



# Tarrant Literacy Coalition

opening the door to opportunity.

## Tarrant Literacy Coalition Newsletter

August 2013

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### Quick Links

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A few weeks ago, TLC staff and volunteers (me included) witnessed something wonderful. We watched as our own GED students, as well as students from other programs in Fort Worth, donned caps and gowns and crossed the stage at GED graduation. For many graduates, this was the first time they'd ever entered to "Pomp and Circumstance," waited through the long list of names for their own, and turned their tassel.

I think I can speak for every tutor in the audience when I say that we were incredibly proud. Of course, the stands weren't just filled with excited teachers. They were filled with friends, spouses, parents, children, and countless other relatives. Every time a name was called, a different section of seats broke into cheers and applause. Although energy and excitement bubbled up from all over the room, everyone shared a common focus. All eyes were on the grads; the day was about them.

Every student has their own story. With adults, those stories are often complicated. There are reoccurring themes, though: sacrifice, dedication, perseverance. No matter how they ended up in your class, they've done something truly extraordinary: showed up. They managed to overcome every obstacle thrown at them - family, work, self-doubt, and the rest - and be in class.

GED graduation was a great opportunity for teachers, along with families and friends, to say "good job." But it can take a long time to

## July in Review

Congratulations to all of our GED graduates!



get there. This month, I challenge you to look for other reasons to congratulate your students. Set small goals, and celebrate when they're accomplished. When you help everyone remember how awesome they already are, they might just start trying to do better.

In any case, you'll be making it seem a lot easier - and more worthwhile - to walk through the door.

Sincerely,  
Rayna Smith  
Intern



CLASS OF 2013





When Tarrant area literacy instructors and tutors face challenges, they know where to turn for support...

# Fourth Friday Forum

8/23/2013 9:00-11:00  
5901 Fitzhugh Ave. Ft. Worth 76119

This month, come discuss your fresh ideas for a new semester.

August 23rd we will be hosting back to school themed round table discussions on a variety of programmatic topics including volunteers, student motivation and retention, goal setting and achievement, the new GED, getting serious about fluency, tracking and measuring progress through informal assessment, along with other back to school topics. Get excited about going back to school with lots of great door prizes. Please join us at the TCC-Opportunity Center at 5901 Fitzhugh Ave., Fort Worth 76119 from 9-11 A.M.

*Space is limited. Please register no later than August 19.*

[Click to register now!](#)



## Teach English with Excellence!

TEX basic ESL training for new ESL teachers of adult students

- Emphasis on teaching beginners
- Great opportunity for new teachers or higher-level teachers who have not attended a basic-level workshop
- Literacy ConneXus ESL Training Certificate given

September 6-7

Friday, 6:30pm-9:30pm

Saturday, 9:00am-4:00pm

(must attend both sessions)

Western Hills Baptist Church

8500 Chapin Road

Fort Worth, TX 76116

Cost: **\$35** (includes notebook manual). Please bring a sack lunch.  
Payment to be made on September 6<sup>th</sup> by check (to Karen Peiser) or exact amount of cash.

Reservations: Contact **Kathy Cervantes** at **(214) 918-4630** or **[katxochitl@yahoo.com](mailto:katxochitl@yahoo.com)** before September 2<sup>nd</sup>. You must register as an individual; leadership may not reserve spots. You will receive a confirmation email upon receipt of your registration.





To learn to read is to light a  
fire; every syllable that is  
spelled out is a spark.

- Victor Hugo

**We want to feature YOU**  
in upcoming issues of the  
Coalition newsletter. You get to  
hear about our efforts and  
events all the time but we really  
want to hear from you!  
Please submit stories and  
articles to: [Jennifer Rollins](mailto:Jennifer.Rollins@tarrantlit.org)  
Be sure to include a short  
author bio and some general  
information about your program

Join Our Mailing List!

Stay Connected



Tarrant Literacy Coalition | [info@tarrantlit.org](mailto:info@tarrantlit.org) | PO Box 470744 Fort Worth, TX 76147 | (817) 870-0082





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