

Adult NEWSLETTER

"We Can Change Your Life Forever"

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Message From the Director By Gary Schwartzwald

Each year our district has a Golden Apple Award Ceremony in May. Each site, or program, selects one outstanding teacher. Most high school sites have approximately 100 teachers to choose from. In Adult Education we have over 240 teachers, which makes the selection process very difficult. It is a pleasure and an honor to announce that the 2012-2013 Adult Education Golden Apple Award winner is **Diana Harshman**. Diana has been a teacher at the Health Occupations Center for 14 years and does an outstanding job in the Dental Assistant (RDA) program. We and they are lucky to have her. We look forward to honoring Diana on April 29th at the Golden Apple Awards Ceremony at West Hills.

Two years ago we began a new tradition. We developed the Outstanding Adult Students, Instructors, and Staff (OASIS) Awards. Last year we had over 148 people join us. This year the recognition ceremony will be on May 3rd at the Ronald Reagan Community Center in El Cajon. Nomination forms will be sent to you in the near future and I hope you take the time to nominate your outstanding students and colleagues. We will have raffle prizes, fabulous desserts, and awesome awards to hand out. We expect everyone will have a terrific time.

Patti Ashmun has informed me that, this year 59 teachers donated a total of 704 hours to our Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank and that we now have 1,778.60 hours in the bank. When we started this in 2011 teachers donated 1280 hours. Since that time we have paid teachers 1,157.4 hours from the bank, yet our ending balance this year is 1,778.6 hours.

We are still gathering budget information for next year, and as soon as we have more detailed information I will let you know what our financial future looks like.

Take care.



Betty, A Success Story By Phyllis Ruth

Betty, like so many older workers, lost her job. She came to the East County Career Center (ECCC) looking for new employment opportunities within the Interior Design field. After attending the Job Search and Career Change workshops (which are offered weekly at the Career Center) she entered subsidized training through one of the many programs offered at ECCC. Betty successfully completed the course at the top of her class. The post-training period was a flurry of activity for Betty as she began to attend the many programs at ECCC such as: networking groups, job fairs, social-media workshops, and to schedule informational interviews with potential employers within her field. She also initiated and facilitated her own job search networking group which included members from the Career Center's monthly skill-building group, Power Hour. Betty's work paid off. She received a call for an interview with the owner of a commercial interior design business. Betty was elated when she received an offer to begin work in January with an On-the-Job Training contract and was then placed in a job as Interior Design Assistant.

Foothills Adult Center By Jeff Meredith

Happy New Year! We are excited and looking forward to a great year. The GED test is changing. Please remind your students that as of December 31, 2013, incomplete tests will be invalidated. Students who have not passed all five sections of the test will have to start all over. 2014 brings with it computer- based GED testing. More information on the computer based-testing will be shared as the year progresses.

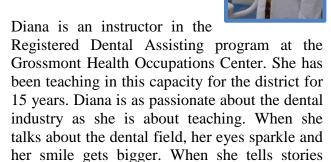
As you may or may not know, Foothills Adult School has partnered with the East County Transitional Living Center to provide GED prep classes to their residents. I am proud to announce that our first two test takers have passed the GED. Robert Bottomley, 42, and Thad Barton, 55, were the proud recipients of their GED Certificates last week. Thad had perfect scores on three of the five sections. Congratulations to Robert, Thad, and their very proud teacher, **Georginne Parisi**.

New teacher news: **Chad Williams** has started a GED prep program at the South Bay Detention Facility in Chula Vista. Chad's first group of test takers will be taking the exam this week.



Golden Apple Winner By Carol Otjens

The Grossmont Adult School is proud to announce their choice for the Golden Apple: **Diana Harshman**.



about her students' successes, she lights up!

Diana has an easy smile and makes everyone she comes into contact with comfortable.



Diana has taught high school students and adults varying degrees of the dental industry. From the front

office to the back office, Diana's students get the benefit of her professionalism and expertise in the dental field. She takes her students through a rigorous curriculum of anatomy and physiology as it applies to dentistry, teaches them how to assist a dentist "chair-side", how to safely take and develop oral x-rays, and readies them for the state board test to become an RDA (Registered Dental Assistant).

Diana's organizational skills are not to be shadowed by her easy manner as she instructs her students. She is a patient instructor who generously shares her dental knowledge with each and every student each and every day. believes Diana also that the learning environment is enhanced by music. You can often hear music playing while the dental students are working in the lab. One student said, "Diana is the best! She has taught us so much in a comfortable, learning fun environment."

This state-accredited program has 560 hours of classroom/lab instruction and another 240 hours of distance learning/internship with a local dental office. By the time they are finished with the RDA program, Diana's students are prepared to test for five separate state certifications. HOC students pass rate for the state testing averages 98%. This is due in large part to the outstanding leadership that Diana provides.

Congratulations, Diana!





East County Career CenterBy Susan Roberts-Egley



The East County Career Center is looking forward to a prosperous 2013 year for Business and Job Seekers. To "Turn Visions into Reality", ECCC's new branding slogan, the East County Career Center's Business Services hosted the first of 6 innovative meetings for 2013 that will meet every other month to share employment and economic news in the San Diego community. The San Diego Employment & Economic Group will consist of Career Center Business Services Representatives, Employment Advisors, Economic Development Council Representatives, Chamber Representatives, Elected Official Representatives, City Representatives, Employment Development Department, Partner Agencies and Public Colleges throughout the San Diego community. Twenty-four representatives showed up at the first Jan. 15th meeting representing a strong population. At each meeting a guest speaker will be from the business community to promote career opportunities. Jennifer Santiago, HR Manager with The Hartford shared at the first meeting that The Hartford in Santee is accepting online applications for Inside Sales Positions and Customer Care Associates that start in March 2013. They will be hiring for 36 new positions. Future goals for the San Diego Employment & Economic Group are to expand a larger network, share success stories and utilize Social Media to enhance business relationships.



Beyond English Class By Sheila Davis



From our quarterly Student Council Meetings, we've learned that our students are eager to help their communities. El Cajon Adult Center's students have been learning the value of giving back. According to St. Kieran's St. Vincent de Paul Pantry, our center contributed the following non-perishable food items: 1,400 cans, 350 boxes, and 250 bags. Way to go, students! A big thank you to teachers who

lugged bags/boxes of food to our office and especially to Teacher **Toni Gagliardi** who organized the two month Food Drive.

Another exciting community outreach event is on the horizon-"Pasta for Pennies." Each class will collect coins (and cash) to raise funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, LLS. The class which raises the most money will receive a free lunch for 35 adults from Olive Garden. It is the first time that an adult school has ever participated in "Pasta for Pennies" and we expect that our students will, once again, impress us with their generosity.

And yet another outcome of Student Council, is that our office now sells many of the books that students use, including the popular Heinle Picture Dictionary. ESL students can come in at different times to purchase books.



More Action at Steele Canyon Adult Center By Tim Lindley



We are moving past the halfway point in another school year as the students and the staff at Steele Canyon Adult Center are being very active out in the community again.

Drew Bandish (art teacher at La Mesa Enrichment Center) recently displayed his work along with some of his students' work in the exhibit entitled "Works in Watercolor". The exhibit was presented during the month of October 2012 at the Rancho San Diego Library in El Cajon. Drew displayed his same Watercolor work on Shelter Island during the month of November 2012. In addition, Drew had students displaying work in the San Carlos Library and at the "Gallery 4311" at the San Diego Hospice during the fall. Congratulations to Drew and his students for these honors.

Margaret Tyler (Home Arts teacher) had students from her Spinning classes busy again as they entered another "Back To Back" Wool Challenge during October 2012 at the Vista Fiber Arts Fiesta. The objective of the challenge

was for a team of students to blade shear a sheep, spin, and ply an adult sized long sleeved sweater in a day. In addition, Margaret had her students out in the community during December at a craft fair in Crest demonstrating Spinning. Good advertisement for Grossmont Adult School! Congratulations to her Spin classes for another job well done.

Ed Schaffroth (Photography teacher at the Helix Learning Center) had his Photography classes' student work out in the community for display at the San Diego County Fair again this past summer. Then in the fall of 2012 he had student work on display at both the Mission Trails Regional Park and the Rancho San Diego County Library in June. Great job Ed!

Connie Beck (Landscaping teacher at La Mesa Enrichment Center) had one of her students win an award from the city of La Mesa for her class project in the community. This past fall the student was given a "Spirit of La Mesa Beautiful Commendation" which cited her for her garden's "design. interest. maintenance..... a credit to the neighborhood and the City of La Mesa". This is another example of our students' great work and another great teacher's influence on her students - good job! In addition, Connie is receiving a great professional opportunity in February. She was selected by the Center for Global Justice and the Organic Consumers Association to be part of a group of educators and industrial professionals to travel to Cuba. The purpose of the trip is to study the organic agriculture industry in the country. Sounds like a great learning experience for Connie and a chance to bring some interesting information back to her class.

Irene Fombon is a Culinary Arts teacher with the Grossmont Adult School Correctional Education Program. Irene teaches the Bakery Occupations class at the East Mesa Detention Facility. This program is also run out of the Steele Canyon Adult Center. This fall she received a third place finish at the Gingerbread City contest benefiting the Epilepsy Foundation. Irene is another of our very talented instructors.





15 months and counting. . . WASC is in full swing.

Grossmont Adult School has a stellar reputation when it comes to WASC and we want to continue to uphold that reputation.

The WASC Core Leadership Team has met on several occasions and has formed an Expanded Leadership Team. The "ELT" will be meeting on Friday, February 1st to begin working on several chapters of the final report.

We want as many individuals as possible to take part in this exciting opportunity to highlight Grossmont Adult School. Soon, we will be creating our "Focus Groups". We are anticipating everyone's enthusiastic participation in these groups. Grossmont Adult School is phenomenal because of our community involvement, students, teachers, and staff, and the role each of us play in the educational process. The Focus Groups will be a reflection of this cooperation.

As WASC chair, I would like to extend a "Thank You" to those that have eagerly volunteered to be a part of WASC. It is a privilege to watch you do what you do and to be part of an institution that is overflowing with individuals committed to bringing out the very best in others.





Happy New Year! Did you miss it? Those that attended the Winter Social had a great time. If you haven't attended the event in the past, you are missing out on a lot of fun and laughs. The event has grown over the past three years so much that we are looking for an even larger location for next year. I would like to extend a big thank you to the CCAE board and especially

Jennifer Owens for putting together a successful event.

Now for the purpose of CCAE as an Adult Ed organization. You may have seen or heard that in the Governor's proposed budget he suggests that the Adult School piece of education in California should be placed under the administration of the Community College system, adding that funds would be made available to implement such a transference. I felt that as your CCAE President, I would like to share my thoughts on this matter with you.

First of all, try not to get too nervous. This is only a proposal and NOT the final budget. There will be a May revise as always! Second. think about the "what ifs" that may lie ahead. You can be assured that CCAE will not let this "transference" occur without a fight. We have been working against this type of action for our entire history and that isn't going to change. CCAE is in favor of having Adult Education recognized as a stand-alone entity for which separate and secure funding is established, not under the jurisdiction of a Community College or a District, but a third and separate piece of the educational delivery system. We don't fit, we never have, and we do serve a very unique set of students than either of the other two components. But then, those of us in Adult Education know this, don't we? Being a member of CCAE helps fund the fight! Join now. Don't wait!

On a sweeter note, our Chapter events are largely funded by the See's Candy fundraiser. We will begin selling the candy February 1. Each center office will have candy for sale until Valentine's Day. Everyone knows someone that would love a chocolate gift. Buy one or two or ten and support our Chapter!

We are also working on our first ever fundraiser at one of the local restaurants. We are hoping for a late February or early March date. We'll get a flyer posted in each of the Adult Center offices as soon as the plans are finalized.

Did you know that CCAE has a page on the Adult School website? You can find it under the Teacher tab. I'll begin posting announcements, Board minutes, and even some fun facts about Adult Ed. You may be surprised!

Grossmont Adult School Important Dates	
Date	Event
February 11	Lincoln Day Observance
February 18	Washington Day Observance
March 1	Spring schedule is bulk mailed
March 6	Spring registration begins
March 22	Winter session ends
March 25-29	Spring Break
April 1	Spring session begins
May 3	OASIS Awards ceremony
May 18	Family University
May 27	Memorial Day
June 7	Spring Session ends
June 11	Graduation ceremony