



SPCLC teachers featured in new video series on effective teaching

Videos will be distributed nationally,
increasing teacher effectiveness
and expanding ESL opportunities for immigrants

SPCLC teachers share ESL expertise through videos

Four SPCLC teachers are featured in a new series of training videos, *Teaching ESL to Adults: Classroom Approaches in Action*, produced by the New American Horizons Foundation: Jessica Grace Jones and Andrea Echelberger (Minnesota Literacy Council), George Schooley (Hubbs Center), and Suzanne McCurdy (SPCLC Instructional Support Consultant, teaching at Neighborhood House).

Two videos have been completed thus far. *Building Literacy with Emergent Readers* focuses on a whole-part-whole approach to working with emergent literacy learners; *Lesson Planning for Life Skills* provides an overview of general lesson planning principles.

MaryAnn Florez, a consultant working with the foundation, said, "The purpose was to develop new video resources for adult ESOL teachers/tutors/volunteers. Each video is about 30 minutes in length and uses classroom and instructor interview footage to illustrate topics in adult ESOL practice such as ways to teach each of the four skills, planning lessons, working with emergent literacy learners, and grammar and vocabulary development in context." Betsy Parrish, from Hamline University, also consulted on the project.

The purpose of the Foundation is to **expand opportunity for immigrants in the U.S.** Believing that ESL is crucial to enabling immigrants to participate fully in American life, the Foundation is producing the videos to enhance the development of ESL teachers.



"Our belief is that immigrants, with their energy, initiative, dreams, and hard work, have always been crucial to the development of our country. We value them as persons, and now more than ever we look to them, recognizing the tremendous contributions they can make to our society if given the chance to participate fully."

- New American Horizons Foundation

Completed videos can be viewed at
<http://www.newamericanhorizons.org/>

Six more videos will be completed later this year. Copies of completed videos can be purchased through the New Foundations website for the cost of the materials.

SPCLC service delivery shifts in response to changing demographics, economic recession

A series of recent site visits with the 11 SPCLC community based agencies revealed a number of trends. CLC facilitator Tom Cytron-Hysom, who completed visits earlier this year, said. **"CBOs have seen increased numbers of students due to people**



Debbie Cushman, Human Resource Director at SPCLC member agency the Minnesota Literacy Council, volunteers with beginning level students at an MLC site.

losing jobs due to the recession, but these adult learners are unable to consistently attend classes in many cases.”

Agency ABE managers said the recession has created great stress among adult learners – many move from place to place, since they have no homes of their own, so they come and go from class; others have a parent who must work out of town at meat packing plants, creating additional family stresses.

Some CBOs have also seen a great deal of diversification in their student bodies. Large numbers of Karen and Karenni are being served.

“Retention continues to be a major concern,” said Tom. “CBOs are becoming clearer regarding attendance expectations. Some are experimenting with cohort models. They are also are piloting a number of innovative classes and educational approaches, and are beginning to explore various distance learning options.”

There are increased efforts to provide family centered literacy. More sites are providing pre-school for the young children of adult learners while their parents attend class.

Many students want to work on their GEDs, though some have skill levels far lower than required. GED and “Pre-GED,” for students who are generally fairly low-level and not yet prepared to work on GED preparation, are being provided at various sites.

Most CBOs have full classes, and in some cases waiting lists. **Overall hours are up significantly over the previous year.**



St. Paul students participate in Legislative Forum

Many SPCLC adult learners and staff participated in the February 22 ABE Legislative Forum, sponsored by Literacy Minnesota (now Literacy Action Network). Students eloquently made their case to legislators regarding the importance of ABE funding. SPCLC speakers included **Mebrat Saleh**, currently participating in the Medical Coding and Billing class at Hubbs Center, and **Jose Augustin Camacho**, from CLUES.

