

Financial Literacy: Penny Smart, Dollar Wise

We could all benefit from good financial planning. Adult learners in the Academy of Hope/Literacy Volunteers of America Workplace Literacy Program are doing just that by participating in an SEA-sponsored financial literacy program.

Taught by **Idriys Abdullah**, Vice President of Community Affairs for Sun Trust Bank, the curriculum covers money flow, budgeting, asset building and home ownership. Mr. Abdullah explains to participants that "the point of a budget is not to deprive

yourself of things, but rather to set goals and priorities and let the budget help you get there."

The course content is generated by the learners so the classes are always relevant. Many in the class have set homeownership as a goal and they are learning about resources and programs for first-time home buyers.

Some participants have gotten so excited about the investment unit that they are forming their own investment club. These adult learners use the computer lab aboard the

Trans.Form.Er, the SEA mobile technology unit, to find investment information online.

Instructor Cheryl Jackson says, "financial literacy is so important because it isn't taught in schools. This curriculum complements instruction in the Workplace Literacy Program where employees learn to interpret pay stubs and improve math skills while developing their budgets."

The financial literacy workshops are available to SEA-funded programs through the Literacy Advocate Institute.



DDOT adult learners in Financial Literacy class.

"I have learned how to plan a budget for long-term, intermediate, and short-term goals."

~Ricardo Short, Participant
DC Department of Transportation

Basking in Winning the Basket

A beautiful basket loaded with educational treats has become a regular feature of the ever popular Claude Brown Writers & Readers Series. So, in addition to the unique opportunity to meet with authors in an intimate setting, and the book vouchers that have always characterized the program, educational baskets are now also a hallmark of the Series.

Each month, the SEA raffles off a basket to a participant.

**Congratulations
Ms. Washington!**



In January, our winner was Ms. **Denise Washington** of the Kennedy Institute won this sensational family basket chock full of children's books, crayons, markers, paints and other educational goodies for her family.

Named for the gifted writer, Claude Brown, the monthly Series introduces adult learners to published authors to discuss reading and writing at SisterSpace & Books.

**Dates to
Remember**

May 7, 2004

BiAnnual Adult Educators' Conference:
"Information and Teacher Appreciation Day."

June 26, 2004

GED Graduation 2004
Watch *The Literacy Advocate* for details on upcoming events.

GED News: Meet Marcellus Arnold

Marcellus Arnold earned the GED credential in November, 2003. Using accommodations, Mr. Arnold earned a total standard score that exceeded 2,880 points. Mr. Arnold took classes at the Academy of Hope adult education center for 11 months preparing for the GED Test. It was through the Academy of Hope and a

classmate that he learned the UDC-GED Testing Center offers accommodations on the GED Test for eligible candidates.

Mr. Arnold praises the programs that supported him in reaching his GED goal, "They played a tremendous role in preparing me for the GED. This entire process was made possi-

ble through the Academy of Hope and a faith-based organization called the Christ House." Mr. Arnold is presently enrolled locally at a satellite branch of Bard College.

Mr. Arnold offers sound advice to those who may be in need of the GED credential. "One of the most important things to remember is that failure only happens when you don't try."



Marcellus Arnold, Academy of Hope, earned the GED credential in November 2003.

Ask Away: Accommodations on the GED Tests

What are Accommodations?

Accommodations are specific provisions made on the GED Tests for adult learners that provide them with a fair and equitable opportunity to successfully complete the tests. Accommodations are available to test-takers who have a documented learning, physical and/or emotional disability.

How Do I Apply for Accommodations on the GED Test?

Two forms are used to request accommodations. Form SA-001 is used to request accommodations based on documented physical and/or emotional disabilities. Form L-15 is used to request accommodations based on learning disabilities. Because of the necessary processing time, completed form(s), along with all supporting documentation, must be submitted to the GED Administrator a minimum of 60 days prior to the anticipated test date. The GED Administrator provides written notification of the decision to each candidate.

What Accommodations are Available?

Many accommodations are available including extended test time (time and a half or double time), audiocassette, scribe, calculator, private room and supervised breaks. Visual and hearing impaired candidates may be granted permission to use Braille, an interpreter of instructions (when standard written English is a second language), and printed test instructions and sign.

Do All Accommodations Require Documentation?

Several accommodations are available that do not require documentation.

Prior to testing, the GED Administrator may approve the use of colored transparent overlays, clear transparent overlays and highlighter, temporary adhesive (e.g. Post-it Notes) with spatial directions, earplugs, large print tests, magnifying glass, and a straight edge.

If unsure as to whether your accommodations request requires documentation, contact the GED Testing Center.

Supporting Documentation

All pertinent supporting documentation (consent and withdrawal letters, lease agreements, LAN line bills, and appeals for early re-testing) is needed at the time of registration for the GED Tests. The UDC-GED Testing Center is unable to hold pending applications for testing. Any applications submitted with missing documentation will be returned incomplete.

New Testing Calendar on the Web

The UDC-GED Testing Center 2004 testing calendar is now available on the SEA's website. The calendar can be obtained by visiting the website at www.dcadultliteracy.org. At the homepage, click GED, then GED Calendar.

University of the District of Columbia
State Education Agency, Adult Education
4200 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Phone: 202-274-7181
Fax: 202-274-7188
Email: info@dcaduliteracy.org

GED Testing Center
4340 Connecticut Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20008
Phone: 202-274-7173
Email: ged@dcaduliteracy.org



www.DCAdultLiteracy.org

DC Stands for Literacy...

Poetry That Sings and Swings

By Dorthea Curry, GED Graduate, Living Wages

Poem recited at Spoken Word performance.

Different Stuff

I remember growing up happy,
Even if my hair was nappy.

I would be playing with my friends,
Didn't think it had to end.

My mother scolding me, kissing me
Loving me, be all you can be.

Come on over, I want to see.
Are you going with me?

A new dress
Need sleep, got to rest.

What's the matter with you?
Can you do what I do?

It's only going to cost a dollar.

Yeah, that's right. Dance, dance, dance,
turn around and holla.

Will you sing with me?
I told you she was smiling, can't you see?

Did you know?
Who told you so?

Education you say,
Hold up – which way.

Read, read, read
Plant that seed.

My writing class,
Oh! it's a blast.

Are you staying?
OK then, keep praying.