



The Literacy Advocate

DC Entrepreneurs Win Big at New York Trade Fair



From left to right: Arthur Meadows, Associate; Regina Mack, Business Resource Specialist; and Associates Marlyse Atangana, Kettie Mayas, Elinga Atembina, Stanley Bell, Thaia Grace. Not pictured: Associates Aidas Masiulnis and Avikyee Quick.

Adult learners in the Virtual Enterprise Adult Training Program (VEATP) won First Place in the Sales Presentation category at the Seventh Annual Virtual Enterprises International Trade Fair at the 69th Regiment Armory in New York on April 1, 2004. The DC team placed first among 100 practice firms and 2,000 employees from all over the world. Criteria for this competition include: greeting of potential customers, product knowledge, persuasiveness of sales pitch, ability to close the sale, paperwork process, after the sale procedure, and overall professionalism.

As their enterprise, the DC group developed the Virtual Broadcast Network (VBN-DC), a limited partnership. VBN-DC promotes other practice firms in Virtual Enterprises, International through the provision of a 24-hour broadcasting service on the Internet. Video and audio advertisement clips of national and international clients are broadcast

on the VBN-DC website to enhance the clients' and VBN-DC's visibility, strengthen marketing efforts, and increase service/product sales.

The diversity of VEATP participants, who speak a total of 14 languages, enables them to assist other practice firms in translating their brochures, flyers, and websites for marketing purposes. The VEATP opened in Fall, 2003.

The fair gave firms an opportunity to showcase their products and services to potential clients and customers as they competed side by side with their peers in a simulated, global marketplace. Participants demonstrated their skills, knowledge, and talents in entrepreneurship, communications, computer technology, and global business man-



VBN-DC partners celebrate their accomplishment in New York City.

agement.

The VEATP will host an Open House on May 25, 2004 at 2:00 pm at the Booker T. Wash-

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Trans•form•er Stops at Ethiopian Community Center

When asked how she likes using the English language software aboard the Trans•form•er, the SEA mobile technology unit, Adult Learner Sinknesh Bayou said, "It's changed my life." Sinknesh had never used a computer and was thrilled about practicing English and learning how to use the mouse.

Visits from the Trans•form•er are BIG events at the Ethiopian Community Center (ECC). Each week 50 to 75 students utilize the computers. Many of

the adult learners are new to computers and fascinated with the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) software programs available on the unit.

Paulina and Miriam of the ECC proclaimed the Trans•form•er and the ESOL lab "perfect" and "fantastic!" ECC teachers find it satisfying to watch adult learners working at their own pace in Oxford Picture Dictionary, accessing lessons based on everyday scenarios with exercises and games that reinforce

classroom instruction. Pronunciation Power is a software program that allows adult learners to record themselves speaking English and listen to their own voices played back.

The ECC enjoys many benefits of the state of the art classroom aboard the unit. The ECC says the Trans•form•er is a "godsend" and a huge plus in their efforts to assist adult learners in meeting their stated goals of gaining computer skills and improving their English skills.



Many ECC adult learners used computers for the first time aboard the Trans•form•er.



Banchi Tabor, Adult Learner, ECC on Trans•form•er.

Success Paved in Adult Learners' Website

Adult learners enrolled in the "Paving the Way to Success" class are designing their own website. The work-based education program is coordinated by the Academy of Hope and Literacy Volunteers of America, National Capital Area (LVA/NCA) and funded, in part, by the State Education Agency (SEA). The DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) employees attend four hours of instruction per week to improve job-related skills such as reading manuals, writing memos, completing reports, and advocating for themselves on the job.

When the SEA invited this group to participate in the web design project, they embraced it enthusiastically. Participants are excited by the additional chance to explore opportunities and use the Internet. DDOT employees recog-

nize that involvement in the program makes them more marketable, more efficient, and better employees with greater chances to advance in their agency while, at the same time, improving their computer and writing skills.

Instructor Cheryl Jackson says, "It's exciting to see the learners embrace the project and really want to do a good job. They want the website to convey a particular message. They're taking it seriously."

Working as a team, the "Paving the Way" class has determined that they want the website to encourage and inspire people who feel stuck and to let their peers know that workplace education classes are available for those willing to take advantage.

The Paving the Way to Success web pages will be posted on the world wide web in June 2004 on the SEA website.

"There are no limitations, only those you place on yourself."

**Lawrence Hoes
DC Dept. of Transportation**



DC Dept. of Transportation employees: (from left) Jeffrey Young, Vendora Green, Karen Billings, Lawrence Hoes; (bottom) Ricardo Short.

GED News

Revised Re-Testing Policy

The University of the District of Columbia—GED Testing Center maintains a three month wait period between test administrations for candidates who fail to meet the eligibility requirements for a partial examination.

Candidates who successfully pass two of the five tests on the GED exam are

eligible to re-test on any test after thirty (30) days from the previous exam date.

Those candidates who fail to successfully pass two of the five tests must wait the mandatory three months before re-testing.

No candidate is permitted to test more than three times in a calendar

year.

All eligible candidates for re-testing must register at the UDC-GED Testing Center and normal registration procedures will apply.

Applicants should present their official score reports at the time of registration to expedite the process.

**GED Policy Brief
GED-07**

Effective Date:

March 1, 2004

New Testing Format

The UDC—GED Testing Center announces a standard format for the administration of the GED Tests in the District of Columbia. On February 1, 2004, both two-day and one-day tests began the same order of testing.

For two-day tests, only the Mathematics and the Language Arts Writing Tests will be administered on the first day. The completion of the Demographic form will follow the general announcements and instructions.

After a ten-minute break, the administration of the Mathematics test will follow. The Language Arts Writing Test will be the second test administered

The Science, Social Studies and Language Arts Reading Tests will be administered on the second day, in this order. Ten minutes will be allotted for breaks between each test administration and a 30 minute lunch break will be provided on all one-day tests.



GED Calendar

The UDC-GED Testing Center's 2004 test schedule through the month of June is posted on the (SEA) website.

The calendar itemizes testing dates, locations, and times for every GED test administration in the District of Columbia.

To view the calendar, visit the SEA website at

www.dcadultliteracy.org

At the homepage, click GED, then GED Calendar.

SEA Awards Scholarship to Adult Learners

Each year, the State Education Agency grants a scholarship to each of the two GED recipients from SEA-funded programs who have earned the highest GED test scores. Each of these individuals is awarded a scholarship to attend the University of the District of Columbia for one semester.

The SEA awards these scholarships to

help adult learners achieve their goal of attending college. The award helps bridge the critical transition between GED attainment and post-secondary education.

Last year, **Derek Ramdin**, a graduate of **Metropolitan Delta Adult Literacy Council**, was the recipient of the scholarship. Mr. Ramdin is enrolled at UDC.

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Monica Banton, Editor



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DC Stands for Literacy

Grant Announcement

The Workforce Investment Act, Title II—Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) expired at the end of Fiscal Year 2003. The adult education field is awaiting reauthorization. Since the District of Columbia State Education Agency, Adult Education awards multiyear grants, the agency will not offer a competition for Program Year 2004-2005. Instead, the awards of existing subgrantees who are in good standing will be extended for one year.

After Congress has reauthorized the Workforce Investment Act the SEA will reopen the grant process for competition.

Direct any questions to Melva Abdullah at 202-274-6680 or mabdullah@dcadulteracy.org.

GED Commencement

GED Commencement is approaching quickly. Each year, the UDC-GED Testing Center sponsors GED Commencement. Last year over sixty recipients participated in the ceremony.

Spouses, family, friends, and co-workers are all invited to share in the great accomplishment of the GED graduates. Details posted on home page of SEA website, www.dcadulteracy.org

Congratulations to all successful GED recipients!



GED Commencement will be held June 26, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. in the Auditorium of the University of the District of Columbia, Building 46.