



Hivemind

SPREADING OUR WINGS IN 2018

The Rowan County Literacy Council is off to a great start in 2018 with several exciting new programs in development. For the first time, RCLC will be offering an evening group ESL class. This intensive 10-week program will be geared towards helping working adults improve their command of English and is part of RCLC's efforts to reach new populations of English Language Learners in Rowan County. In addition, a Citizenship class will be offered for incumbent students and community members to help prepare residents for the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) exam and interview. Many of our students are on the path to citizenship and this class will prepare them for success in the naturalization process. Look for updates on these two classes in our next issue!

Another innovative program is our Persistence Program, which incentivizes student attendance. Everybody loves to win prizes and our students are no exception! Read more about this new program on page 2.

MILESTONES

Completed workbook level: Two of Ray Costello's students, one of Denise Jacob's students, two of Don Doering's students.

Increased involvement in child's education: One of Helen Peacock's students.

Enrolled in a training course: One of Joel Scott's students.

Read a book for pleasure: Jenni Hubbard's student.

Registered to vote: Nan Lund's student.

Used technology to improve skills: Alex Bruce's student, Joel Scott's advanced ESL class, one of Deb Chirico's students

Got a new job: One of Joel Scott's students and Chris Verner's student.

NEW TUTOR TRAINING FROM PROLITERACY

RCLC is affiliated with ProLiteracy, the largest adult literacy membership organization in the county. ProLiteracy is in the final stages of overhauling the tutor training materials that member agencies like RCLC use. The new materials will consist of a dual-track (ABE or ESL) training program that can be delivered either as a face-to-face group class or as an online course for individuals. The updated materials will help new tutors hit the ground running. Stay tuned for rollout details.



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PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF

Student persistence is an issue for literacy organizations nationwide. Using a portion of a grant from a generous community donor, RCLC is piloting a program to incentivize attendance.



NaiLing Tucker was the first winner of a \$20 gift card after her name was drawn from a pool of eligible students. To be eligible, stu-

dents have to attend classes for **6 or more hours**. Ling is averaging an impressive 15 hours per month and has made steady progress since enrolling in the program last May.

In December, a hardy band of tutors and students also met the minimum time requirement. Tetiana Ivanova was the lucky winner for the last month of 2017. Tetiana and tutor Don Doering met for 14 hours during December.

We will continue offering the incentives in 2018.

Please work with your students to reschedule any missed lessons and try to hit the minimum 6-hour threshold to be entered in the drawing. Go team!



NaiLing Tucker with tutor Irene Stewart (left). Don Doering and Tetiana Ivanova (above).

*Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend.
Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read.*

~Groucho Marx

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

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

March 30 & 31	Holiday– Library Closed (Good Friday)
May 26 & 28	Holiday– Library Closed (Memorial Day)
July 4	Holiday– Library Closed (Independence Day)

THE NEW LAPTOPS ARE HERE! THE NEW LAPTOPS ARE HERE!

Remember that scene in “The Jerk” when Steve Martin is sooooo excited when the new phone books arrive? Well, that’s kind of how we feel about the new laptops that we recently obtained. A generous donation from Fred and Alice Stanback enabled us to purchase 10 re-

furbished laptops from the United Way of Raleigh at a steep discount. The new laptops are available in the office



to checkout and use in your classes.

Tutors can now **incorporate a crucial digital literacy component** into every class. During a student’s tenure in our program, they should 1) establish and learn to use an email account and 2) learn the basics of word processing and internet navigation. Job applications, school communications, banking, and many other every-day tasks must be done via computer. RCLC is striving to ensure that our students can compete in the marketplace, be involved in their children’s education, and be active and informed citizens. Being comfortable with technology is essential to achieving these goals. Laptops can be used to access the Spark3000 literacy website, Rosetta Stone program, Duolingo website, phonics and vocabulary-building websites, online listening exercises, podcasts, interactive pronunciation guides, newspaper articles, and much more.

A special thank you to tutor Joel Scott for his assistance in evaluating computer specifications and options and traveling to Raleigh to finalize the purchase. Please come by the office before your next class to pick up a laptop and get your student started on the road to digital literacy.

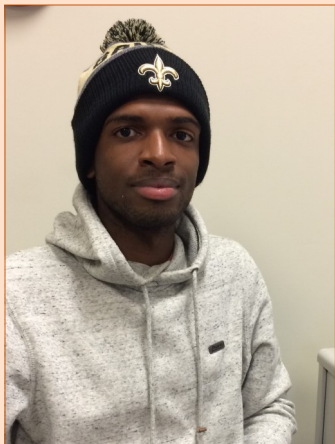


FOCUS ON CITIZENSHIP

Tutors Joel Scott and Liesa Montag-Siegel will help the Literacy Council’s upcoming Citizenship class. The class will prepare residents to pass the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) interview and exam. The class will be held at a downtown location and will be open to current students as well as community members interested in preparing for the naturalization process. The 10-week class will meet twice a week and focus not only on the history and civics material the exam requires, but also on the subtle art of successfully navigating the citizenship interview. RCLC is excited to be able to assist members of our community in making their dreams of U.S. citizenship come true.

WELCOME TO THE HIVE!

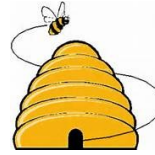
New tutors **Melchizedek Ghandour** and **Edward Tezlaf** have recently joined the ranks at the Literacy Council. Mel is working with an ABE student and Ed is working with an ESL student and also taking part in the Youth Literacy program at Hurley Elementary. Mel is a full-time university student studying psychology who finds time to tutor on the weekends. Ed is retired, but keeps busy by volunteering with both adult and elementary school literacy efforts.



Tutors Melchizedek “Mel” Ghandour (top) and Edward “Ed” Tezlaf (bottom).



The Buzz



TUTOR INFO ZONE: PROVIDING CHOICE

According to a paper on adult literacy by the National Research Council, “When learners believe that they have some control over their own learning, they are **more likely to take on challenges and to persist with difficult tasks**, compared with students who perceive that they have little control over their learning outcomes.” Makes sense, but how do we put this into practice?

On Day 1, ask the student about goals. Having a clear idea of the student’s goals and priorities

will help you tailor your instruction to their needs. Offer choices to your student. Do they want to move on to the next Challenger level or try American Lives? Do they have books or magazines from home that they would like to incorporate into their lessons? Do they have a family story they would like to write? Do they have material from work that they would like to review? Make sure you **work with your student** to develop your curriculum and activities; the more involved they are, the more motivated they will be.

REMINDERS...

Please turn in **tutor timesheets by the 5th of the month**. Timesheets provide critical program data that we give to United Way and other donors. **Please record your time to the closest quarter-hour increment**. 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. Don’t forget: all students with six or more hours per month are eligible for a gift card drawing. Let’s log some hours!

NEW MATERIALS

A new resource is available for our ESL students: **Intercambio Interactive English**. This workbook series has six levels, with two books (A & B) for each level. Each lesson includes vocabulary, grammar, real life practice suggestions, culture tips, and homework. In addition, each lesson includes links to audio tracks that tutors can play (and replay as often as necessary) in class. There are exercises and activities that build off of these audio tracks, which will enhance students’ listening and speaking skills. For our ESL students, listening and speaking are the most important skills for day-to-day interaction. Stop by and take a look!



ESL CORNER: FOCUS ON LISTENING SKILLS

Listening skills are paramount. If your student can't understand routine conversations, they will not be able to meet their personal and career goals. Many of our students perform better on reading assessments than on listening assessments. In order to boost listening skills, try the following website in your ESL instruction: www.esl-lab.com. ESL-lab is a trove of everyday conversations that you can play for your ESL student during class to improve comprehension. Every class should incorporate the four fundamental language skills: Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking. Plan to spend a portion of each class on a planned listening activity.



Use the browser on your smart phone or a laptop checked out from the office to access the ESL-Lab website. Each sample conversation includes engaging comprehension questions. Feel free to replay the audio tracks multiple times to enhance comprehension and build student confidence. There are Easy, Medium, and Difficult tracks to choose from and hundreds of topics, including, Business Communications, Hobbies, Phone Messages, Job Hunting, Holiday Traditions, Travel Arrangements, and even the monumentally important topic of Pizza Delivery.

ESL LISTENING ACTIVITY

If you are looking for ways to incorporate more listening drills into your classes, try playing the following flashcard game. Give the student three cards, marked "Yes," "No," and "I don't know." Then ask a series of questions, appropriate to your student's level. Do you have a dog? Do you like cucumbers?



Have you ever made pancakes from scratch? Are you left-handed? Do you have direct deposit? Do you know what a deductible is? You can

also show a picture of a person or scene and ask questions about the image, for example: Does it look cold here? Is he wearing gloves? Is his coat green? Students respond by holding up the appropriate card. Give it a try!

Checklist for Choosing Appropriate Activities	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is the activity at the appropriate level for your student(s)? Can they do it?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the activity satisfy the objective, and is it relevant?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the activity relate to the rest of the material in the lesson?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do you have the resources (realia, supplies, classroom equipment) to do the activity?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the activity lend variety to your lesson?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the activity allow students to integrate skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing) to some extent?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the activity allow students to build both fluency and accuracy?

RCLC WHO'S WHO

2017 Board of Directors:

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Vance Meek-Treasurer

Carolyn Myers-Secretary

Don Doering

Nan Lund

Scott Maddox

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Wen Ye

Kelly Freeze-RCCC Representative

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KC Scott-Executive Director

Laurel Harry-Program Coordinator

BY THE NUMBERS...

493M

493 million women around the world can't read. Low-literacy mothers are less likely to send their children to school than more educated mothers.

—Source ProLiteracy.org

1.2M

Every year one in six young adults in the U.S. drops out of high school. This equals 1.2 million people. Many of these will wind up living in households at or below the federal poverty line.

—Source: National Center for Education Statistics

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Number of students currently on RCLC's waiting list. We currently have both ABE and ESL students awaiting matches. Can you take on a new student, or do you know someone who would make a great tutor? Let's bring this number down today!

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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