



# Cobb Literacy Council Newsletter

*Cobb Literacy Council's mission is to link the community and its resources in promoting and supporting literacy in Cobb County.*

SEPTEMBER 2009

## Funding – More Money!

We are extremely grateful to the Cobb County CSBG funding for an additional \$15,000 towards our 2009 budget. Funds will cover transportation, GED scholarships, and supplies.

Thanks CSBG for an early Christmas present!

For a list of GED or ESL Classes in Cobb County, contact  
**Judy Griffin at  
(770) 528-4617 or  
jgriffin@cobbworks.org**

*“Literacy is not a luxury, it is a right and a responsibility. If our world is to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century we must harness the energy and creativity of all our citizens.”*

President Clinton on International Literacy Day, September 8th 1994

**Cobbworks!**  
463 Commerce Park Drive  
Suite 100  
Marietta Georgia 30060  
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## Support the Adult Education and Family Literacy Week

Adult education and family literacy programs have, for many years, provided millions of Americans with the skills they need to lead productive lives, help their children succeed in school, and participate in every aspect of the bounty offered by our great nation.

We have introduced a resolution designating the week of September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009, as Adult Education and Family Literacy Week to pay tribute to adult education and family literacy programs for their contributions to the education of our nation's adult learners and their families.

According to the National Assessment of Adult Literacy, there are approximately 90 million adults who lack the literacy skills to reach their full potential. Approximately 30 million of these individuals are at the lowest levels of literacy and are generally found among the unemployed, the underemployed and those participating in welfare and other government benefit programs.

Adult education programs work with these individuals as well as new immigrants striving to learn English, to help them obtain the skills they need to become employed, retain a job, get a promotion, transition to post-secondary education, participate in a training program, read to their children and fully participate in their education, obtain the English language skills

necessary to succeed in their new home country, and achieve economic self-sufficiency for their families.

Family literacy programs work with parents without a high school diploma or GED and their young children to help break cycles of illiteracy and poverty that plague some of our nation's most vulnerable families. They help adults improve their skills and obtain the essential secondary education credentials they need to get a job, continue their education, pursue careers leading to self-sufficiency, and lead productive lives. Most importantly,



they provide parents with the knowledge and skills they need to be their child's first and most important teacher and to be full participants in their child's education. For children, family literacy programs help ensure that children start school ready to learn and on an equal footing with their peers.

Please join us in supporting this resolution, paying tribute to adult education and family literacy programs. To co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Spiros Protopsaltis

([Spiros.Protopsaltis@mail.house.gov](mailto:Spiros.Protopsaltis@mail.house.gov)) at 5-2161 in Mr. Polis' office or Megan Spindel ([Megan.Spindel@mail.house.gov](mailto:Megan.Spindel@mail.house.gov)) at 5-3501 in Mr. Guthrie's office.

Jared Polis  
Member of Congress

Brett Guthrie  
Member of Congress

## Interesting Literacy Findings

### Congress cited the following findings:

- More than half of the United States labor force – 150,000 adults aged 16 and older lack some basic and workplace skills, including English Literacy skills to get into job training or college, or get jobs to advance in the workplace.
- Every year, one in three young adults – more than 1,200,000 people – drop out of high school. Many high school graduates lack basic skills and readiness for job training and college. In 2006, more than 18,000,000 adults ages 18-64 had no high school diploma.



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

- In 2006, 18,400,000 adults spoke English “less than very well.” Of these adults, 8,200,000 adults had no high school diploma or equivalency, and 5,000,000 had completed high school but were not college or job ready.
- Current adult education and workforce skills programs reach too few students – about 3,000,000 per year in the adult education programs of the Department of Labor and Education, the two major Federal programs.
- Adult education and workforce skills programs and planning throughout Federal Government and the States are fragmented and disconnected, resulting in wasteful duplication, lack of full and appropriate access to services, and lack of comparable data and meaningful outcome assessments.
- Some 56 percent of incarcerated adults 16 and older (or 2,300,000 people in 2006) have very low literacy skills and lack the basic and workplace skills needed for college and jobs.
- Ninety-five percent of incarcerated people return to our communities. Failure to provide adult education and workforce skills service on substantially larger scales, as called for by the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy, threatens our country’s standard of living, economic competitiveness, and even national security.

### **SAVE THE DATE! September 16 and 17**

**T**o keep our instructors up-to-date on cutting edge class instruction, Cobb Literacy Council is teaming up with Literacy Action to sponsor a Teacher/Volunteer Workshop.

Join us Wednesday, **September 16 and Thursday, September 17 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** for two days of teacher training (location forth-coming).

#### **Day 1: Learning Theory to Inform Teaching Practice**

We’ll cover adult learning theory as it relates to ABE teaching and learning. Teachers as adult learners will be considered in addition to ABE student needs. We’ll demonstrate a sound basis and examples for modeling, scaffolding, goal setting/self-regulation, and self-efficacy.

#### **Day 2: Teaching Practice Informed by Learning Theory**

We’ll assist teachers in developing effective reading lessons by incorporating all components of reading skills, addressing teaching/reviewing multiple reading skills with one activity, and adapting activities for different reading skill levels. Reading skills across the curriculum will also be discussed. We’ll end the day with a discussion of various types of assessments, and how to use assessment to guide instruction and track student progress.

On-going themes of the 2 days are diversity, classroom management, lesson planning, use of volunteers in the classroom, and creating a collaborative learning community.

This is **free** for the first 25 people—after that there will be a nominal charge to cover expenses. PLEASE RSVP to Paige Pushkin [ppushkin@literacyaction.org](mailto:ppushkin@literacyaction.org).

### **SAVE THE DATE! October 28**

**T**he Technical College System of Georgia/ Office of Adult Education is excited to announce our upcoming 2009 Health Literacy Symposium.

#### **The goals of this conference are:**

To facilitate dialogue and communication between individuals and organizations which have a stake in the health literacy of constituents throughout Georgia.

- To establish health literacy as a priority for future direction in Georgia
- To generate a call to action among individuals and organizations

#### **Georgia’s Adult Education Health Literacy Symposium A Dose of Knowledge Prescriptions to Improve Georgia’s Health**

**Keynote Speaker  
16<sup>th</sup> Surgeon General of the United States  
Dr. David Satcher**

**Wednesday, October 28, 2009  
Atlanta, GA**

**Invitation and Registration to Follow**

