



Tarrant Literacy Coalition

opening the door to opportunity.

Tarrant Literacy Coalition Newsletter

September 2013

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September 11, 2013

Is it really mid-September already? It seems like I'm having a hard time letting go of summer this year. Fall is finally catching up to me, though: this is my last week with the Tarrant Literacy Coalition.

I'll miss this office and BEST dearly, but I'm excited to be heading back to Stanford. Of course, it's not just back to school time for me. This week, we held orientation for the fall semester at BEST. I couldn't help but feel excited for those students, too. I hope they learn so much over the next few months. I hope they learn as much as I have over the past few.

As a college student, I've perfected many key academic skills like laziness and procrastination. In these subjects, the students I worked with this summer score *abysmally*.

They have a much different set of strengths. For instance, everyone gets an A+ in persistence. All of the hope and all of the potential that I saw in that orientation room was hidden under a layer of exhaustion, anxiety, and doubt, which was dutifully pushed down out of sight for class. Despite bad experiences with school, challenges with family and work, or anything else life has thrown at them, these people keep coming back. Without a doubt, I'll be thinking of them the next time I consider skipping math class because 8:00am is just too early.

And who could forget about attitude? Kids often struggle with this. Adults, though? They're here because they *want* to learn. They like a

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challenge. Last week, a student solved an algebraic equation, then looked at me and asked, "When are we going to get to the hard stuff?" She hardly believed me when I told her that we already had.

I'd say that on the whole, the Project BEST students are pretty impressive. I'll be missing them when I'm not in class next week. So, do me a favor, would you? The next time you're working with a student, savor it. Learn all you can.

And make sure you're giving your students all the credit they deserve.

Sincerely,
Rayna Smith
Intern



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](#). Be sure to include a short author bio and some general information about your program

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CELEBRATE HEALTH LITERACY MONTH!

This October, join us for a very special Health Literacy presentation created for literacy instructors and program directors. It is designed to help you help your students navigate today's complex healthcare system.

Friday, October 11th
9:00a.m. to 1:30p.m.
JPS Auditorium
1575 S Main St.
Fort Worth, TX 76104



The presentation will be given by
Ms. Andi Spencer, UNTHSC Librarian
Mr. Robert Earley, JPS President & CEO

Following the workshop presentation from 9 to noon, please stay for lunch hosted by JPS President & CEO, Mr. Robert Earley.

A tour of JPS will follow.





The September Fourth Friday Writing Forum has been cancelled due to a recent water heater malfunction that resulted in substantial flooding to the Tarrant Literacy Coalition office suite. Please accept our apologies for this short notice. We look forward to seeing you next month at the JPS Health Literacy presentation.

Meet Our New Intern!



Jamie Limes is our TCU student intern for fall 2013. Already she has helped Spanish speaking callers located GED and ESL classes, facilitated assessments for Spanish speaking individuals, and drafted an article for an upcoming publication of the Texas Adult & Family Literacy Quarterly. Look forward to getting to know more about Jamie at area training events and in upcoming editions of the TLC newsletter.



On August 16th, Jaise finished her year with VISTA! She's

going back to school to get an MBA from Texas Women's University and is already greatly missed!

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