

Tarrant Literacy Coalition

opening the door to opportunity.



In This Issue



- The Big Read
- Metroplex Literacy Conference
- Letter from the GED Testing Service
- Welcome our Newest Board Member
- Thank You Letter from a Student
- Trolling for Volunteers
- Spelling Bee
- Atmos GED Challenge!

Upcoming Events

- Spread the Wealth with Steinbeck (2/28)
- The Big Read Community Kick-off (2/29)
- Metroplex Literacy Conference (3/10)
- St. Patrick's Day (3/17)
- Corporate Spelling Bee (5/2)

Check the website for a complete calendar of events. Contact [Jennifer Paré](mailto:jennifer.pare@tarrantlit.org) to have your event added.

You are invited to
Change Someone's
Life!

2012
**Metroplex
Literacy
CONFERENCE**

Saturday,
March 10, 2012

Dallas Baptist
University

Dear Literacy Providers,

I want to let you know how I felt about getting my GED. If it were not for all the wonderful teachers working day in and day out with older guys like myself, I would not be where I am today. My name is Jon Perry and I am 47 years old. I dropped out of school in 1983 and was never able to get a diploma or a GED. I was a young father and never had the time. The economy changed for the worse in the past few years and I was concerned about my job. I worked in manufacturing and that was up and down all the time. My loving wife told me to go to school. I laughed at her. I had not been in a school for 30 years. I thought there was no way I could learn the work again but she insisted that for the first time in my life I do something for myself. So, I quit my job and set out to get my GED. I was nervous and embarrassed because of my age. When I first arrived at the Westside Workforce Center I met Jan Whisonant. She gave me an assessment test and I did not do well on it. I had a 7th grade reading level and 8th grade math level. I hated English and ran from it even when I was in school 30 years ago. Day in and day out Jan and her staff worked with me. For 3 months they put up with me working hard and showing me how to do my work over and over again. They did not give up on me and in turn it helped me to not give up on myself. It still amazes me how they were able to make it so understandable and easy to learn. They built up my confidence and before we knew it, I was ready to take the exam. I only had to take it once and I scored pretty well on it. By the time I left for my test, I was able to write an essay. I had a 12th grade math, reading and writing levels. How could this have happened in 3 months? I was out of school for 30 years! It was both of us that did it. My dedication and persistence and their dedication and teaching to students like myself were a great combination. Because of the teachers in this program I am in college for the first time ever! My major is criminal justice and get this, I have straight A's in all of my classes including English comp1. What those teachers taught me has carried me to be successful. The world is a much better place because people like you are in it. May God Bless you for what you have done for others.

Thank you again,

Jon Perry

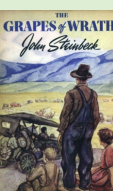
The Big Read: Fort Worth Reads Together

Written by: Jennifer Paré

February 21, 2012

[Texas Wesleyan University](#) was recently awarded a grant to participate in [The Big Read](#); an initiative of the [National Endowment for the Arts \(NEA\)](#) designed to restore reading to the center of American culture and to promote citywide literacy development by encouraging reluctant readers to engage in book discussions.

February 28th the Tarrant Literacy Coalition is hosting a [training event](#) at Texas Wesleyan University from 2-4pm featuring financial literacy and The Big Read.



Please [email Jennifer](mailto:jennifer.pare@tarrantlit.org) to RSVP for this training event if you are planning to attend. We hope you will be able to join us for this unique event and consider attending some of the

other events of [The Big Read Fort Worth](#). Events include book discussions, food drives, speakers, and a play adaption of *The Grapes of Wrath* and are scheduled from now until the end of May.

The Kick-Off event for The Big Read, Fort Worth Reads Together will take place at the [Tarrant Area Food Bank](#), which will be the recipient of donations throughout the duration of The Big Read in Fort Worth as this has a deep connection with the hard times of John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*. We are excited to support this unique community-wide literacy event and hope you will also consider getting involved!



GED update letter

Excerpts from Martin D. Kehe

February 14, 2012

You have questions about the new GED[®] assessment and now the development process has reached a stage where there are concrete answers. GED Testing Service is releasing [The Assessment Guide for Educators](#) to help you learn about the new assessment as well as involve the adult education community—starting now—to begin incorporating the new direction in their preparation programs.

A few topics covered by the *Guide* include an overview of the assessment, the assessment targets for each content area, description of cognitive levels, and item types—just to name a few.

The *Guide* will be released in three installments—the first installment is available immediately at www.GEDtesting.com/assessment.

All you have to do is register to download

the first and each subsequent chapter. You will be invited to attend a webinar focused on the first installment's content. Chapters 2 and 3 will be released on February 28 and March 13 respectively and will also have webinars to overview the content and, most importantly, to provide a forum for getting answers to any questions you may have. Additional resources will be available on the Web and you will have plenty of opportunities to hear more and engage with us at key national and local conferences this spring and summer.

Sign up for "[assessment alerts](#)" on the [GED website](#), if you haven't already.

Martin D. Kehe
VP, Products
GED Testing Service

Sign-up today for the Metroplex Literacy Conference at Hopeliteracy.com

Teachers and Volunteers will receive Practical Training and Networking!

- ESL Directors' Roundtable
- Math Strategies for Struggling Students
- Informal Assessments for Students
- US Citizenship Test
- Family Literacy
- Multi-Cultural Instruction
- And Much More!

Welcome our Newest Board Member:

Trenton Price is the Coordinator of Special Projects for Tarrant County College, NE Campus. Trenton is a native Texan, born and raised in Arlington. He received a BBA in Finance from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. For the past 4 years he has been employed at the Northeast campus of Tarrant County College and currently serves as a Coordinator within the Continuing Education department. Prior to joining TCC he worked in church administration and the financial services industry.

Trolling for Volunteers

One of our favorite services as the Literacy Coalition is to recruit and place volunteers. February 15-16 Amy Pickrel and Jennifer Paré attended the TCC Service Fair and recruited volunteers to become tutors in adult education classes. If your program is in need of tutors we want to know so we can more effectively serve you and your students. To make your volunteer need known contact Jennifer Paré at jpare@tarrantlit.org.



Have you heard the buzzzzzzzz?

On Wednesday, May 2, 2012 the Tarrant Literacy Coalition will host its fourth annual Corporate Spelling Bee to generate funds for outreach to community and faith based literacy programs. More than 20 teams of adults from local businesses, organizations and higher education will compete for thousands of dollars in prizes and the coveted "Traveling Trophy". The Bee will be held at 6 pm at TCU's Brown-Lupton University Union. For more information about the Bee, contact [Kathryn Thompson](mailto:kathryn.thompson@tarrantlit.org).



Take the

ATMOS
energy
challenge

Passing the GED exam can open the door to a better job, admission into college, or taking the first step toward acquiring a new trade. However, for many, the cost of the GED exam can be an obstacle that slows them down. That is why the Tarrant Literacy Coalition established a fund to help students pay the GED testing fee. Now, Atmos Energy has issued a challenge to help generate funds to provide assistance for up to 100 GED students in our community. Atmos Energy has agreed to match each \$65 contribution to sponsor a student's exam, up to 50 sponsorships—dollar for dollar—to help us reach our goal of helping 100 students take the GED exam. Your contribution will make a great difference for a student and it will help us meet the challenge of maximizing the impact of this incredible gift from Atmos Energy!

To contribute to the GED Student Assistance Fund and participate in this challenge, you can make a [donation on our website](#) or [contact the coalition](#) directly. Thank you for helping these students take the next step in their educational goals. Thank you for taking the challenge!

You can find us on Twitter & Facebook. If you or your organization has a [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) account, sign up to follow the Literacy Coalition and keep up to date with our efforts to fight low literacy!

Find & Like us on [Facebook!](#)
Follow us on Twitter [@TarrantLit!](#)

