

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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Work readiness students: Where are they now?

By Literacy Services Coordinator Tim McDonald, mcdonaldt@lvccld.org, 702/507-3534, <http://lvccld.org/cardservices/call.cfm>

The Las Vegas-Clark County Library District's CALL Program staff recently conducted follow-up surveys on some exceptional adult learners who earned their National Work Readiness Credentials in the spring of 2013. Through the work readiness class, these nine students each attended 111 hours of instruction and then took four very rigorous exams covering skill areas identified by the National Work Readiness Council as those most desired by employers in their entry level employees. The four exams covered soft skills areas such as situational judgment and active listening, as well as reading and math skills in a workplace context.

The follow-up surveys conducted this spring assessed these students' progress on their employment goals since the class ended. Here is a brief update on the students who earned a Work Readiness Credential (WRC).

- ✪ **Blanca Flores:** Started her job at Saguaro Home Health on April 30, 2013, after completing the WRC program.
 - ✪ **Hector Sosa-Gomez:** Received a pay raise at his job at El Mundo, got his GED[®], and is applying to UNLV for the fall term.
 - ✪ **Allen Pai:** Was hired as a chronic disease program evaluator at the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Department of Health and Human Services, State of Nevada on July 22, 2013.
 - ✪ **Ginnie Seva:** Was hired as a transit ambassador at the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada on May 20, 2013. She also got a job as a part time administrative assistant for a psychiatrist at Behavior Medicine Associates. Ginnie volunteers as a bread baker at her church and intends to return to college to earn a degree in social work.
 - ✪ **Annie Chung:** Took the class to do a better job supporting her children and spouse as a mother and homemaker. She reports that the class has helped her achieve this goal and she continues to explore opportunities to improve her English language skills.
 - ✪ **Luis Santamaria:** Is employed at Marshalls Retail Corporation as of March 2014. He has been attending CSN since fall 2013.
 - ✪ **Jacob Chavez:** Was attending the College of Southern Nevada part-time while doing the WRC class. He is currently studying full-time at CSN, pursuing a business major.
 - ✪ **Joseph Chavez:** Worked as a volunteer for the Centennial Hills Library since May 2013. Joseph was hired in March 2014 at Nellis Air Force Base as a custodian.
 - ✪ **April Beasley:** Obtained a job with the Census Bureau at the end of class in April 2013.
- Overall, eight of the nine WRC students reported they are enrolled in school and/or holding a job!



Shown from left: Nancy Kinder (instructor), Anyika Kamal (instructor), Allen Pai, Virginia Maronilla-Seva, Jacob Chavez, April Beasley, and Hector Sosa-Gomez.

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 eighth 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 community.

Lupe learns, gains confidence, gets two jobs

By Great Basin Instructor Hal Hibbert, harold.hibbert@gbcnv.edu, 775/753-2230



Maria Guadalupe Gonzalez has been in the U.S. for 10 years. Two and a half years ago, she enrolled in our ESL program. She started in the low/beginning class, moved on to the high/intermediate class, and just recently proceeded to the advanced class!

Lupe is married and has three daughters, ages 5, 8, and 14. Her husband works at RAM Enterprises.

She wanted to work outside the home, and in the winter of 2014 she got a job cleaning houses. However, she didn't stop there ... she also got a job at Little Caesars Pizza. Right now she makes pizzas but is in training to be a cashier.

Lupe says she is no longer nervous in public because she is comfortable with her language skills. She feels confident asking and answering questions. "I am so grateful to the Great Basin College's ESL program (<http://www.gbcnv.edu/alc/>) and the teachers for the helping me improve my English Skills and my life!"

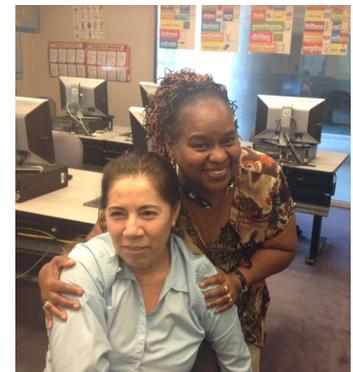
Transitions Project helps ESL students move up

By Literacy Services Coordinator Tim McDonald, mcdonaldt@lvccld.org, 702/507-3534, <http://lvccld.org/cardservices/call.cfm>

The Las Vegas-Clark County Library District was awarded a federal incentive grant for the 2013-2014 program year to support the ESL Transitions Project. Through this project, advisors work with students to create individual action plans, identify relevant postsecondary education and training opportunities, refer students to resources to meet their basic needs, and assist teachers in customizing vocabulary instruction to meet the work and life goals of individual students.

Rhonda Tipton is an advisor for the intermediate level ESL class held in the evening at the Las Vegas Library on Las Vegas Blvd North. Several of Rhonda's students have achieved successful outcomes related to their employment and job training goals, testament to the program's focus on identifying students' objectives and skills at the initial meeting and connecting them with community resources.

During Rhonda's initial survey appointment with student Olivia Portillo (shown at right being hugged by Rhonda), Olivia said her boss wanted her to take a test to get certified as a food handler so she could get promoted, but that she had been putting it off because the test was in English and she was afraid that she would not pass it. Rhonda and Olivia discussed items that she thought would be on the test, and because Olivia could explain it with great detail, Rhonda encouraged her to take the test. A week later Olivia reported that she took the test and passed. Now she is not only a certified food handler, but also in charge of the kitchen for Nevada Adult Day Healthcare Center at the Auto Camberio Recreational Center.



Asiel Ramirez told Rhonda he wasn't sure what he wanted to do for work, but he knew he wanted to be able to socialize with people. Rhonda reminded him that he would always come to class talking about wanting to party, so he may want to look into being a host at a bar/club. He has the smile and the personality to go with it. The next week Asiel excitedly reported to Rhonda that he had begun studying at the National Bartender School.



During Rhonda's initial survey with student Karina Franco Rusk (pictured at left in white dress, with Rhonda), Karina stated that she was looking for a job. Although she has legal documentation from her country to be a nurse, she had been told that she must pass three tests to be certified in the U.S. But Katrina needed money to pay for the tests. They talked about job options and within a week, Rhonda had a job at Deseret Industries. "The class not only helped my English," said Katrina. "It's given me encouragement and confidence."

Three of the four Brazilian students in Rhonda's class work for Deseret Industries. They recently told Rhonda their supervisor has paid for them to take advanced English classes at the College of Southern Nevada because of their terrific work ethic and demonstrated commitment to CALL's intermediate level class.

Read more about CALL's ESL Transitions Project in Success Stories, Issue 14 (<http://nvedu.org/studentsuccess>).