



The Word on Literacy

Winter 2011

Greater Baton Rouge Literacy Coalition

564 Laurel Street

Baton Rouge, LA 70801

225-381-7141

www.gbrliteracy.org



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Our Mission: The Greater Baton Rouge Literacy Coalition is dedicated to promoting adult literacy through the creation, maintenance, and sustainability of an integrated, cohesive and well-managed system that supports literacy service providers.

Third Literacy Week Celebration Brings New PSAs, Student Anthology and GBRLC Members!



GBRLC's third Literacy Week celebration (Nov. 29 – Dec. 5) was a great success, with the release of [two new public service announcements now running on WBRZ](#), the release of [our third student anthology](#) containing works from 51 students, our annual student poetry reading and our Community Leadership Breakfast at Boudreaux's.

The theme for GBRLC's second PSA contest for high school students, "Learn to Earn", was chosen not only to draw interest from those in need of services but to supply high school students with statistics about how literacy affects health, crime, employment and parental involvement in children's education. Because Louisiana leads the nation in the percentage of high school students who drop out each year, the high school community serves as a relevant generator of and audience for this critical message. This year, four students from Zachary High School won the contest, and WBRZ produced their ideas as two PSAs. Second place winners were students from Woodlawn High School.

The winning students agreed that the experience confronted them with stark realities in our parish and state. Danielle Greer, who created the PSA "[Learn to Earn](#)" with classmate Devan Othmer, said, "I was surprised at how many Baton Rouge residents cannot read and also how many have never completed high school." Devan agreed, saying, "The statistics really surprised me; I had no idea the problem was so bad."

Chelse Jones, who created the PSA "[Reading Helps Dreams Come True](#)" with classmate Bria Williams, noted, "My eyes were opened about the importance of literacy not only in adults' lives but in children's as well." Bria reflected, "If adults are not literate, their children will most likely not be either. This demoralizing cycle could continue until a huge percentage of our population would be illiterate in the future, if parents aren't prepared to help their children succeed in school and students continue to drop out."

Debby Lowery, the students' teacher, and WBRZ's Ed Ball, Jr. who supervised the students as they put together the PSAs, ensured the students' involvement in each step of the production process. "I enjoyed experiencing the real, unsugar coated life of a professional," Bria said, and Danielle decided that the producing experience helped confirm her desire to edit film as a career. Devan noted, "I am extremely glad I could do something to help alleviate the situation," while Chelse confirmed the sense of accomplishment. "After all our hard work, starting out with just an idea on paper, the most exciting part was seeing it brought to life into a real PSA that thousands would see!" she said. Chelse was amazed at finally witnessing community leaders watch the PSAs' premiere at the breakfast. "Seeing people's reactions when they saw the PSA for the first time was breath taking!" she said. "You could really tell they were touched and now realized the effects of literacy in Baton Rouge."

Since the breakfast, the students have continued spreading the word about the need for literacy services and the available resources. Chelse and Bria had the chance to present their thoughts to community leaders at a Zachary Community School Board meeting in January. "Hopefully," Bria said, "we planted a seed that may one day grow into a tree of knowledge that will promote reading and literacy for students around Zachary and maybe even the whole state!"

"Literacy is more important than I could have imagined or ever wrapped my head around before participating in this contest. Literacy affects so many people."

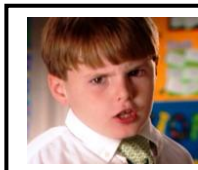
Bria Williams, Zachary High School student

Thank you to Literacy Week sponsors - WBRZ, ExxonMobil, Neighbors Federal Credit Union, Albemarle Foundation, Amedisys Home Health Services and Huey and the Angelina Wilson Foundation and to supporters Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana, Creative Communications and Postlethwaite & Netterville.

You Can Help Us Reach and Support More Adult Learners!

Learn more at www.gbrliteracy.org, where you can see:

*Links to our PSAs



*[2010](#), [2009](#) and [2008](#) Student Anthologies

*[Leading the Way to Literacy Video](#)

Become a member and join other GBRLC members, such as BRAC staff Erin Monroe Wesley, Adam Knapp and Gwen Hamilton (below), at our Leadership Breakfast!



Register as a Member – Now Is a Great Time to Join Us!

The Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation Are Matching New GBRLC Memberships!

Join the Greater Baton Rouge Literacy Coalition to support our Human Capital Campaign! According to the Alliance for Excellent Education, about 2,000 students drop out of school each year in East Baton Rouge Parish. Based on U.S. Census statistics, 44% of these students will not participate in the workforce as adults. Dropout prevention, however, is only part of the solution: The National Center on Education and Economy has concluded that about two-thirds of the workforce of 2020 is beyond the reach of today's high school system. Many need the assistance of community literacy service providers to succeed.

Literacy persists as Baton Rouge's most compelling human capital challenge, and real change takes people power. We need more people accessing programs that improve their literacy and job skills; uniting as business, adult education and community leaders; volunteering as tutors, advocates, and board members; and investing in literacy services.

Become a Member of the Greater Baton Rouge Literacy Coalition and be part of the solution! [The Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation](#) is matching \$12,000 in new membership dues. Please support our goal by [becoming a member today!](#) Find our membership form or register online at www.gbrliteracy.org.

Why We Need Your Help:

As Dr. William Jenkins, retired President Emeritus of LSU, explained at the Leadership Breakfast in December (left), our country is falling behind others in student academic achievement. Only with the support of our community will local adults have access to the instruction that will allow them to secure jobs with family-sustaining wages.

Help Spread the Word!

["Like" GBRLC on Facebook!](#)

Share our newsletter and [website](#) with your friends, family and colleagues!

Help recruit new GBRLC Members!

Find Out About Volunteer Opportunities!

Call 381-7129, email info@gbrliteracy.org or visit the Press Room at our website and see our [Volunteer Contacts flyer!](#)

Help a potential student find services!

If you had no access to a computer, couldn't read a newspaper, and didn't see TV ads or hear radio PSAs about adult literacy services, how would you know where to find them? Dozens of adult literacy students have learned of classes by seeing flyers at their workplaces or other sites they visit regularly.

You can help adult learners find us by posting a flyer in the breakroom at your office or by asking staff at other places you may visit, such as where you volunteer, to post flyers. We ask all callers where they learned about us, and we'd love to contact you to thank you for helping adults learn about us! To receive flyers, please email Marie at marie@brac.org or you may download [the Provider List document](#) from the Press Room on our website. To learn more about the services available, you can also visit the [Provider Directory link from our homepage](#), where you can search sites by type of class, zip code and location on a Google map. Those interested may contact sites directly, call GBRLC at 381-7141 or email Debbie@brac.org.

Donate test fees, time or services:

Buy a GED test for \$50- Many students are ready to take this important step but can't afford the test fee. You can help a student reach success!

Volunteer as a reading partner and encourage employees to volunteer.

Donate in-kind services or surplus office supplies.

Provide incentives for adult learners as they progress.

Help a youth group plan a fundraiser.

Mentor adult learners and hire GED graduates.

Sponsor on-site workplace literacy programs.

GBRLC is a nonprofit organization and financial contributions are tax-deductible.

Please Join Us in Meetings, Trainings, Volunteering and Advocacy!

Quarterly Community Network Meetings Draw Literacy Supporters from Diverse Professions

The Community Network meetings at Adult Literacy Advocates in the fall and at YWCA's literacy program at New Beginning Baptist Church in February have accomplished GBRLC's goals of uniting new literacy supporters with adult literacy service providers and other traditional attendees to focus upon how the larger Baton Rouge community can facilitate referrals of students and volunteers and promote the message of literacy. The fall Network meeting focused on the celebration of International Literacy Day through local religious and civic groups as well as resources for financial literacy. Spring's meeting covered the resource of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program and the Ways to Work program that helps low-income adults secure transportation for work. At Adult Literacy Advocates, Executive Director Pam Creighton introduced her staff and services to attendees and answered questions about volunteer opportunities, and the group discussed ways to overcome barriers to student success. At New Beginning, church pastor Dr. Donald Hunter described the literacy outreach his church provides in partnership with YWCA's Center for Family Empowerment. Howard Veeder, an instructor with YWCA, also spoke with attendees about how to motivate students to enroll as well as to complete their programs. At both meetings, adult literacy staff reiterated their desire to help adult students reach their goals, whether they are earning drivers' licenses, reading the bible,



or securing a job promotion. They agree that fostering a welcoming, open learning environment and treating adults as individuals with distinct skills and experiences contribute to programs' success.

To learn more about the Network meetings, please visit [our website calendar](#) and [our membership page](#).

As A Member, You Can Join Us for Free or Reduced Cost Trainings!

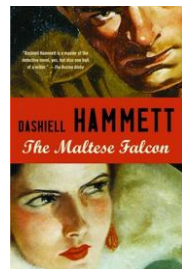
GBRLC recently administered a professional development needs assessment survey for adult education instructors to determine how we can assist educators in improving outcomes in the classroom. Among the topics identified were innovative strategies for teaching math, teaching writing for the GED, and working with varying levels in the classroom. GBRLC is developing the 2011 training calendar to address these needs as well as providing time for instructors to share their successes in the classroom. GBRLC hopes to provide training on the Wilson Reading System for Beginner and Advanced instructors and to secure funding to bring in Dr. Richard Cooper, an expert on Innovative Math Strategies for teaching people with learning disabilities.

Our Local Libraries Offer Excellent Free Resources and Trainings on Use of Their Website

Did you know you can learn a second, third or fourth language for free through our local public library system? Emily Smart with East Baton Rouge Parish Library Reference Services explained this exciting service and dozens of other free services to adult literacy instructors through a tour of online resources offered by [East Baton Rouge Parish Library](#). [A link to the thorough overview](#) of services can be found on our website.

Beware of Online GED and High School Diploma Programs

You may have heard or seen advertisements for online high school diploma or GED programs. These ads can be inspiring and convincing; however, they are not always valid. The Better Business Bureau has warned against several online diploma programs citing complaints that the schools are offering fraudulent degrees based on "life experience" rather than academic testing. These programs or schools often charge high fees, require little work, and are "accredited" by unreliable entities. If you or someone you know is thinking about pursuing an online GED or diploma, please consider the following: 1) A GED **cannot** be earned online or through correspondence, but must be administered at an official GED testing site. 2) Before enrolling in an online high school diploma course, please contact the college or training program you plan to enter upon completion of diploma to verify they will accept the program you are considering. Not all diploma programs are accepted by all colleges, universities, training programs and/or employers, and the best bet is enrolling in a local program. For help in finding a class, call (225) 381-7141.



Church Volunteers Collect Baby Items for Outreach Center offering Adult Literacy

When people think of volunteering with adult literacy, they often envision tutoring or assisting a teacher in a classroom. Some volunteer jobs, though, can involve one-time events that require no training. The Least of These Women's Ministry group from Belfair Baptist Church recently discovered how they could serve an immediate need at a literacy site in their neighborhood by surprising [Family Values Resource Institute](#) (FVRI) with a baby shower to support their Baby Basket project. Ms. Susie Ramsey, who heads the women's group, learned about FVRI through the news when the program featured a local Boy Scout troop painting FVRI's building and rebuilding their fence after damage from Hurricane Gustav. Knowing that FVRI also supplies new mothers in the North Baton Rouge community with much need baby items, the women's group collected formula, diapers, baby clothes and other items and delivered them to FVRI. With support from their pastor John Bennett, the women's group and other members of Belfair Baptist Church will create Easter baskets this spring for the children of those served by FVRI. FVRI keeps the women's group up to date on their services and successes through their Friend of Life Partners monthly mailing list.



Join others throughout Baton Rouge in reading *The Maltese Falcon* this spring!

Also, check out events related to the book on East Baton Rouge Parish Library's home page, www.ebrpl.com or at www.readonebook.org. You can also stay up to date on library offerings and events through [Facebook](#) and [Twitter!](#)

If you have a group interested in donating one-time or ongoing volunteer assistance or supplies to one of our literacy programs, please contact the program directly or call or email GBR Literacy Coalition at 381-7141 or info@gbrliteracy.org.

New Programs, New Provider Members and a New Location for Adult Literacy Services!

YWCA's GED Classes at Dalton Elementary Charter Instruct Parents of Dalton Students in Employment Skills and Strategies for Supporting Children's Education



YWCA adult education instructor Howard Veeder notes, "Our community of learners is unique, in that most of them have children enrolled at Dalton Elementary Charter. Many knew one another before enrolling and they recruited new students to the class, including siblings and cousins. One benefit of having classes in their neighborhood is the reduction in the barrier to transportation. About 80% of our students walk to class or ride with a classmate. Our classes are now held in the school's auditorium on the stage, and parents have the opportunity to see their children during the day."

"This program is very powerful and helpful for parents as well as children. Besides our GED classes, we are learning how to better help our children with their school and homework. Our parent/child activities, like working with puzzles to teach math, are fun and interesting. Our children are also allowed to meet with us during the day so we can read to them. It is wonderful as a parent to be so close to my children each day when we are both in class."

Parent and GED Student April Nelson

In a first of its kind program in Baton Rouge, the [YWCA](#), Center for Family Empowerment has established a Family Literacy Academy at Dalton Elementary Charter. This program, with support from Advance Baton Rouge and a \$75,000 implementation grant from Volunteer USA, began in September and now serves 25 families. The Academy offers all four components required of family literacy programs, including Early Childhood Education, Adult Education, Parent and Child Together (PACT) Time and Parenting Education.

Dalton's Community Resource Director and LEAP Test Coordinator Kim Ferguson agrees that the program serves both parents and children. "Our students' conduct is so much better, for those who have parents in classes onsite. After parents' classes are dismissed, they sometimes get visitor badges and visit their children in their classrooms, and the children really enjoy having their parents close by. The parents also volunteer to help teachers and other school staff, and parents are also making sure their children are coming to after school tutoring. For a recovery district school, we are seeing very active parental involvement."



(above) Volunteer managers from Adult Literacy Advocates, St. Paul Adult Learning Center, YWCA and Christ's Way Academy staffed tables at the first adult literacy volunteer fair at the Main Library, in honor of International Literacy Day.

"Operating a program that incorporates these four components demonstrates the YWCA's commitment to best practice in serving the families of our community," said GBRLC Executive Director Debbie O'Connor.

Downtown Christian Outreach Center welcomes Adult Literacy Advocates' Staff and Students!

Welcome to New GBRLC Service Provider Members!

After close to 40 years of service to the Baton Rouge community, [Adult Literacy Advocates](#) has moved three blocks from its previous site on North 11th Street to the Downtown Christian Outreach Center at 1427 Main Street.

[YouthBuild](#) Capital City assists low-income young people ages 16-24 with working toward their GEDs or high school diplomas, learning job skills and serving their communities by building affordable housing.

[Cenikor](#) helps those with chronic substance dependence through a long-term residential recovery program.

See all Providers in our [Online Provider Directory](#) at www.gbrliteracy.org!

Family Literacy Day Will Engage Volunteers with Residents in 70805

In conjunction with Capital Area United Way's annual Day of Action, which will unite volunteers on April 16 for several projects in the 70805 zip code, GBRLC is planning a Family Literacy Day at Delmont Gardens Library. The library will offer tours and library card registration, and volunteers will lead crafts and games for children. Children's parents are also invited to learn about adult education opportunities and to meet instructors from adult education sites. To learn more, please visit [the Day of Action website](#) or email info@gbrliteracy.org.

"Our staff, students and Board of Directors are excited about our move. We look forward to reaching even more potential students through our partnership with the Christian Outreach Center. The facilities work great for our needs, and both our staff and students have been impressed with the appearance of the building and classrooms, a fenced parking area, and the friendliness of the COC staff. We look forward to a long and successful future at our new location."

Gary Robertson, Instructor and Interim Director, Adult Literacy Advocates

Building the Capacity of the Local Adult Literacy Service Delivery System

By Leigh Vaughan, GBRLC Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator

Workforce Literacy Summit Unites Business, Workforce and Education Leaders



GBRLC staff Debbie O'Connor (left) and Leigh Vaughan (right) along with GBRLC Board Chair Brian Stagg welcome Gloria Mwase and David Rosen from Jobs for the Future. Gloria and David led the Summit and supplied examples of successful collaborations from throughout the U.S.

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca



Community Based Programs forging ahead with ProLiteracy Accreditation

The YWCA Center for Family Empowerment and Family Values Resource Institute are working hard to prepare for their ProLiteracy accreditation site visits after submitting their applications in the latter part of 2011. The accreditation process is rigorous and time consuming, but assists programs in demonstrating the quality of services they offer. We are proud to highlight these programs and our other programs who continue to work to implement the 16 standards defined by ProLiteracy.

New Provider Highlight: As a new service provider, Christ's Way Academy of Learning applied to participate in GBRLC's capacity building initiative and is receiving training and technical assistance focused on expanding services while implementing ProLiteracy's standards for accreditation. [Christ's Way Academy](#), under the leadership of Executive Director, Flora Thomas-Davis, is working to improve their capacity by participating in strategic planning, developing a volunteer program, and increasing funding opportunities. Mrs. Thomas-Davis has been a strong advocate for adult literacy in the Baton Rouge community for many years. We are excited to have her and Christ's Way working with us!

In November, about 70 people from the Baton Rouge community met to discuss and plan how to improve career pathways from training to workforce for adult learners. Leaders representing business and industry, the community and technical college system and the adult literacy field put their heads together to discuss strategies for better connecting workforce needs with the skills and education of local people.

GBRLC partnered with Gloria Mwase and David Rosen from Jobs for the Future, a leading expert on workforce development, to lead this discussion and to provide information and guidance for moving forward. On our website, you can see [the outcomes generated](#) and [materials presented at this event](#).

"I think the summit was a much needed event for the Baton Rouge community. It is time we start addressing the adult literacy plight from all angles and this summit was one way to highlight an important issue. I look forward to seeing this event grow.

I was able to connect with some like minded individuals and even secured a few meetings to help further a workforce development project."

Sherreta Harrison, Program Coordinator at Literacy Works. They offer a food services curriculum for adult literacy students as well as education in starting mobile food vending businesses.

Vicki Clark Returns to Baton Rouge to Lead Follow-Up Volunteer Development Workshop

Vicki Clark, Memphis based Literacy Powerline and BoardSource consultant who provided training for our literacy service providers on board and volunteer program development in 2010, is back! "We are so excited to have Vicki return to assist us in more hands-on volunteer program development," said Leigh Vaughan, training and technical assistance coordinator. "She is incredibly dynamic and insightful and can help us construct volunteer programs that meet the desires of volunteers and the needs of the programs." Vicki Clark worked as a volunteer coordinator and is an expert on volunteer management. She understands that the volunteer program is a vital part of a community based program and crucial to achieving the program's mission. Vicki Clark is working with the YWCA Center for Family Empowerment, Christ's Way Academy, and Family Values Resource Center to build their volunteer programs so that they can better assist students and improve literacy in the Baton Rouge community. Flora Thomas-Davis, Director of Christ's Way Academy, said, "Meeting with Vicki was an absolutely unforgettable experience. Her ideas were fresh and relevant, and she was able to bring clarity to my volunteer staffing concerns. I'm looking forward to putting her recommendations into practice."

GBRLC New model Concept Paper Defines Plan to Better Support Adult Learners through More Collaboration

In response to students' needs and the move of state adult education services under the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, GBRLC has created a concept for a new model that will be further analyzed during GBRLC's annual Board retreat this spring. The primary rationale for the new concept is to align GBRLC efforts with workforce development and student career goals; eliminate gaps in service; facilitate smooth transitions for students to post-secondary education, training, and/or employment; and expand GBRLC's impact by offering more comprehensive and centralized services while still maintaining the strengths of providers' individual programs. Board members agree that such a model is necessary to achieve the goals of connecting more students to programs, better serving students through retention and transition and helping students secure and maintain employment. Adult literacy service providers are particularly interested in the possibility of case management services for their students to assist them with transportation, childcare and other resources. Providers also see the potential for opening up additional classes, even at satellite sites such as employers' offices. David Jones, Executive Director of St. Paul Adult Learning Center and a GBRLC board member, envisions that through this collaboration, providers will show their viability and the breadth of need that still exists for their services.

Literacy Week Congratulations and Thanks!

City-Parish and GBRLC Partner for GED Program with Excellent Student Outcomes



Providers from [Adult Literacy Advocates](#), [YWCA Center for Family Empowerment](#), [Literacy Works](#) and [St. Paul Adult Learning Center](#) were honored Dec. 3 at the Community Leadership Breakfast for their outstanding work with students enrolled in the summer GED program funded by the City-Parish Office of Social Services (OSS). Students in this program received childcare stipends, transportation assistance and case management services in addition to GED instruction, and during the three months of the program, 93% of the students who completed 60 or more hours of instruction showed educational gains, with 76% gaining a minimum of one educational functioning level.

“Our OSS-sponsored preGED/GED program included a group of really hardworking students – many of whom held jobs throughout our community and some who had been enrolled with us at our former Dream Center site. Even though the students came to a four hour class every night after a full day's work, every one of them increased one or more levels in at least one subject area within 3 months after joining us. These people were motivated!”

Ann Ours, instructor with Adult literacy Advocates



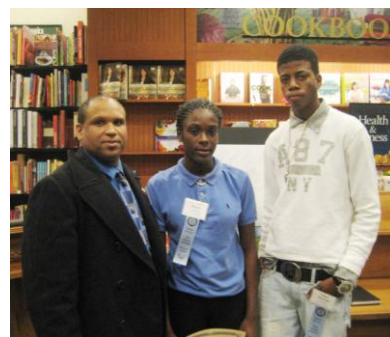
GBRLC's outstanding Board of Directors (some featured above) created an outstanding Literacy Week 2010! Marketing Committee Chair Randy Hayden of Creative Communications, intern Ashley Favorite and Account Executive Marica Broussard Vlahos (below) led the PSA competition, media and community awareness, restaurant research and our first silent auction!



Anthology Authors and Their Instructors Celebrate at Third Poetry Reading!



At our poetry reading, students and instructors from Rosenwald Adult & Continuing Education Center (left), Literacy Works (right), the YWCA Center for Family Empowerment, and (below) Adult Literacy Advocates, McKinley Adult Learning Center, and St. Paul Adult Learning Center celebrated 51 students writing for the third annual student anthology. Please plan to join us for our fourth poetry reading! You can also find our 2010, 2009 and 2008 student anthologies on the home page of our website!



Franklin Schargel Reminds us that Global Competiveness Begins in our Neighborhood Schools

The high school graduation rate in Louisiana is less than 65%. We all have some understanding of how individuals are affected by dropping out, but we don't often stop to consider the economic impact on our community. "Education is not expensive, ignorance is." This quote by Franklin Schargel, a national education specialist, was repeated numerous times during his presentation at the Capital Area Technical College for an audience of business, education, and community leaders. Each time, the quote gained more and more impact as he cited numbers on job loss, loss of earnings, and loss of tax revenue from students who drop out of the education system, without even accounting for government expenses for jobless individuals. Failing to provide adequate educational opportunities - in school and alternative educational programs for students leaving the school system - costs our community much more than the initial education costs.

Schargel's presentation, entitled "Building Louisiana's Global Competitiveness: From the Schoolhouse to the Workplace", was sponsored by the Baton Rouge Area Chamber, Capital Area Technical College, and All Star Automotive Group and emphasized the need for schools and community programs to increase their efforts at making sure students have various opportunities and are encouraged to attain the level of education they desire and need to become competitive. Schargel uses a wide net management approach to encourage students to aim higher. His efforts have resulted in higher achievement and graduation rates. Schargel met with BR school personnel in a day long training following his presentation to address some of these approaches. Some of the dropout prevention strategies he identified were: better school-community collaborations, more after-school opportunities, alternative schooling, educational technology, and career and technical education.

As vital as it is to address the high drop out rate among current students, we must not forget the adults who have already fallen through the cracks. Schargel's presentation highlighted the importance of community based adult education programs to provide for students who do not complete the traditional education system. There are numerous reasons why students drop out, including lack of support, inadequate instruction, and often just bad choices. Dropping out of high school, however, shouldn't be the end of the road. Community based programs are a critical part of the extended education system working to ensure that everyone gets a chance at earning the education and skills they need to be self-sufficient and productive. This collaboration of efforts will be more likely to guarantee that our community remains competitive in the workforce.

- Leigh Vaughan

"There is a well-documented earnings gap between high school graduates and dropouts—an annual difference of nearly \$10,000. There is also a growing challenge for individuals with only a high school diploma to find stable, well-paying jobs. The costs of dropping out are born not just by individuals, but by the communities in which they live, and the rest of society. The potential economic benefit of improving students' academic outcomes should be a wake-up call to the importance of reforming America's high schools. Dropouts from the class of 2010 will cost Louisiana almost \$6.9 billion in lost wages over their lifetimes."

-Alliance for Excellent Education

Thank You to Pam Creighton for Years of Service to Local Adults in Need of Literacy Instruction



After about 14 years of service to local adult literacy students, first as a board member then as Executive Director of Adult Literacy Advocates, Pam Creighton retired in February, and leaders from the Baton Rouge area and beyond thank her for her dedication to the adult literacy field.

"Pam has devoted so much of her life to the important work of literacy," said Margaret Doughty of Literacy Powerline, who worked with Pam, other adult literacy service providers and representatives of Rotary Club of Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge Area Chamber and the Mayor's Office to start the Literacy Coalition in 2005.

"The valuable contributions Pam has made to adult literacy during her career will be an ongoing inspiration to those continuing this work. Her professional support and friendship over the years has certainly been invaluable to me," said Jawan Ross, former Capacity and Accountability Director at LANO.

"Pam has played a vital role in the establishment of GBRLC, first by identifying and communicating the clear need for such an organization and then by continuing to serve as a strong voice of advocacy for adult learners and service providers. In addition to my gratitude for what she has done in our community, I am personally thankful for the knowledge and resources she has shared with me over the years," said GBRLC Executive Director Debbie O'Connor.

For Pam, this newfound freedom will bring more time with her young granddaughter, daughters and husband. She will volunteer, read good books, travel, catch up with friends and continue to serve as a mentor to those with the desire to help local adults gain skills and confidence through education.

"ProLiteracy and our entire network appreciate Pam's leadership and the commitment she has given to the field. She has been a true icon as a leader throughout the region and a help to the national efforts whenever asked. Pam's good humor and wise counsel will be missed by many."

Peter Waite of ProLiteracy, a national accreditation and professional development network for adult literacy service providers

Louisiana ranks 50th in 4th grade reading tests results and 49th in 8th grade student reading. (National Assessment of Educational Progress) Low reading achievement is directly correlated with dropping out of school, while the literacy level of a child's mother is the primary indicator of the child's future academic success.

Welcome 2011 Members!

Benefactor Level:

Karen and Brian Stagg
Mary and Martin Svendsen

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Georgia Wilemon
Angela Zeringue
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Associate Members:
Audubon Kiwanis
East Baton Rouge Parish Library
Louisiana Learns
Louie's Café

Thanks to Those Who Support Our Mission!

Special thanks to:

2011 Partner Level Members:

[Cajun Industries](#)
[Turner Industries](#)

Baton Rouge Area Chamber for our new office space!

The Advocate for promoting our Human Capital Campaign with a post-it note ad on the newspaper Sunday, Feb. 27th!

WBRZ's Whitney Vann, for emceeding our Literacy Week breakfast and for hosting Breakfast with Zune at Boudreaux's with us that morning!

WBRZ's Ed Ball, Jr. for the production of our Literacy Week PSAs!

Literacy Week 2010 sponsors:

WBRZ, ExxonMobil, Neighbors Federal Credit Union, Albemarle Foundation, Amedisys Home Health Services and Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation

Other critical Literacy Week supporters:

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana
Creative Communications
Postlethwaite & Netterville and Allison Roques

Entrée to Literacy Restaurants:

Louie's Café
Yvette Marie's Café
The Steakhouse at Hollywood Casino
Raising Cane's on Corporate

Bookfair Fundraiser:

Barnes & Noble

Those Who Donated to the Auction Baskets:

Baton Rouge Business Report and InRegister Magazine
Baton Rouge Little Theater * Beauregard Gallery
Boot Camp Xplosion! * Community Coffee
Creative Communications * Gwen and Leo Hamilton
Honeybaked Ham * Ruth's Chris Steakhouse
signed LSU football, basketball, baseball
signed SU baseball * Texas de Brazil

Literacy Week breakfast speakers:

Adam Knapp, President and CEO of BRAC
Dr. Jim Llorens, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, Mayor's Office
Brian Stagg representing Rotary Club
Dr. William Jenkins, retired President Emeritus of LSU

Free Workshop Presenters:

Georgann Mire of Mire Consulting
Ann Marie Erie of Neighbors Federal Credit Union

Funders of Recent Grant Awards:

Amedisys
The Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation
Turner Industries
Rotary Club of Baton Rouge
The Pennington Family Foundation
The Moyses Family Foundation

Thanks to all who supported Literacy Week 2010 by dining out, picking up a meal, shopping at Barnes & Noble or purchasing an auction basket!



Thank you to students with LSU HOPE (some shown above) who organized an art show fundraiser for GBRLC with Tyler and Possa Law Firm. [They are also auctioning the artwork online!](#) [See our website for details!](#)

As of this newsletter issue, 180 Facebook members have "liked" GBRLC!

Thank you to all who have "[Liked](#)" [GBRLC](#) on Facebook. We appreciate your interest in helping us spread the word about the need, the resources and opportunities to help local adults that want to improve their reading, writing, math, communication and workplace skills. You are growing our GBRLC community!

Please [contact us](#) if you would like us to bring literacy resources to your community event!

It's not too late to join us as a 2011 member! Email info@gbrliteracy.org or visit [our Member page](#) on our website!