

Celebrate Your Successful Students – Submit Your Nomination Today

Annually, OTAN honors adult education students who have made positive contributions to the community and met their goals as a result of attending an adult education program. The 2015 honorees will be selected from nominations submitted before April 15, 2015. Administrators and instructors are encouraged to nominate their outstanding students.

To nominate a student, visit the Adult Education Students Succeed site located at www.adultedlearners.org. From the Home page, select the Nomination tab, which outlines the selection criteria and displays the nomination form. All nominations will be considered and winners will be judged by their achievements as a result of their participation in an adult education program. Both the students and adult school programs are recognized through this process. OTAN looks forward to honoring your successful students!

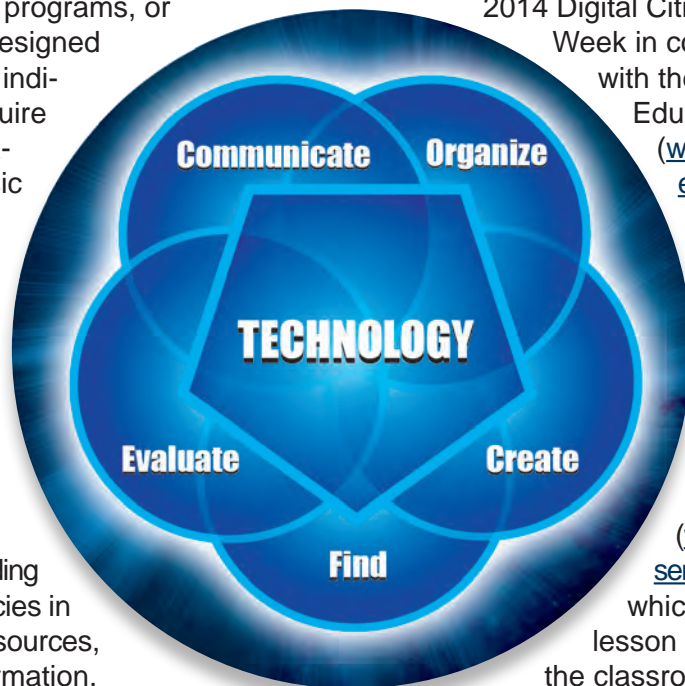
Inside This Issue:

- ★ Students Succeed Recipients Honored at Leadership Summit
- ★ College and Career Readiness Standards and Technology
- ★ OTAC Alum Focus: Donna Barr
- ★ Curriculum through the Mobile Phone

Digital Citizenship and Literacy @ TDLS

At the upcoming Technology and Distance Learning Symposium, OTAN will host a strand about Digital Citizenship and Literacy.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) defines workforce preparation activities as “activities, programs, or services designed to help an individual acquire a combination of basic academic skills, critical thinking skills, digital literacy skills, and self-management skills, including competencies in utilizing resources, using information, working with others, understanding systems, and obtaining skills necessary for successful transition into and completion of postsecondary education or training, or employment.”



Defined in section 202 of the Museum and Library Services Act (20 U.S.C. 9101), “digital literacy skills means skills associated with using technology to enable users to find, evaluate, organize, create and communicate information.”

At our own premier #adulted event hosted by San Leandro Adult School, resources and promising practices will be presented both from the California adult education field and from the emerging authorities on these topics such as Common Sense Media, responsible for designating October 19-25, 2014 Digital Citizenship Week in coordination with the Connected Educator Month (www.connectededucators.org).

OTAN also encourages practitioners to use the toolkit developed by Common Sense Media (www.commonsensemedia.org), which includes lesson plans for the classroom or after school, suggested digital storytelling tools and activities, handouts for parents in English and Spanish, and family workshop activities. The topics include Internet safety, privacy and security, cyberbullying, digital footprints, creative credit and copyright, and are organized in age-appropriate ways. Join us and discuss how to engage students, teachers, and families in your community in thinking critically, behaving safely, and participating responsibly online. 🌐

Adult Education Students Succeed Recipients Honored at ACSA 2014 Leadership Summit

On November 6th, OTAN's two Students Succeed honorees were invited to join 19 outstanding students recognized by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) from across the state. There were approximately 1,000 participants in attendance at the Every Student Succeeding luncheon held at the beautiful Bay Front Hilton in San Diego. Grely Mazariegos and Saul Godinez were the two adult education students being recognized. Both students attended Tamalpais Adult School and were nominated by their teacher, Jaemi Naish. Mr. Godinez was unfortunately not able to attend due to work and family responsibilities. Ms. Mazariegos was called to the stage along with the K-12 honorees to receive an engraved glass plaque while their story was shared by the announcer. After the recognition procession, Ms. Mazariegos was one of the students selected to be interviewed by an NBC affiliate, with the interview to be aired later on the local news. It was an honor to have Ms. Mazariegos represent the many adult learners who have reached their goals with the help of caring and expert educators such as those at Tamalpais Adult School. Congratulations to Ms. Mazariegos, Mr. Godinez, and the staff and educators at Tamalpais Adult School!

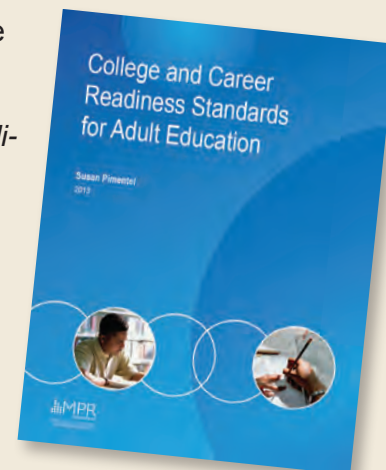
To see an OTAN-created video about Ms. Mazariegos or Mr. Godinez, please visit www.adultedlearners.org and search by their last name. Information about how to nominate an outstanding student from your agency is also available on this site. 🌐



Grely Mazariegos (second from left) shows off her engraved plaque. Pictured from left to right: OTAN's Branka Marceta, Grely, and OTAN's Blair Roy and Penny Pearson.

College and Career Readiness Standards and Technology

In early 2013, the Office of Career and Technical Education released *College and Career Readiness (CCR) Standards for Adult Education*. This 150-page work (which is available as a 2.9 MB PDF at www.otan.us/images/publicarchive/ArchivesDigitalFiles/doclib/se/se0027-ref6234.pdf) is the result



of a nine-month process that examined the Common Core State Standards from the perspective of adult education and was funded to provide a set of manageable yet significant CCR standards that reflect broad agreement among subject matter experts in adult education. It was written by Susan Pimentel and prepared by MPR, Associates, Inc.

Throughout both Common Core and CCR standards, technology is present as an underlying tool for most subject areas. Under the CCR writing section, there is specific mention in Anchor 6. Level E offers this definition: "Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products, taking advantage of technology's capacity to link to other information and to display information flexibly and dynamically." (W.9-10.6)

Mathematical Practice Standard 5 - Use Appropriate Tools Strategically states the following: "When making mathematical models, proficient students know that technology can enable them to visualize the results of varying assumptions, explore consequences, and compare predictions with data."

Although none of the Common Core STEM-related standards was selected for the core adult learning standards, Appendix E states that workers in STEM occupations rely on science and math and use technology in the workplace to engineer solutions to complex problems.

From a very practical point of view, Fresno County Office of Education developed a list of recommended technology skills for students as they relate to the Common Core State Standards (<http://commoncore.fcoe.org>) and encourage educators to use this as a guide while developing rigorous and relevant content. 🌐

OTAC Alum Focus: Donna Barr

The Online Teaching Academy (OTAC) is now in its fifth year. What words of wisdom would a prior participant offer to others who are considering teaching in an online or blended environment?

Donna Barr, ESL instructor at Lincoln Education Center, started the Academy with the goal of creating an online resource to help students study and practice in preparation for the U.S. Citizenship exam. Through her experience with OTAC, Donna came with clear ideas of how she wanted to interact with her students and offer them alternatives other than having to attend many hours in a brick-and-mortar classroom. She had no prior experience with learning management systems like Moodle, and she initially felt a little intimidated. However, her experience soon changed her mind. "I have become a Moodle enthusiast. OTAC helped me understand the role of an online teacher, build a Moodle Course and get experience with enrolled students working in the course." Her students currently attend class for two and a half

hours a week, and then complete another nine and a half hours of work at home through her online course. Donna uses many tools such as Skype and FaceTime to do mock interviews and give feedback to students.

When asked what she would tell the new group of Academy participants, Donna said, "I remember being so overwhelmed that I thought I couldn't possibly complete this project. Those 'turn the corner' experiences will come. The more you do, the more you learn and grow. Take advantage of your mentor's expertise. Ask lots of questions. Watch the Moodle tutorial videos through OTAN and YouTube. Persist!" 🌐



Curriculum through the Mobile Phone

Starting Summer 2014, several California adult schools and community colleges (Sequoia Adult District School, Santa Rosa Community College, City College of San Francisco, and Alameda Adult School) started collaboration with Cell-Ed to demonstrate the efficacy of mobile learning on any cell phone—no Internet required. Positive reviews reveal how flexible the program is since learners can call any time of day to receive extra practice.

According to Jessica Rothenberg-Aalami and Alison Ascher Webber, as an organization that delivers adult learning courses through any mobile phone, Cell-Ed currently offers a high beginner-level ESL course, Spanish literacy, and a course to review the 100 questions of the U.S. Citizenship exam.

Recently, Cell-Ed was introduced to more than 270 adults at the Sequoia District Adult School and many have already studied over four hours! Barbara Lincoln, one of the Sequoia teachers, appreciates that "the program has a lot of repeating, listening, reading and writing, which is ideal for students." Other Cell-Ed students in the Bay Area, such as Candida, who started the program in the summer, have already completed

the ESL course. In her case, Candida studied for more than 23 hours and texted 450 times in a little under four months and is ready to tackle the next course!

To try Cell-Ed, call the demo number at (213) 223-7323. For more information, you can visit www.celled.org. 🌐



Upcoming Webinars

OTAN offers a variety of free online and face-to-face (F2F) workshops that cover best practices and technical skills needed to integrate social media, digital literacy, mobile technology, online/blended teaching, productivity and online tools, and more into your teaching. Visit www.otan.us/training for complete workshop descriptions, schedules, and registration information. Workshops are online unless marked as F2F with a site location.

- **Google Tools and Drive II**
(F2F - Whittier Adult School)
01/16/15 - 1:00 p.m.
- **Orienting Students to Online Learning**
02/03/2015 - 3:00 p.m.
- **Google Tools and Drive I**
(F2F - Berkeley Adult School)
02/06/2015 - 1:00 p.m.
- **Mobile Devices in Adult Education Part 1: Basics to Use in the Classroom**
02/06/15 - 1:00 p.m.
- **Creating a High-Quality Online Course**
02/10/2015 - 3:00 p.m.
- **Social Media for Adult Education**
02/11/15 - 3:00 p.m.

From the Executive Director

For the past 14 years, OTAN has managed the California Adult Education Students Succeed program. The program identifies learners who have reached their career goals as a result of participation in the adult education system. To date, OTAN has documented a total of 193 successful learners! These learner stories, many captured via video, are a testament to the dedication and excellent work by California adult educators. If you are looking for a way to raise awareness regarding the value of adult education, consider using Students Succeed stories to illustrate how programs are making a difference for the individuals involved as well as for their families, their employers, and their communities.



In the last issue of *OTAN Online Connection*, we announced the 2015 Technology and Distance Learning Symposium. I am excited about this year's Symposium that will be held March 13 & 14 and hosted by San Leandro Adult School. Some great workshops are scheduled and I believe this will be the best ever TDLS event. 🌐

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