

The Updater

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Your CESBA Literacy Committee

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A Literacy Star!

CESBA is pleased to congratulate, David Reid, one of three Ontario finalists for Canada Post's Literacy Award in the Individual Achievement category.

As another school year begins, it is people like David Reid who remind us of the reason that we are involved in literacy education. Liz Bialkowski from the Toronto DSB nominated David for this award. Here is how Liz described David Reid's achievements:

David Reid, 42, grew up in Oromocto, New Brunswick. His family's first priority was not education but putting food on the table. Trying to make a living with minimal skills in the East was difficult and David came to Toronto in 1992 to find employment. He performed many manual labour type jobs and his final workplace was at

Tim Horton's. He was injured on the job in 1997, and this is where the story takes a turn to a Literacy and Basic Skills class.

David suffered a severe back injury and was on the

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brink of major depression and was suicidal. He heard through a friend about the LBS program offered through the Toronto School Board. He knew that he would not be able to depend on his manual labour skills to make a living but would have to put his mind to work.

David came to the Mimico Adult Centre for upgrading at the lowest point of his life. He was a nervous wreck and school for him had always been a very negative experience. The thought of going back to school and the fear of fail-

ing were major obstacles for him to overcome. David was in terrible pain because of his back injury and was on painkillers and antidepressants. His experiences had taught him not to trust people and he didn't like himself very much.

He was being counselled through Workers' Compensation and set out a course of study with his advisor. He went back to school in September 1998. Cindy Sartor, his literacy teacher at the Mimico Adult Centre, has to be applauded for her encouragement in convincing David he could be a success. David made unbelievable progress - from almost starting from scratch to being in a position where he could go into a credit program 8 months later.

During the literacy classes, David's self esteem improved considerably and he ended up as a mentor and tutor to other literacy students. He has stepped in many times to assist other learners with their prob-

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A Literacy Star continued...

lems, whether they were academic or personal.

*The most important thing that has happened to David is that his attitude went from being "afraid I will fail" to "I can do whatever I want!" He has also learned to trust people. He no longer fears failure and looks forward to the challenge of meeting new people in his classes and his life. The idea of **life long learning** has become an important part of his routine. David graduated in June 2000 with honours from Burnhamthorpe Adult Learn-*

ing Centre. He attained high marks in math, English, business and computer studies.

David feels his greatest success is now having the confidence to help other people. He has demonstrated this time and time again with enthusiasm - in and out of the classroom. He loves teaching and hopes to pursue a career with the Salvation Army. David was the first member of his family in four generations to receive a high school diploma. He was also the motivational keynote speaker for the Spring 1999 Literacy and

Basic Skills Recognition Ceremony in Etobicoke.

David has proven that having the courage of taking the first step through a door to a literacy course can certainly change your life for the better! David has also demonstrated that the real secret to success is enthusiasm and perseverance—which he demonstrates everyday.

David is a true example of an Individual Literacy Star!



Announcements

New to Literacy in Ontario? What Literacy Staff Need to Know

Do you remember being the "new kid" in literacy?

Assessments . . . learning outcomes . . . training plans . . . demonstrations . . . matrix.

Literacy Link South Central is developing an orientation resource and needs your input.

We'd like to hear which resources you found most useful (past 2 or 3 years), and which ones you would now recommend. Please contact Ann Semple, Project Co-ordinator, at (519) 869-6937; Alpha-Com discussion "Help. New to Literacy"; or asemple@sympatico.ca

We Need Your Help!

All LBS Administrators have received an e-mail from Mel MacLeod, project consultant for "Seamless Transition to More Learning".

We need people to be members of the Reference Group for this project and to suggest research sites. Please respond with your willingness to help by September 7. Contact Wendy Oliver at 905-949-0049 ext 2036 or woliver@cesba.ca for further information.

Your support and contribution are sincerely appreciated and will result in ensuring that the learners of Ontario receive the best possible educational opportunities.

Responding to Your Needs!

In the 1999 CESBA survey of needs and priorities, 82% of School Board LBS administrators identified *Professional Development Opportunities for Instructors* as a top priority.

We are very pleased that the National Literacy Secretariat is funding PD on the development and use of learning outcomes demonstrations in the LBS classroom.

These valuable CESBA workshops for school board LBS instructors are available to all Ontario school boards. Sign up now! Jane Barber, project consultant, has sent an e-mail to all LBS administrators. Please respond as soon as possible. Contact Wendy Oliver at 905-949-0049 ext 2036 or woliver@cesba.ca.



Projects Co-ordinator Report

By Wendy Oliver

Practitioner Training

CESBA was successful in obtaining project funding from MTCU and NLS to develop agreed upon methods for initial training of school board LBS practitioners. Phase 1 of this four year project is to identify answers to the following 3 questions:

- (i) What are the core skills needed by a beginning practitioner?
- (ii) How are these skills acquired by individuals seeking to work in the school board sector? and
- (iii) How is the acquisition for these skills recognized?

Mel MacLeod, Project Leader, has spent the past several months consulting with LBS managers and instructors. In December the managers, in a facilitated process, reduced the skills listed in the Ontario Literacy Coalition document for an experienced practitioner from 63 to 32.

Mel then took the reduced list and conducted 2 provincial focus groups and 14 local focus groups in places such as Thunder Bay, Ottawa, Toronto, Cornwall, Kitchener, and Alliston. He asked classroom instructors to add to or delete from the list and to share with the focus group moderator how they acquired the skills they use in the classroom. The results were then shared with the managers at their provincial meeting in April.

Also at this meeting, managers were asked to suggest strategies that could be used to recognize these skills in instructors wishing to secure employment in the LBS program.

A report outlining the answers to the three questions has been written and is being reviewed by the Project's Reference group and the CESBA Board. The final report is scheduled to be available October 1. It will contain a list of 12 skills together with suggested behaviours that would illustrate attainment of these skills. The report will also contain 8 recommendations that will guide the work of Phase II. Phase II will develop methods to implement the three answers of Phase I, and will be funded in 2001. For more information, contact Mel MacLeod, 905-828-2285, or melmacleod@sympatico.ca.

Professional Development on Demonstrations

In June, National Literacy Secretariat (NLS) funding was received for CESBA's project entitled "Professional Development for Learning Outcomes Demonstrations".

This project will address the need that has long been identified by the school board sector for professional development for our LBS instructors. Many instructors and administrators have felt overwhelmed at the implementation of so many program initiatives.

Now, we will have the opportunity to develop specific training to help instructors working in school board classrooms across the province.

Jane Barber, former LBS Co-ordinator with the Toronto District School Board, will be coordinating this important work. She will work with LBS Administrators to identify specific training needs in each school board in the area of learning outcomes demonstrations.

Based on that research, a training approach, tailored to the needs of each school board, will be developed and delivered.

Learner Transition to More Learning

CESBA has also received funding from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities and the National Literacy Secretariat for the "**Seamless Transition to More Learning**" project.

Mel MacLeod has been contracted to investigate current experience and practices, and develop recommendations for improving the transition of adult learners from the Literacy and Basic Skills program to adult credit courses. Once again, the input from the field clearly identified this area of research to be a high priority.

Appreciation to the Workplace Preparation Branch of the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities for funding support for this newsletter.



News

Changes at the CESBA Office

On April 1st of this year Dave Neumann was appointed to the role of Executive Director of CESBA, assuming more broadly based roles, while continuing to provide co-ordination services related to the school board LBS Sector.

On July 1st, Wendy Oliver, formerly with the Toronto DSB, was contracted to provide project co-ordination services for LBS Field Development Projects and other externally funded projects. CESBA is pleased to have someone as capable as Wendy working in such an important area. Donna Zener, recently retired from the Toronto DSB, has agreed to provide LBS co-ordination services for a three month period starting on September 11th.

This will ensure a smooth continuity of service during Dave Neumann's leave which starts on September 18th. November 13th is municipal election day across Ontario and Dave Neumann is a candidate for the office of mayor in the city of Brantford.

OLC Sectors Council

Dave Neumann & Linda DePiero represented CESBA and school board LBS at the Sectors Council (& Regions Council) meetings in Barrie in early June. The following of-ficers were elected for the coming year. Chair: Lana Faessler (LLO), Vice Chair: Lynne Wallace (College Sec-

tor) and Secretary: Linda DePiero. Sandra Hennessy (College Sector) and Joanne Kaattari (CLO) were elected to represent Sectors Council on the Board of the Ontario Literacy Coalition, replacing Lana Faessler & Dave Neumann.

OLC-MTCU Liaison

Linda DePiero represented CESBA at OLC's quarterly liaison meeting with MTCU held June 22nd. Some issues reviewed were *Field Development Priorities, Training in Common Assessment, Information Management System Project, Labour Marketing Agreement and Workplace Literacy Strategy*. The next meeting is set for midDecember.

CESBA Board

At the first meeting of the new CESBA Board of Directors held June 6 & 7, it was decided that Murray McDonald will continue as the CESBA Board liaison to the CESBA Literacy Committee.

The new CESBA Board, elected in April, consists of President Tony da Silva, Past President Geraldine Waud; Vice-President Murray McDonald, Secretary Diane Cowden, Treasurer Ward Levine, and Executive Officers Barb Krukowski and Anna Bowles.

Upcoming Meetings

CESBA Literacy Committee - September 11;
CESBA Board - September 11 & 12;
LBS Day and annual meeting - Wednesday December 6;
CESBA Fall Conference - December 7 & 8.

Learning Disabilities Training

Karen Burwell (Durham DSB), an active member of the CESBA Literacy Committee, has agreed to enrol (on behalf of CESBA) in the *Practitioner Training for the Successful Acquisition of Literacy Skills for Adults with Learning Disabilities*. Pat Hatt is the consultant leading this LDAO project. In phase II, Karen will report to the school board LBS sector about what has been learned from this important training.

CESBA

Ontario Association of Adult & Continuing Education School Board Administrators

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