

WHAT'S UP IN ADULT EDUCATION

GUILFORD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Adult Ed is excited to introduce a new full-time employee at GTCC. Congratulations are in order for Mr. James Brown, who has been promoted to a Full-Time Time-Limited ABE/ASE Instructor effective October 12, 2020. Mr. Brown has a Master's degree in Public Administration from High Point University and has extensive experience as a pastor, music director, case manager, and diversity trainer. He has served as an adjunct instructor in Adult Education at GTCC since January 2015. Mr. Brown will continue to support and instruct our online ABE, ASE, and AHS students in High Point, as well as offer new student orientation and open lab hours on the High Point campus. His office is located in Building H3, Room 115.

HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY (HSE) IN THE COMMUNITY

The GTCC Adult Education Program, on the High Point campus, began a partnership with the High Point Detention Center in February 2020. The Detention Center authorized High School Equivalency (HSE) training to incarcerated men who expressed an interest in obtaining their High School Equivalency diploma. The class was established to accommodate 23 men who met the eligibility criteria.

Unfortunately, in March 2020 the class was interrupted due to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, the college investigated alternatives to in-person instruction, and subsequently implemented the HSE in the Community Program in August 2020. HSE in the Community is a paper-based distance education program that has allowed the instructors to continue providing educational services to students in the High Point Detention Center.

Each week, instructors deliver lessons in math, reading, science and social studies to the students. The students complete the lessons and return them to the instructors via a Detention Center Officer. The instructors grade the work and provide detailed, constructive feedback to each student. The students are prepared to pass the HiSet Equivalency exam once all lessons have been successfully completed.

The instructors have had very positive experiences with HSE in the Community. Alecia Gaines noted that “it’s extremely rewarding to know we can continue to help these men move forward in addressing their educational goals. I notice marked improvement in their language arts and writing skills.” Dr. Gwendolyn Johnson-Green also commented that “the men look forward to hearing from us each and every week! They look forward to the feedback I give and the encouragement they receive in conquering their fear of math.”

Due to the success of this program, the college is extending the offering to a greater number of people, in both the Greensboro and High Point communities. This program is designed for students who may not feel comfortable coming to campus due to Covid-19 and/or who may not have access to a computer to do online work. Be sure to look for the brightly colored packets around town (i.e. Department of Social Services, The Health Department, The Community Clinic in High Point, just to name a few). If you know someone who may be interested in the program, or you have ideas on where to place the packets, please contact Krystal Gossett at 336-334-4822, extension 53049.

IN LOVING MEMORY

The GTCC Family is mourning the recent loss of a beloved student and extraordinary instructor.

Gaynessa Allen

Gaynessa Allen, a full-time Adult Education instructor, passed away on Tuesday, July 7th. Ms. Allen had been teaching GED students online as recently as June of this year. She was an inspiring instructor who touched the lives of so many students, staff, and faculty at GTCC, first as a part-time and then a full-time instructor in the Adult Education department for a total of 17 years of service to the college. Ms. Allen primarily taught English and science to GED students, on the Greensboro campus, but also mentored a number of adjunct English instructors in Adult Education. Her leadership, passion for students, warm heart, and incredible singing abilities will be greatly missed.

Mercedes James

Mercedes James, an adjunct Adult Education instructor, passed away on Saturday, September 12th. Ms. James became an instructor at GTCC in 2018. She was beloved by her students for her encouragement, motivation, and the ability to break down difficult math concepts, making

them easy to understand. Ms. James was witty, pleasant and excellent at creating a sense of community inside of and outside of her classroom. She was a valued member of the High Point adjunct faculty and she will be greatly missed.

ENJOYING SIX MONTHS OF ZOOM SUCCESS!

What began as a once a week one hour Zoom check in and support for online students has become multiple Zoom classrooms across both our High Point and Greensboro campuses.

About two weeks after face to face classes closed in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the first ABE/GED Zoom session hosted by Mr. James Brown and Ms. Candice Idol kicked off as a support and check in for students who were now totally online using the Essential Education platform.

As the need grew and online class participation increased, this brought both High Point and Greensboro campuses together in a collaborative effort in the virtual Zoom space, causing a one-hour, one day a week event to blossom into an even more exciting and enthusiastic Monday through Thursday, 12 noon class featuring multiple instructors addressing various student needs as well as one on one pop-up Zoom tutoring sessions as needed.

Zoom classes not only provide supplemental support for students who were using the Essential Ed online but also GED prep, TABE curriculum aligned lessons and test taking strategies. Zoom classes are also being offered as an option for ESOL and POWER students.

Today both campuses feature daily Zoom classes for multiple subjects, independently provided for day and evening students and as a hybrid option for students in face to face classes.

Up-Coming Dates for Adult Education

November 25—GTCC Closes at 1:00 for Thanksgiving Holiday

November 26-27—GTCC Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

December 11—Fall Term Ends

December 21 through January 3— GTCC Closed for the Holiday Break

January 6—Spring Semester Begins

KINDLE FIRES FOR ADULT EDUCATION

Thanks to a Title III grant, Adult Education received 300 Kindle Fires from Titan Link to be distributed to students to help with remote learning.

The goal was to use these Kindle Fires to reward students who were meeting attendance requirements, whether online or in person, and to help make online learning easier if they didn't have a computer or tablet at home.

Claire Ricci, Dean of Adult Education noted, "As we move into the Fall semester, I believe it will be important that all students have access to a device and learn how to participate in Zoom and other distance classes so that they can continue learning remotely if need be. These devices will allow them to do so."

In order to qualify for a Kindle Fire, students had to complete a short financial literacy module, be enrolled in our program with good attendance (80% of face to face class hours or 12 hours weekly online), and have a current test score. The financial literacy module could be completed either as a class activity or individually through I-grad.

While the Kindle Fires come with their own browser, students were able to add Google Chrome to their devices, which is the preferred browser for many online learning platforms and educational sites.

Kindle Fires were distributed on both the Greensboro and High Point campuses. By the first week in October, all Kindles Fires had been distributed to Adult Education students. A huge thank you to Sybil Newman, Coordinator of Titan Link, for making this option available to our students!

For students who did not receive a Kindle Fire, Adult Education will soon have Chromebooks available. These will be made possible through grant funds from the United Way of Greater Greensboro.

Free College Transitions Classes Offered at GTCC

Adult Education is now offering free college transition courses, which can help students bridge the gap between high school and college and meet pre-requisites for various curriculum programs.

Previously, community college students with a low high school GPA or score on the college placement test had to take remedial courses (referred to as developmental or RISE classes) before they could begin taking English or Math courses that would count toward their degrees. This preparation often took several semesters, and sometimes years, frequently depleting student's financial aid monies. Beginning in January 2021, GTCC's Adult Education program will be offering courses in Transition English (BSP 4002) and Transition Math (BSP 4003) day and evening on the Jamestown, Greensboro, and High Point campuses. This opportunity minimizes the time students need to get ready for college and also equips them to perform well after the transition, by teaching them the skills they will need to be successful in college.

These courses focus on the student's success: from lessons contextualized to various careers to providing embedded tutors for students in the classes, these transition strategies strive to help students achieve their dream career, whatever that may be.

After taking these Transition course(s) [some students may only need one], students will have completed all they need to enroll in college-level courses. Please see below for information about these courses.

Common Questions about Transition Courses

How long are the classes?

- Students will attend class for 8 contact hours per week, for 16 weeks or until the plan of study is completed (students can finish earlier if they so desire)

How much will it cost?

- These courses, unlike the curriculum offerings, are COM-pletely FREE to students, thus saving their Financial Aid for future college-level courses.

Who is eligible?

- All students are eligible except Early College and CCP students.

Why should I enroll in these classes?

- Regardless of your past educational experiences, you are one step away from being ready for college. We will pre-prepare you for college, we will help you be successful, and we have many of the careers you want right here at GTCC.

For more information about Transition Courses at GTCC, please contact Eduardo Garcia, egarcia7@gtcc.edu or 336-334-4822, ext. 55001.