



Hivemind

RCLC HUMMING ALONG

Welcome to Hivemind, the quarterly newsletter of the Rowan County Literacy Council!

RCLC continues to positively swarm with activity. New students are coming on weekly, and we now have students from 16 countries (see p. 5 for details). We have two new tutors who are testing their wings, and two new board members who are lending expertise (p. 4). Like bees, we are social, organized, and of course, hard-working! We had a tutor social gathering (p. 2), two training events to hone old skills and acquire new ones (p. 3), and lots and lots of one-on-one instruction with our ABE and ESL students. In keeping with our hivemind approach, we know that the determination and work of each individual contributes to the success of the entire group. So thank you for being part of the RCLC colony!

MILESTONES

Completed workbook level: Two of Irene Stewart's students, Gary Rash's student, one of Denise Jacob's students, Connie Sherrill's student, one of Char Molrine's students, Vance Meek's student, Sarah Goodman's student, and Catherine Soderberg's student

Wrote/updated Resume: One of Helen Peacock's students

Engaged in recreational literacy activity: One of Char Molrine's students (short story writing), Vance Meek's student (word puzzles)

Obtained library card: One of Helen Peacock's students

Enrolled in community college courses: Chris Verner's student and one of Irene Stewart's students

NEW LAPTOPS COMING SOON!

Our geriatric second-hand laptops have served us well for many years, but they are finally wearing out. Thanks to a very generous grant from Fred and Alice Stanback, we are in the process of ordering "new" refurbished laptops that will enable us to implement a digital literacy component to more of our tutoring sessions and group classes. Stay tuned for details!



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AIN'T WE GOT FUN? FIRST TUTOR SOCIAL A SUCCESS

Like bees on a mission, sometimes our tutors work so diligently they don't have time to get together with (or even see) other tutors. So we decided to plan a Tutor Social to give our group a chance for a little face-to-face interaction.

The gathering took place on July 26 at Mean Mug Coffee on South Fulton St. The turnout was so big, we had to pull up extra chairs and tables and squeeze in—but bees don't really mind close quarters. Tutors with 30 years experience hobnobbed with newly minted tutors and lots of great ideas were exchanged. In fact, so much was going on, that we didn't



All smiles: tutors Emily Rider, Lisa Boguslaw, Liesa Montag-Siegel, and Joel Scott, along with Joel's wife Debbie.

get a group picture until the very end. Stay tuned for details on the next Social!

“Rivers know this: there is no hurry. We shall get there some day.”

—A.A. Milne, Winnie-the-Pooh

LIBRARY HOURS

Location	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
HQ	9:00 am - 9:00 pm	9:00 am - 9:00 pm	9:00 am - 9:00 pm	9:00 am - 6:00 pm	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Closed
East	9:00 am - 8:00 pm	9:00 am - 8:00 pm	9:00 am - 8:00 pm	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	10:00 am - 1:00 pm	Closed
South	9:00 am - 9:00 pm	9:00 am - 9:00 pm	9:00 am - 9:00 pm	9:00 am - 6:00 pm	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Closed

2017 LIBRARY HOLIDAYS

November 10	Holiday— Library Closed (Veteran's Day)
November 23-24	Holiday— Library Closed (Thanksgiving break)
December 25-27	Holiday— Library Closed (Christmas break)

“TECHNOLOGY FOR NON-TECHIES”

Leveraging technology to help students learn and succeed is vital in our digital age. On Sept. 9, the training department hosted a well-attended in-service training program for all tutors which highlighted numerous apps and programs that can be used to accelerate and enhance student learning. Called “Technology for Non-Techies,” the program introduced tutors to a variety of resources for both ABE and ESL students. Presenter Joel Scott, who teaches a group conversation class for high-level ESL students, demoed the DuoLingo smartphone app which helps ESL students learn English and which has support scaffolds in numerous native tongues. In addition, he provided links to a host of online resources for ESL instruction. Program Coordinator Laurel Harry presented an overview of the Spark3000 program, which has been provided to the Literacy Council in conjunction with the Achieve3000 program that is used throughout the Rowan County School System. Spark is a differentiated instruction literacy program which establishes a student’s Lexile level and then presents materials to them at one of 11 different levels of complexity. Upstairs, Board Member Nan Lund led an informative breakout session on using Rosetta Stone for ESL instruction using the loaner laptops that are available in the office for checkout. Even tech-challenged attendees left the training session excited about the many possibilities of incorporating technology into tutoring sessions.



FOCUS ON CITIZENSHIP

ESL tutor Joel Scott and Program Coordinator Laurel Harry attended a training program hosted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in Charlotte on Sept 18, 2017. The daylong training program was hosted by U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) and was designed to give organizations the tools to provide effective citizenship instruction to clients. “We learned how to structure a class to prepare students to pass their naturalization examination and how to avoid many common pitfalls,” said Harry. “Many students over-focus on the civics questions and neglect to prepare adequately for the personal interview. We now know how to work with students to give them the best chance of passing on the first try.” Many RCLC students are on the pathway to citizenship and the information provided in the training session will enable us to better serve our students seeking naturalization. The Council plans to offer an evening citizenship class at the library in the near future.

WELCOME TO THE HIVE!

New tutors **Alex Bruce** and **Crystal Boyd** have joined the team by completing their Pro-Literacy certification. In addition, former tutor **Jenny Hubbard** has rejoined the hive after a hiatus. All three have been paired with one or more students. The Board of Directors also recently welcomed two new members: **Don Doering** and **Scott Maddox**. Don is a veteran tutor who has been an active part of the organization since 2013. Scott is a former educator and city council member who has advocated for students and families in our community for many years.



Tutors Alex Bruce (L) and Crystal Boyd (R).



Tutor Jenny Hubbard (L) and board member Don Doering (R).

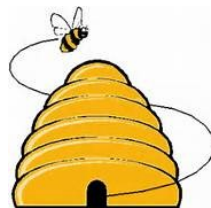


Board member Scott Maddox.

The Buzz

TUTOR INFORMATION ZONE

Do your classes have a **student-centered** approach? Tutoring should focus on the learner's needs and goals. Students should be equal partners in the learning process. Make sure you explain the rationale behind your lessons and ask for input from your student. Give them **choices** about materials and make sure you are aware of your students most pressing needs. Do they need to talk to teachers and school officials? Write emails for work? Fill



out a job application? Record childhood or family memories? Understanding your student's needs will help you tailor your instruction to help them achieve their goals as quickly as possible. Encourage your student to bring in **authentic materials** (work manuals, emails, school bulletins, newspaper articles, etc.) to work from. Incorporating these materials into your lessons will help your student gain confidence in handling real-life texts and situations.

REMINDERS...

Please turn in **tutor timesheets by the 5th of the month**. These timesheets are important! They provide critical program data that we give to United Way and other donors. Please record your time to the closest quarter-hour increment (i.e., travel 15 min, prep 2hrs 45 min).

Remember to include all your hours (CLASS HOURS + PREP HOURS + TRAVEL HOURS). You may submit your hours on a pink timesheet dropped off at the office or upstairs reference desk, by email, by phone, or through the website at:

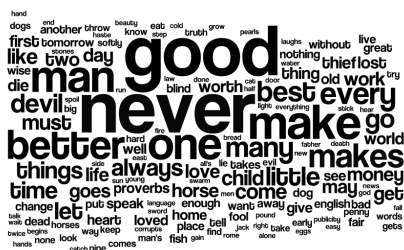
www.rcliteracy.org/monthly-tutoring-hours

NEW MATERIALS

We have several new sets of flashcards for Citizenship-Civics, sight words, and the alphabet. Many students derive great benefit from using flashcards. We also have blank index cards if you want to make your own. Try incorporating flashcards into your next lesson!

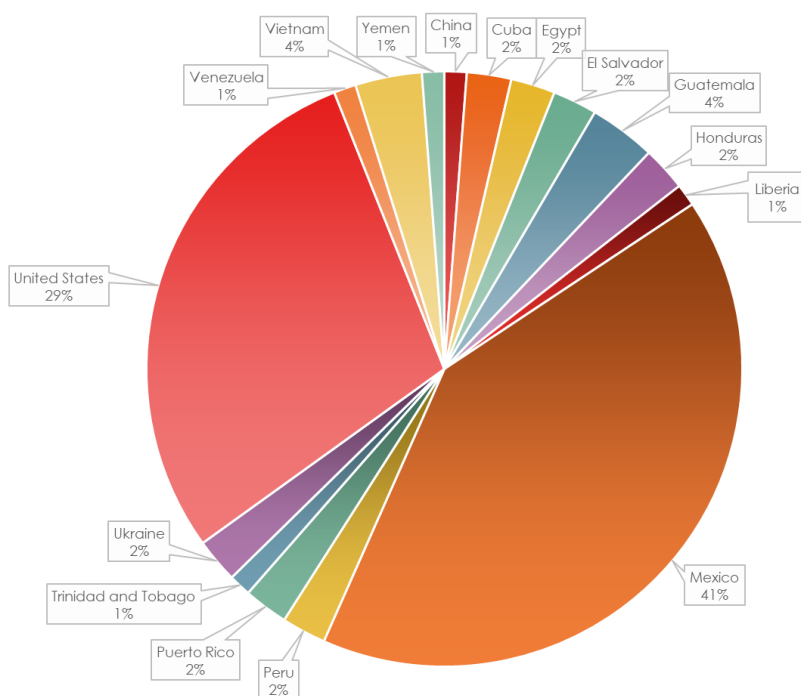


Did you know that 300 words make up roughly 65% of all written material? If your student can master the words on this list, their reading speed and fluency will benefit. We have copies in the office, let us know if you'd like one.



ESL CORNER

We currently have students from 16 different countries (either enrolled or on the waiting list) and approximately 70% of our students are English Language Learners (ELL). More than ever, ESL instruction is critical to our mission. If you haven't worked with an ESL/ELL student yet, it's a great time to jump in. No foreign language experience is required! We have many resources available to help you and your student meet the challenge.



FOCUS ON YOUTH LITERACY

As the leaves start to fall, RCLC is working on several youth program initiatives in our community.

Our tutors are embarking on a second season of working with 3rd grade students at **Hurley Elementary School**. Teachers and administrators at Hurley use assessments and observation to identify students who could benefit from additional one-on-one tutoring in reading. Our tutors provide targeted instruction during the course of the school week in order to give students the boost they need to improve performance and keep up with their peers.

Meanwhile, the Council is also working on a new partnership with **North Rowan Middle School** to promote literacy. After participating in the Scrabble Scramble last spring, the students caught the bug and now want to create their own Scrabble Club.

The Salisbury Youth Council is assisting RCLC in the launch of a book drive that will help us keep the

Little Libraries stocked with children's books. These mini-lending libraries are located in several Housing Authority communities throughout town.

Through this multi-pronged approach, RCLC is committed to promoting Youth literacy in our area.

MINNEAPOLIS OR BUST!

RCLC was awarded a \$500 scholarship to attend the 2017 ProLiteracy Conference on Adult Literacy on Sept. 27-30 in Minneapolis, MN. Our organization was one of 36 scholarship recipients nationwide. A total of 70 scholarship requests were considered from 26 states. Priority was given to first-time attendees and historically under-represented regions. Program Coordinator Laurel Harry attended the conference, where a new tutor training program was previewed in advance of a 1Q18 rollout.

RCLC WHO'S WHO

2017 Board of Directors:

Melody Moxley-President

Helen Peacock-Vice-President

Vance Meek-Treasurer

Carolyn Myers-Secretary

Don Doering

Nan Lund

Scott Maddox

Gary Rash

Wen Ye

Kelly Freeze-RCCC Representative

Administration:

KC Scott-Executive Director

Laurel Harry-Program Coordinator

BY THE NUMBERS...

11%

Only 11% of people are aware of any literacy program in their community. Help get the word out! Tell your friends and neighbors about the important work we do to improve literacy in our area.

—Source ProLiteracy Voices, Vol. 10, issue 2

\$33

Adults literacy programs return \$33 to the economy for every dollar invested in them. By increasing the tax base, and reducing burdens on education, healthcare, and justice systems, investing in literacy provides a big bang for the buck.

—Source Pitney Bowes Workforce Readiness Initiative

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Number of students currently on RCLC's waiting list. We currently have both ABE and ESL students awaiting matches. Let's get this number down to zero!

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EACH ONE TEACH ONE

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Mailing Address Line 1

Mailing Address Line 2

Mailing Address Line 3

Mailing Address Line 4

Mailing Address Line 5