Top 5 to Texas (plus one!) winners announced

As announced in October 2015, the top five programs in GED® attainment (as determined by the top 25 in KAERS) at the end of the 2015 calendar year (December 31, 2015) – as well as one other program in the top 25 in GED® attainment (selected randomly) – would be eligible to receive up to $4,500 for three instructors ($1,500 per instructor) for the 2016 COABE Conference in Dallas, Texas.

The top five programs in GED® attainment on December 31, 2015, were:
1) Hardin
2) Grayson
3) Lyon
4) Boone
5) Franklin

The “plus one” program, which was selected randomly from the remaining 20 programs in the top 25 in GED® attainment from December 31, 2015, is:
+1) Carroll

Congratulations to these programs! They will each receive up to $4,500 to cover up-to-three instructors’ COABE registration, lodging and travel expenses other than food (e.g., flight, cab from airport to hotel, etc.).

Alert! New math and RLA lessons in the KYAE lesson bank

- Volume of Rectangular Solid by Beth Allen of Lyon County
- M & M Bar Graphs by Amy Matthews of Mercer County
- Close Reading Strategies - Industrialization and Child Labor by Sarah Simpson and Vicki Cline, Martin County

Access the KYAE Lesson Bank at http://kyaellessons.blogspot.com/. The password is 2016KYAE. Do not change password!

Enrolling students without a Social Security number

Want to know how to enroll your students who don't have Social Security numbers? Watch the fast, fun two-minute video here.
Breathitt and Hardin counties are first and second to award KESC

On November 24, WIN career-readiness products were made available for students, and on December 3, Scarlet Jenkins of Breathitt County was the first student to earn the Kentucky Essential Skills Certificate (KESC). The second individual to earn the KESC, also on December 3, was Hardin County student Angela Gary.

Angela, a Work and Learn student and GED® graduate, shared a story that demonstrated the value of the skills being taught via the new WIN software: “My last job was at Burger King. A co-worker and I were not getting along, and during a heated discussion, I slapped her drink out of her hand. The general manager told me to leave the store. I threw off my work shirt and stormed out. Obviously, I did not handle that situation well. This program gave me very helpful information on how to act in the work environment and how to handle myself in stressful situations. I know what I did was wrong, but I did not know how to put my emotions aside and be professional. I would recommend this course to the other students in the adult education program who are looking for employment.”

For more information on the WIN career-readiness products, from how students can sign onto them in KAERS to how they align to the CCRS and the KYAE Employability Standards, go here.

Learn about key shifts in instruction to prepare students for GED® test success

And yes, key shifts are different from shift keys! Both the CCRS for Mathematics and the CCRS for English Language Arts (ELA) give us three key shifts in how we should be preparing students for success on the GED® test and beyond.

The key shifts for ELA are Complexity, Evidence and Knowledge, while the three for math are Focus, Coherence and Rigor. You probably already know that, but did you know that all three shifts should be present in every lesson? Do you know how to evaluate a resource to see if it’s based on the shifts? And why is all of this important? Because the 2014 GED® assessment is based on the key shifts!

Fortunately, KYAE, along with the programs led by Cristina Marsh and Tessa Love have spent the past few months piloting tools and resources to help instructors better understand these key shifts (also called key advances). KYAE will host a webinar to introduce these tried-and-true tools. Be on the lookout for an e-mail in January!
One program’s practice: Lee County’s local regional jail adult education class schedule

By Cheryl Botner, Lee County Program Director

During our scheduled bi-monthly phone call with KYAE Senior Associate Billy Crabtree, I disclosed how, after many years of classes at the local regional jail and lots of trial and error in scheduling, I had found a schedule that works best. He asked that I share this information.

For those of you who work in your local jails, you are keenly aware of the turnover rate in the inmate population. To better serve this population and to make sure that I was enrolling as dictated by the new roster every week, I made a schedule that assists me in enrollments, grade level gains, NCRCs and GED Ready™ Test.

Mondays are scheduled orientation, intake and goal-setting days. Every other Monday, I have scheduled orientation and intake for the male students, and on the alternate Mondays, I have scheduled orientation and intake for the females. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays are scheduled classes.

Fridays are designated specifically for testing. By testing every Friday, you have a greater chance of getting students in for grade level gains or meeting other goals before they are released or transferred to other facilities. Friday class rosters are made by accessing the KAERS data GED Ready Candidates and Eligible to Post-Test reports. On Fridays, at the local jail library, you might find one student taking a National Career Readiness Certification test, another student taking a GED Ready™ Test, and yet another might be taking a TABE for level gain. Students are given ear plugs while testing and seated appropriately so the protocol for administering each test is observed.

We all know that each county is uniquely different and no one schedule is a “one size fits all,” but this schedule, although not perfect, seems to assist me in adhering to KYAE managed enrollment policy and making sure that students are appropriately post-tested as soon as they’re eligible to do so.

KYAE welcomes two new staff members

Debbie McCoy joins KYAE as a business specialist supporting Cody Davidson’s administrative leadership team and Joyce Bullock’s instructional leadership team.

Debbie has 14 years of administrative support experience, which includes assisting the director of communications of marketing at the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (Dearborn, MI) and serving as records manager at Kentucky State University.

Most recently, Debbie provided administrative support at the Kentucky Department of Education, in the area of school and community nutrition. Debbie and her husband of 25 years, Alonzo, have three children, Lauren, Brittany and A.J. Debbie, when not juggling the needs of Cody’s and Joyce’s teams at KYAE, enjoys bike riding, reading and roller skating.

Having grown up with a career Army father and a German immigrant mother, Natalie Cummins is proud to call Kentucky her adopted home state. She holds a master’s in linguistics from the University of Cincinnati and has been working in the field of adult education since 1997, when she became a volunteer ESL tutor for Operation Read in Lexington. She later worked for Operation Read in an administrative capacity and taught ESL part-time for Central Kentucky Technical College.

Natalie began teaching ESL and math full-time for Jessamine County Adult Education in 2003, where she remained until joining KYAE. For the last 12 years, she has also been involved in the Central Kentucky theater scene, where she has worked as a stage manager, props and costume designer, and even occasionally as an actor for half a dozen theaters. Natalie says, “I am very excited to join the KYAE administrative leadership team, and I look forward to working with Kentucky’s adult education programs to accomplish the task of helping our students achieve better lives.”

Check It Out! • FREE online resources for instruction

RLA/Science and Social Studies

✓ English with Elizabeth–GED Prep – If you’re looking for a site that directly targets science and social studies information needed for the GED® test, this is for you. Direct your attention to the list of topics on the right side of the home page. Thanks, Janet Slayden, for bringing this site to our attention!

✓ Newsela for Science – Newsela has organized Science Text Sets to make science content more discoverable. Each collection is curated by actual science teachers to help students make real-world connections and think critically about the content presented in front of them.

Mathematics

✓ National Library of Virtual Manipulatives for Math

Access all types of virtual manipulatives for use in your math lessons at this free site. Find everything from algebra tiles to fraction strips. Learning and understanding mathematics, at every level, requires student engagement. One way to engage students is through the use of manipulatives, physical objects that help students visualize relationships and applications. The National Library of Virtual Manipulatives, begun as a project supported by the National Science Foundation, offers “uniquely interactive, web-based virtual manipulatives or concept tutorials.”