

The Adult Learning Center Charlotte's Literacy Web

January 2012

TUITION REQUIREMENT TAKES BITE OUT OF ADULT EDUCATION ENROLLMENT

Effective last July, the Florida Legislature imposed a tuition requirement on adult students participating in programs receiving state funding. For students who can prove they have been Florida residents for at least one year, the annual tuition is \$90; for all other students, the annual tuition is \$360. Adult education programs across the state, including the Adult Learning Center, have experienced approximately a 38% decline in enrollment since the imposition of this requirement.

The Adult Learning Center is working to continue to make its programs available to adult learners in Charlotte County through the creation of a tuition hardship assistance program. Students who meet specified criteria are eligible for full or partial scholarships. In exchange, they are asked to commit to at least 60 hours of study during the relevant trimester. Please help our students continue to work to achieve their goals by supporting our fundraising efforts. On February 11th, we will be hosting a **Chocolate Festival from 1:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m. at the Port Charlotte Town Center Mall**. The net proceeds from the \$20 ticket will go to the tuition hardship assistance fund. And you'll come away with a box of chocolate treats just in time for Valentine's Day. It's a win-win for everyone!



STUDENT DEVON EVERDS HAS A THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE

There are few things in life that you can count on. One thing that's as reliable as clockwork, though, is finding Devon Everds hard at work on his studies in the learning lab every evening that we are open for business. After Devon heads home from the lab at 8:00 p.m., he often spends some time at home working on his studies through our online program. Yes, Devon has a true joy of learning that makes him a joy to have as a student in our program.

Devon grew up in Jamaica, and he did not learn to read and write until he started school at age 12. Surprisingly, he was put directly into the seventh grade, leaving him with a lack of knowledge of many fundamentals. Devon was an avid learner even then, and showed an immediate aptitude for math and science. He was nominated by his school to take the exam to continue his education at the high school level in a technical program. He obtained his apprenticeship in electrical studies and attended the Vocational Training Development Institute, obtaining his certification to teach electrical training. In 1990, Devon moved to Ontario where he once again worked as both an electrician and

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TUTOR TERRI JACKMAN BRINGS HER COMMITMENT TO VOLUNTEERISM TO THE ADULT LEARNING CENTER

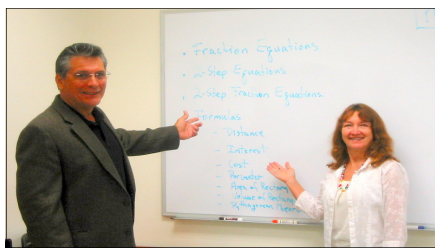


Student YvRose Smith and tutor Terri Jackman

Many people in the Charlotte County non-profit community are familiar with the dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work that Terri Jackman brings to her endeavors. Terri has been active in our community for over ten years, serving as the volunteer coordinator at New Operation Cooper Street, as a Board member and President of Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and as a tutor in the Good Friends program. In September 2010, Terri began working as a volunteer tutor with the Adult Learning Center, and we are thankful to have her!

Terri says that one of the things she enjoys about her work with adult learners is that, “You develop a real relationship with your students and, over time, you see them develop not only their academic skills but also a more positive outlook and greater self-confidence.”

Terri is currently working with two students. The first student is **YvRose Smith**, a long-time student of the Center who is GED-bound. Most recently, Terri has been preparing YvRose for the science component of the GED, and it has been a learning experience for both of them as they read about topics ranging from volcanoes to atoms to the different body systems. Terri is also working with **Jackie Walker**, a student in our program at the Family Services Center. Terri is helping Jackie work on her reading comprehension and speed (an issue for many of our students when it comes time for testing.) Terri is always willing to roll up her sleeves and do whatever her students need in order to accomplish their goals and, in doing so, creates a relationship of mutual respect and trust that enables her students to get the most out of their studies. Thanks, Terri, for giving so much to your students and our program!



Math instructor Charlie Valadez and FGCU's Nancy Staub

MATH AND LANGUAGE CLASSES INTRODUCED AT MALL AND FCGU'S PUNTA GORDA CAMPUS

While working independently in our learning lab is a great option for many adult learners, some students prefer a classroom environment for puzzling out a two-part equation or determining when it's proper to use a comma. Last November the Adult Learning Center launched math and language classes two mornings a week in order to better serve our students. New instructor Charlie Valadez teaches math at our classroom at FGCU on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m.—9:45 a.m. and then heads over to the Mall location to repeat the lesson. Veteran instructor Dusty Maino offers language classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the same times in both locations. Help us get the word out about this great new learning option!

NEWS BITS: —Adult Learning Center instructor Tom Stout is now teaching adult literacy classes at the Charlotte County Correctional Institution.

—On Saturday, October 29th, we hosted instructors and tutors from our program and literacy programs in neighboring Sarasota County for the **Florida Literacy Coalition's symposium “Learning to Achieve: Strategies for Working with Learning Disabled Adults.”** Presenter Roberta Reiss walked us through the legal definition of a learning disability and gave participants some practical tips on ways to work with adult learners with these disabilities. This free event was made possible with support from the **Florida Department of Education, Division of Career and Adult Education.**



Trainer Roberta Reiss

STUDENT DEVON EVERDS *(Continued from page 1)*

an instructor. He was nominated by his school there for the Governor General's Award for Most Outstanding Student. In 2000, Devon decided to come to the United States in search of better job opportunities in a more diverse community and landed in Port Charlotte. Since arriving here, he has worked in construction as a project foreman as well as in other capacities.

With a high school diploma and an established career path, you might wonder why Devon is in our program. Devon says that he came to the Adult Learning Center last spring because he "wants to understand English and math in a way that he can apply to every aspect of his life." He decided to work in the online program and in the learning lab because he enjoys being exposed to a variety of educational styles. In the learning lab, instructors rotate and share their different areas of expertise and approaches to learning with their students. Devon's questions often make instructors think. "Can you tell me the difference between an idiom and a cliché?" "Is there a rule for when to use —sion versus —tion?" At least one instructor often resorts to a quick web search to answer Devon's inquiries. Devon also enjoys participating in the online program with its interactive educational experience. He prefers working in the learning lab and online to taking classes because he can tailor his work to the areas he needs to concentrate on. He appreciates the instructors at the Center who offer him the encouragement and support that he feels he lacked when he was in school previously.

Since joining the program in the spring, Devon's test scores have improved significantly. Perhaps more importantly, though, Devon has begun reading for pleasure for the first time in his life, often waking up early on Saturday mornings to start turning the pages of whatever book he's checked out from the Center or the library. *Robinson Crusoe* was the first book that he read just for enjoyment, and he found it "captivating."

Devon feels that he couldn't find a better place to learn than the Adult Learning Center. We are proud to count Devon among the over 200 students that the Center is serving. With his love of learning, it wouldn't be surprising to find Devon as a tutor with our program one day.

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS!



The Adult Learning Center would like to thank those organizations who are helping us raise money for our **tuition hardship assistance program** and the people who are participating in these fundraising efforts! We had a great time at **Visani** in November laughing to the comedy of Paul Lyons. **The Daughters of the American Revolution** partnered with **Books-A-Million** in November to raise funds through BAM's voucher program. Supporters dined at **Chili's** in December when the Center was the beneficiary of one of Chili's Give Back

Nights. And we can't forget our local businesses that have signed on to participate in the **Chocolate Festival on February 11th from 1:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m. at the Port Charlotte Town Center Mall**. We are looking forward to enjoying the chocolate treats to be provided by **Charlotte Technical Center's Culinary Arts Program, Bisous, Cake Concepts, Closer to the Vine, Cozie Café & Grill, FGCU's Renaissance Academy, Greek Corner Café, In Your Face Cupcakes, Isles Yacht Club, Jimmy's Grill, Pies & Plates, Pretty Pooch, Riverside RV Resort & Campground, Sandhill Gardens Retirement Center, Sweet's Diner, and Tastefully Simple**. We hope to see you there!

UPCOMING EVENTS

TUTOR TRAINING. We will be holding our next tutor training session on Saturday, February 4th, from 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. at our Mall location. New tutors will be matched with students shortly after completing their training. For further information or to register for this session, contact Nanette Crist (e-mail: alctutor1@gmail.com; phone: 941-255-7555).



CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER. The Adult Learning Center will host a Chocolate Festival on Saturday, February 11th, from 1:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m. at the Port Charlotte Town Center Mall to raise funds for our tuition hardship assistance program. It is going to be one sweet event, so save the date! Tickets are \$20 and are available at our Mall location.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW TUTORS!

The Adult Learning Center held two tutor training sessions this fall, and we are happy to report that we now have over 20 active tutor-student matches. One great thing about working with adult learners is that the tutor-student relationship is a reciprocal one. New tutor **Adrienne Burchett**, who works with ESOL student **Luidmilya Wrubillwsky**, said, “I enjoy tutoring because it makes me feel like I’m doing something that really matters to somebody. Plus I get insights into another culture!” Our students also enjoy the benefits of supplementing their studies by working with their tutors. **Ana Haynes**, who takes math classes in our facility at FGCU and works with tutor **Mary Chambers**, expressed her sentiments by saying, “I can’t find the words to say thank you for what is being given to me. I appreciate the time and hard work my instructors and tutor put in to help me be successful in life.”



Thanks to all of our tutors for the time and hard work they put in to helping our students accomplish their literacy goals!

ADULT LEARNING CENTER

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