

Student Success Stories



Helping Nevada adults improve basic skills and get jobs through GED, Career Pathways, Literacy, ESL, Civics, Citizenship, & Transition to Postsecondary programs. Nevada Adult Education services are federally funded through the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, Title II of the Workforce Investment Act.

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Allen's healthy choices

My name is Allen Pai. I immigrated to the U.S. half a year ago from Taiwan. Thanks to the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District's CALL (Computer Assisted Literacy in Libraries) Program, I attended the Work Readiness Credential (WRC) class at West Las Vegas Library several months ago. I personally think this class is beneficial to new immigrants in three ways.

First, the WRC program provides three free textbooks to students in math, reading, and situational judgment and active listening. Those books provide much practical information that people will need in their workplaces. Second, the program hired the best teachers to teach the class. They are well experienced and upbeat so that the students learned both more and better. In addition, the management of the class invited many great speakers to give presentations on job search, writing a résumé, and tips on interviewing. And third, the students had a chance to meet fellow classmates who are from different cultures, such as Mexico, India, and China. I am so thankful to the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District for providing us such a great class!

I took the WRC examination, passed with flying colors, and earned my National Work Readiness Credential. But this is not the end of this story. I am looking for a job now by applying the knowledge I gained from the class. I have asked the library staff for help and they gave it to me many times. Thanks to Literacy Services Coordinator Tim McDonald and WRC Program Coordinator Mary Ramirez for providing useful feedback to me on my résumé and cover letter. They bridged the gap by providing information that I did not learn in the class.

To sum things up, attending the CALL program has been very rewarding to me as a non-native English speaker, from learning to use English in my daily life to applying for a job in the USA.

Update: Allen was recently hired as a Health Specialist I with the Nevada State Health Division's, Bureau of Child, Family & Community Wellness, Oral Health Program in Carson City.

Daiana gives back

My name is Daiana Salas. I'm 23 years old. I'm from Argentina and I have been living in Las Vegas for the last six months. I met my husband in Argentina and married him here in Vegas. My husband's family has lived here since 1989 and they speak both English and Spanish.

I only spoke Spanish until I moved to Las Vegas and found it important to learn English to communicate with people and to find future work. So I found this program on the Internet; I signed up and started! I attended the Las Vegas intermediate AM class taught by Dellisa Armstrong. After seven weeks of class, I learned to write and speak a little more English. My teacher and her class were awesome!

To learn English is a big challenge, but I'll do what it takes to learn. I think whoever wants to learn can do it too! I am currently volunteering at the library where I studied. I want to continue learning and helping.

I plan to learn and grow every day! Communication is key so my goal is to keep learning. I love this country, and I love this city. I want to achieve. I will achieve!



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When Dardo speaks

By CALL Literacy Trainer Jay Yeo

I was recently surprised and delighted by a visit to one of our ESL classes by someone I met back in 2005 and hadn't seen since then. The occasion was a brief presentation by the Transamerica Financial Advisors Group on job opportunities for those intermediate-level ESL students at the CALL Program who might be interested in getting started in the world of investment and insurance.

Our students were completely engaged in the material projected on the screen as the presenter challenged them with questions about investment-related topics such as simple and compound interest, annual yields, and long-term goals, including retirement. Just as the presentation was about to wrap up, I noticed a gentleman sitting in the front row looking attentively at the screen and paying close attention to our guest speaker.

I thought I recognized him and approached him after the event to find out who he was. He looked at me and said, "Hi, Jay. How have you been?" Well, before the embarrassment of not remembering his name became downright uncomfortable, he said, "Remember me? I'm Dardo. I was a student in your program about 6 years ago. Now I am working for Transamerica Group as a Financial Advisor."

I actually did remember him and did not hesitate a moment to tell our students about Dardo's success. He had studied at CALL in the spring of 2005 and tested out of our ESL Program. What better model for our students to emulate? After totally embarrassing him by using him as an example, I persuaded him to give the standard "If-I-can-do-it" speech to the class. They ate it up and had a lot of questions for him, too. It was a truly special moment.

Dardo was always a good listener in class and an outstanding student, overall. Now, when Dardo speaks, people listen!



About the CALL program



CALL staff, left to right: Orlando Lugo, Tim McDonald, Sherena Burwell, Carla Adkins, Julia Cordova, Rhea Watson, Jay Yeo, Sebastian Gonzalez, and Beverly Espinoza. Not shown: Marian Chambers.

Computer Assisted Literacy in Libraries (CALL) is a free program of the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District for adults who are more than 17 years old, read below the 8th grade level, or want to learn English as a Second Language (ESL). Instruction is provided by contracted teachers at multiple locations, including library branches and community centers, and is supported through computer use and one-on-one tutoring. The program is committed to assisting students to acquire the basic literacy skills needed to reach their identified goals and become informed, productive members of the Las Vegas community.

2012-2013 Program Highlights

- ◆ Enrollment: 1,242 students
- ◆ Average attendance hours per student: 70
- ◆ Student retention rate: 81%
- ◆ Percentage of students making one or more educational level gains: 64%
- ◆ Number of students awarded the National Work Readiness Credential: 14
- ◆ Number of students achieving naturalized American citizenship: 49

Information

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