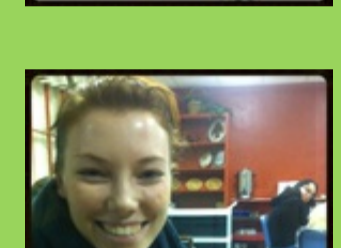
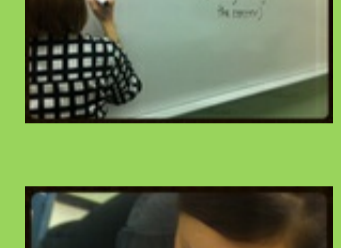


February 01, 2016

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**This Month in Pictures**



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 [Sarah@tarrantliteracy.org](mailto:Sarah@tarrantliteracy.org). Be sure to include a short author bio and some general information about your program.

**Stay Connected to the Tarrant Literacy Coalition!**



**Dear Literacy Partner,**

**Love is in the air** and, while we're excited about a good box of chocolates as anyone, TLC wants to make this February about more than greeting cards, expensive flowers, and fancy dinners. We're taking our inspiration from Leo Buscaglia, an author with a heart for education. He said, "too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."

Adult literacy programming is all about helping people make substantive changes, and this month TLC has information and opportunities for involvement you won't want to miss.

[Read on to learn more!](#)



**State Board of Education Awards Contracts for High School Equivalency Assessments in Texas**

The State Board of Education (SBOE) voted Friday to award contracts to three separate companies to provide high school equivalency (HSE) assessments in Texas. The HSE assessment serves as the basis for the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to issue the Texas Certificate of High School Equivalency to adult learners in the state.

The SBOE awarded contracts to the Educational Testing Service, owner of the HiSET® exam; Data Recognition Corporation, owner of the TASC® exam; and GED Testing Service, owner of the GED® exam.

The current contract to provide HSE assessment will expire June 2016.

[Visit the Texas Education Agency Website to read more!](#)



**Changes to GED® Test and Scoring**

The GED® Testing Service announced changes to the way the GED® test is scored, effective January 26, 2016. Students are now required to score a 145 to pass each sub-test, versus the score of 150 per sub-test previously needed. In Texas, this scoring will be retroactive and students who previously scored a 145 on any sub-test will be granted a "pass" for that section of the exam. This process should be complete in early February, according to the Texas Education Agency.

The GED® Testing Service also announced they'd be removing the extended response portion of the social studies exam, previously an item for which students were allowed 25 minutes. The time allowed for the social studies exam will be reduced by 15 minutes. This change will be effective March 1, 2016.

[Click here for official information from the GED® Testing Service.](#)

[Click here for official information from the Texas Education Agency.](#)

**Register Now for the North Texas Math Literacy Symposium! Spaces Are Filling Fast!**

Are you teaching adults who are studying for the GED® exam? Do you have students who lack sufficient math skills to succeed on tests, on the job, and/or in community college? This workshop will provide you with hands-on tools you can use with your students to help them improve their math skills now!

The North Texas Math Literacy Symposium will consist of a full day of math training for literacy instructors, featuring guest-trainer Heidi Schuler, from Canton, Georgia. The fee to attend is \$10 per person, which includes lunch, snacks, and all workshop materials. Registration is open now and space is limited! [Click here](#) for more information.

Who: Program Directors and Literacy Instructors  
 What: The North Texas Math Literacy Symposium  
 Where: First Baptist Church Arlington (301 S Center St, Arlington, 76010)  
 When: Friday, February 26, 2016

[Register Now!](#)

**Registration is now open for the 2016 Metroplex Literacy Conference at Dallas Baptist University!**

Join faith and community-based literacy program directors, teachers and volunteers for a day of networking and learning. Session topics include: resources for High School Equivalency instruction, English Language Acquisition (ESL) instruction, Immigration and Citizenship, and Adult Basic Education.

[View the list of sessions.](#)

Guest speaker Dr. Gail Linam is the academic dean of Dallas Baptist University. Dr. Linam provides academic support of the university's online education, Center for Service-Learning, hybrid education, and the pre-nursing program. She holds a master of religious education and a Ph.D. in education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Saturday, March 5, 2016  
 8:30am to 2:15pm  
 Dallas Baptist University

[Click here for more information or to register now!](#)



**Our Spelling Bee is All the Buzz! Plan to Bee There!**

Join us for another great evening of spirited competition at the eighth annual Corporate Spelling Bee. Make plans to be there as the Texas Wesleyan "Crushers" defend their title against some of Tarrant County's best spellers while vying for thousands of dollars of fabulous prizes.

Louise Appleman, Chair  
 Jill "R.R." Labbe, Emcee  
 Gary Cumble, Wordmaster

April 28, 2016 at the TCU Brown-Lupton University Union

[Visit our website for more information.](#)

**TLC Welcomes New Board Members**

The Tarrant Literacy Coalition is pleased to welcome two new members to its Board of Directors.

**Sabrina Najera** is a Certified Public Accountant who holds a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Accounting from the University of Texas at Arlington. Sabrina has lived in this area all of her life and is excited to be asked to serve on the board of directors of Tarrant Literacy Coalition. She has worked for RICO, a longtime supporter of the Coalition, for eight years and accepted the position of Tax Manager two years ago. Her husband is a seventh grade pre-AP math teacher for Fort Worth ISD and they have one child.

**Tracey Mellenthin** is the former Executive Vice President of Human Resources at Weir Oil and Gas in Fort Worth, where she directed a large staff of HR professionals which oversaw domestic and international recruiting, as well as benefits management and employee relations. She and her husband moved to this area from Michigan, where she received a Bachelor of Business Administration from Baker College and she is currently completing an MBA from Louisiana State University. Tracey and her husband own TCM, LLC in Hudson Oaks and she is eager to apply her business and HR skills to help further the mission of the Tarrant Literacy Coalition.



**TLC is Seeking Volunteer English Language Teachers**

Tarrant Literacy Coalition is seeking volunteer English Language Acquisition (formerly ESL) instructors for classes at the Agape Baptist Church! Commitments are small; only 1.5 hours per week!

**No experience? No Problem!** We'll make sure you get the training you need to make students successful!

Class are held:  
 Tuesdays 10:00am-11:30am  
 Wednesdays 6:30pm-8:00pm

Call 817-870-0082 or [email](mailto:email) for more information.

[Click here to fill out our volunteer application online.](#)

**Literacy ConneXus**  
*encouraging, facilitating, connecting*

**Check Out Literacy ConneXus' 2016 English Language Acquisition Instructor Training!**

Teaching English With Excellence (TEW) Training is coming to a city near you! These trainings will help new instructors to master the skills they need to be effective leaders of an English Language Acquisition classroom. Reservations are required.

[Click here to learn more about these upcoming training events!](#)