

# So, What's New?

Adult Education and Family Literacy

Volume 3, Issue 8



## From the Desk of Pam Smith, State Director

Effective March 31<sup>st</sup> 2010, I will be retiring from my position as state director of adult education for Colorado. I have thoroughly enjoyed my ten and a half years as director, especially having the opportunity to work with such a talented, professional and dedicated group of adult education directors, teachers and staff. I have also made a lot of new friends and we have shared some exciting times, as well as some challenging events.

As you know I am fortunate to have a great professional staff at the department with excellent administrative support. Debra Fawcett has agreed to be our interim state director until a new director is found. I feel this is a good time to step aside as the future of adult education is full of promise. The workforce world has recognized there is a wide disparity in literacy and numeracy skills among our school-age and adult populations, and this speaks well for our education programs. Future funding is on a more secure footing with a projected slight increase for the next fiscal year. Reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) will occur eventually and our advocate group in Washington is very involved in this process. As programs funded under Title II of WIA it is very important that you keep your education and workforce community informed about the classes you offer and other services you provide.

A last item to share with you. Because of budget constraints we will not have a traditional mid-year AEFLA directors meeting. However, we are strategizing a plan to provide support and service via other means, such as one or more webinar, or conference calls. In fiscal year 2010-2011 we will have an AEFLA Directors' meeting Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, the day prior to the next adult educator conference, Rendezvous 2010, so please hold the date.

My most sincere regards to all.



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## Chelsea Stewart, Education and Life Training Center, Fort Collins

Due to the spirit of innovation of our techno-savvy instructor, Chris Walker and our dedicated students, we have been using Skype in an Advanced ESOL class here in Fort Collins at the Education and Life Training Center (ELTC). Skype is software that enables free video conferencing via the web. The process is fairly simple, computers equipped with cameras and internet access are linked through Skype to bring a student into the classroom as an active participant.

This pilot program is proving to be a very meaningful learning experience for the students and the agency as a whole. The potential for further projects that will benefit homebound or locally remote students is increased with the classroom research we are involved in currently. Please read the following personal account written by Vera Araujo:

When I first arrived in US, in late January 2009, I

found ESL at the Education & Life Training Center. The teacher was good and the class was what I was looking for. The teacher is open to students' ideas and she improves the class with new activities to make the class better each day. I have no doubt that I had improved my English skills. I studied from February to December, then I had to move from Fort Collins to follow my husband. I was sad to leave my class, my teacher and my classmates that became friends, however, Chris came with this idea, "Why we don't use Skype in class? So we could have you in class!" So, is that what we are doing right now! We are studying Pronunciation, Grammar, Writing, Conversation in a fun way! I love my teacher, my classmates and my school. Thanks Education & Life Training Center to all. --Vera Araujo



Chris Walker's Class

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## Leecy Wise, Four Corners PD Resource Center, Cortez



Skype is a great Internet tool for ESL and other language learners from all over the world and provides cheap or free access to speakers all over the globe. Download it on to a computer, and you are ready to go. Conversations can be recorded and practiced by using Skype's recording tool. Skype now has its own conferencing tools which allows several people to be on the call at the same time. Communicate with any Skype users anywhere in the world! Skype is one of those tools that is not too good to be free. It is good and it is free unless you want to add optional features to it.

Leecy Wise is the director of the Four Corners PD Resource Center in Cortez. For more information about the 4CPDRC, to <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeadult/adultSLRCcortez.htm>

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## Lyn McCarty, Harrison Adult & Family Education, Colorado Springs

We received a \$500 grant from Mother Read to purchase materials for Parent Time Classes. Additionally, we have added an ABE Basic Literacy class this semester so we can serve adults who have very low level reading skills or none at all. It is the first time we have offered this class. We will be using *Language!* as the curriculum resource and already have eleven students enrolled.

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### Did you know...

9News sponsors an online guide to community resources in Colorado? See the 9NEWS Colorado Resource Guide at <http://www.9news.com/life/community/co-resources/default.asp>. Once there, click on "Education," and scroll down to see if your program is listed in any of the categories. If not, and you'd like your services to be represented in the resource guide, submit the following information to [coresources@9news.com](mailto:coresources@9news.com)

1. Name of organization
2. Organization's website
3. Short description of what the organization does and/or who they serve.

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## Melissa Burkhardt-Shields, Adult & Family Education SD11, Colorado Springs

We held a Family Literacy Read-a-Thon the week of October 18, 2009 with all of our classes. The superintendent, school board members, and District 11 staff were invited to come and be guest readers and to help kick off the event with our students. After we had assembled in the gymnasium, students went back to their classrooms and read their favorite books and family students read books to their children. The district created a press release about the event which was sent out to the media.

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## Introducing Robert (Robb) Scott, Lamar Community College



I appreciate the chance to introduce myself. I have been warmly welcomed at Lamar Community College as their new director of Adult Transition Services. I am a doctoral candidate in special education at Kansas State University, with a research interest in multicultural transition. Most of my experience is in ESL teaching and teacher education. I am excited about the chance to work at Lamar Community College. The people here have a vision of engaging larger numbers of local residents in programs at the community college; for many of these individuals, the first steps take place in ESL, ABE, and ASE classes through our Office of Adult Transition Services. We have many partners on campus to help recruit, support, and retain students as they achieve their objectives.

I am excited to be looking closely at ways to build on what is great about our curriculum and improve in areas where we need to do better.

Although my children might disagree, I like to say that I use Spanish pretty well. All four of them are completely bilingual, and the two oldest have added Japanese from the five years we spent in Japan in the late 1980s and early 1990s. My daughter was married on January 16<sup>th</sup> to a young man from Loja, Ecuador, so, if you contact me in the next several weeks, I will have just gotten back from an international trip to the big event. My wife is from Colombia and our six-year-old son is reading and writing in Spanish and English.

I look forward to meeting and learning from the other AEFLA directors in Colorado at AEFLA trainings.

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## Colorado Department of Education - Art Display

We are soliciting art from your adult learners for display here at CDE. The pieces will hang in the gallery and be available to view on line in mid April. Student pieces can be returned to the student/program or sold in an auction to raise funds to return art to students who cannot afford postage. Pieces sold in the auction will remain here in offices at CDE.

The piece must be mounted on foam board 16X16; however the piece can be smaller. All mediums are welcome – drawing, photography, painting, etc. This is not a competition, however adult education only has five slots, so we reserve the right to choose which pieces to submit. If your student agrees and we have runners-up we can hold on to them for the next display. The work does not have to be created by your students in any formal class; it is to recognize the artistic talent of our adults as learners.

Please submit your piece(s) to the Adult Education and Family Literacy Unit, 201 E. Colfax, Denver CO 80203 by Monday, March 1, 2010. You can view pieces in the current display and get details of the project on line at <http://picasaweb.google.com/brendasbarr/ArtGaller1#>.

Please contact Elizabeth Shupe, [shupe\\_e@cde.state.co.us](mailto:shupe_e@cde.state.co.us) or 303.866.6607 if you have questions. We look forward to sharing the work of your talented adult students with the state of Colorado.

(Turn to Page 4 to see a piece by an Adult Artist featured in the current CDE display)

# February 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

- February 12, State Mandatory Furlough Day, CDE Closed
- February 15, Presidents' Day, CDE Closed
- March 11, Colorado Adult Education Professional Association's 3rd Annual Legislative Day
- March 24-27, 44th Annual TESOL Convention and Exhibit, Boston

## Adult Artist: Angela Torres

School: NAMES Native American Multi-Cultural Education School  
3600 Morrison Road  
Denver, CO 80223

Angela drew this picture based on a photograph taken during the painting of a mural on the outside of the school in the Morning Star Medicine Wheel Peace Garden.

Serving students from all cultures, NAMES was established in 1996 to provide adult education services to learners sixteen years of age and older who are working towards completion of their General Equivalency Diploma (GED).



Do you recognize the program director in this picture?