PAACE) and President/Executive Director, Center for Literacy, Philadelphia
- Ellen Fern, Washington Partners Policy Consultant with the National Coalition for Literacy

If you have questions or have trouble registering, contact Jackie Taylor at [Jackie@jataylor.net](mailto:Jackie@jataylor.net).

2. The webinar **Using Cell Phones in Instruction** sponsored by **LINCS Regional Resource Center 1** and conducted by Susan Gaer will be held on **March 4, 2011, 12:00-1:30 pm Eastern.**

This provides instruction on texting, photo ideas and basic audio uses as well as a look at phonecasting, and social networking. It also reviews issues such as privacy and "cheating". This webinar offers using cell phones in the classroom.

Susan has been exploring the use of mobile and collaborative technology in the classroom for the last two years, starting with beginning level classes and photo projects to intermediate levels with collaborative writing tools. Advance registration is required. **To register for this session, go to:**

[https://si.webex.com/si/j.php?ED=145534727&RG=1&UID=0&RT=MlMxMQ%3D%3D](https://si.webex.com/si/j.php?ED=145534727&RG=1&UID=0&RT=MlMxMQ%3D%3D)
ABLE Promising Practices Online Database

The ABLE Evaluation and Design Project at The Ohio State University has developed an online database for the print publication *Promising Practices: Suggestions for Program Improvement for Ohio ABLE Practitioners*. The Promising Practices project was developed through information gathered from ABLE task forces and practitioners.

The database currently contains 30 scenarios/solutions organized by 11 themes that follow the structure of the Student Experience Model. This latest version of the collection includes entries such as “Marketing Transitions to Students,” “All About Plagiarism,” and “Working with a Sign Language Interpreter.” Future practices developed by the task forces will be incorporated into this new online format.

A brief introduction to the online database features is attached. To access the database, visit [http://www.cete.org/projects/ABLE.aspx](http://www.cete.org/projects/ABLE.aspx). If you have any suggestions or comments, please be sure to complete the Feedback Form included on the website.

OAACE Nominations

It is that time of year to consider the opportunity to serve the OAACE organization, meet new people in education and make an impact on Ohio adult education and learning.

If you or someone you know would be excellent in this role as an Ohio adult education leader, please consider nominating that person or putting your own name up for nomination. Listed below are the elected board vacancies for the coming year. For a description of each position and a nomination form, please visit the OAACE website at: [http://www.oaace.org/](http://www.oaace.org/).

Click on “Nominations” on the left side column. Nominations close February 18, 2011.

**Vacancies for Election**

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Northwest Regional Director  
Central/Southeast Regional Director  
Community Director  
Corrections Director  
Transition Director

Please consider joining this great team! For information about this opportunity, please contact Barb Nourse at bnourse@scoesc.org.
Reminders

1. **Hold date for Spring Administrators’ Meeting** - The Spring Administrators’ Meeting will be on **May 25, 2011**. Please hold the date for this required meeting. More details will be available in a future Friday Facts.

2. **Ohio’s Electronic Information List** - This is the Ohio Literacy Resource Center’s electronic information list for ABLE practitioners in the state of Ohio. Information that comes out on the list includes professional development opportunities, current grant applications, and general adult education news. To join, go to the OLRC website at [http://literacy.kent.edu](http://literacy.kent.edu) and click on “Mailing Lists.” If you have questions or need help, contact Dianna Baycich at dbaycich@literacy.kent.edu. And remember to tell teachers and staff about this resource.

3. **ABLE Directors’ Wiggio** - The Ohio ABLE Directors’ Wiggio is a virtual meeting place for directors and coordinators of Ohio’s ABLE programs. It is a great way to keep in touch and share resources. If you have any questions about the Ohio ABLE Directors’ Wiggio, contact Dianna Baycich at dbaycich@literacy.kent.edu or 330-672-7841.

Quotes of the Week

*The weather has been so nasty, so we thought you might appreciate some humor. Yogi Berra is known for his quotes often called “Yogi-isms.” Enjoy and keep warm. – The ABLE State Team*

1. “A nickel ain’t worth a dime anymore.”
2. “Congratulations. I knew the record would stand until it was broken.”
3. “I’m not going to buy my kids an encyclopedia. Let them walk to school like I did.”
4. “If the world was perfect, it wouldn’t be”.
5. “If you come to a fork in the road, take it.”
6. “Nobody goes there anymore. It’s too crowded.”
7. “We made too many wrong mistakes.”
8. “You’ve got to be very careful if you don’t know where you are going, because you might not get there.”

*Lawrence Peter “Yogi” Berra*