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What's Up in Greensboro Basic Skills?



Program Highlights

Director's Corner



And now for another *Greensboro Basic Skills Moment*:

I was fascinated when I received the card pictured below from the parent of a student in our CED program. The parent was offering her thanks and appreciation to the Basic Skills program for the "one-on-one help and care from his instructor Wilma Murphy." I would soon discover that the face of the greeting card was a reproduction of a drawing by the student. I'm told he loves to draw this same picture, and draws it regularly. As you can see, the colors and artwork are beautiful. We're proud to share this amazingly talented student's work with you.

Thanks to Vito and his thoughtful mom, we all get to enjoy his masterpiece!

~ Pat Freeman



"Team" Works

Earlier this year, two learning communities were formed to help instructors share resources, best practices, and data to continually improve program quality. The team members are also charged with implementing strategies to help our students transition successfully from one program level to another. Both teams are comprised of faculty from ABE, GED, CED, and ESOL. The math team also includes a Development Math instructor.

The Math Learning Community began its work in early May. Some of the projects this team is working on include helping ESOL and CED

students successfully transition to ABE/GED classes and developing a Bridge Math course to assist AHS/GED math students gain the strong algebra skills necessary for success in curriculum-level math classes.



Math Community, L to R:
J. Armstrong, K. Forster, R. Coleman
Front: S. McKoy, R. Britt, C. McCombs
(Not pictured: S. Kalbaugh, D. Jackson)

The Reading Learning Community is working on transitional strategies and is developing content-specific seminars for students.

We look forward to enhanced program quality and student growth as these teams move forward.



Reading Community, L to R:
A. Tripp, D. Jackson, G. Allen, K. Forster,
B. Mackey, L. Neal, R. Neal

Instructor Launches Class Newsletter

It's no secret that our CED instructors are teeming with creative genius and devotion to their students. Over the years, they have planned multitudes of unique activities to enhance the student learning experience.

The latest example of that creative talent is the brainchild of Instructor Wilma Mur-

phy. Looking for a different reading activity for her class, Murphy came up with the idea of producing a monthly classroom newsletter.

In September, students read the first issue in class and participated in the activities featured there. "They enjoyed reading about themselves and want to share the newsletter with family members and other CED students," said Murphy. Future issues will be shared

with our other CED classes and others in the community college system. "I stress reading comprehension," explained Murphy, "and have found it improves when students enjoy what they're reading."



Wilma Murphy & her CED class

What's Up in Greensboro Basic Skills?

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*Preparing Students to
Achieve their Dreams!*

August Enrollment: 1,160

“Queens of the Road”

Why are these ladies smiling? It's because they both recently passed the test to get their N.C. driver's licenses for the first time! Pictured at right with Elisangela and Lily Marie is a grinning Richard Neal, their English teacher at the Greensboro campus.

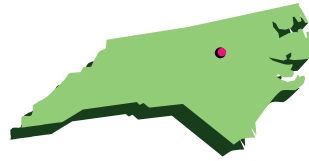
As part of the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) curriculum, instructors review traffic signs and what they mean, speed limits, and other traffic laws to help students prepare for their driver's test.

Elisangela moved here 7 months ago from Brazil. She drove in her country, but was afraid she would not pass the driver's test in English. Lily Maria was a licensed driver in the Dominican Republic, but has not been able to drive in this country since she arrived one and a half years ago.

“I was so happy to get my driver's license,” Elisangela said, “My teacher helped me a lot.” Lily Maria says that her new license will make her life here more secure and convenient.

Statewide Conference

In early August, at the 2011 Basic Skills Conference held in Raleigh, several of our Learning Community members represented GTCC by hosting a seminar entitled “Learning Communities: Transitioning Into Success.” Darryl Jackson, Karen Forster, and Gaynessa Allen discussed how two teams of instructors at the Greensboro campus formed learning communities to share resources and best practices to enhance program quality. They also shared how these communities are tackling transition issues to help students move from one program level to another. To bring the presentation to life, the team video taped parts of team meetings and embedded clips into a power point show. The team's enthusiasm, dedication, and hard work paid off as the presentation was well received by conference attendees. Way to go, team!



Our Mission

- To empower students to set goals and overcome barriers that could interrupt their learning and desire to succeed.
- To create an atmosphere (a culture) that promotes a “mind-set” for success in every student.
- To unlock the brilliance in each student.

Testing Center Highlights Jan-Aug 2011



<u>Assessment</u>	<u># of Students</u>
TABE Placement	2,080
GED	674
ESOL	713
NC Competency	0
GED Graduates	<u>76</u>
Total:	3,543

Improving English speaking and writing skills is not all that students learn at GTCC. They also learn about our country and its laws. They learn about how to become responsible members of the Greensboro community. Getting their new driver's licenses isn't a bad deal, either!



Happy faces! ESOL students Elisangela and Lily Marie celebrate getting their N.C. driver's licenses. (Instructor Richard Neal looks pretty happy, too!)

Get Your GED Online!

Don't like crowded classrooms? Want to attend school in your pajamas? Know someone who would? GED Online is the perfect solution.

Earn your GED online from the comfort of your own home. To be eligible, you must score a 7.0 on a placement test. Students must work online a minimum of 15 hours a week to be considered an active student.

To enroll, new students must attend an orientation class at one of the following times:

Thursdays: 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Fridays: 10:00-12:30 p.m.

(Arrive early & bring a photo I.D.)

For more information, call (336) 334-4822, ext. 53107.