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SPCLC member agencies honored for excellence in ABE programming

Two St. Paul member agency ABE programs were honored through the Minnesota Pegasus Award, **Program of Excellence: Guaranteeing Adult Students Unlimited Success,** at the 2011 Summer Institute in St. Cloud.

Neighborhood House received the overall "best of the best" award as outstanding community-based ABE program in Minnesota. The agency excelled in such areas as student success, teacher quality, effective curricula, and collaboration.

CLUES received an Award of Excellence in recognition of outstanding ABE programming.

Above right, Neighborhood House staff receive award; above, students celebrate.

2011 St. Paul accomplishments

During program year 2011, SPCLC members served 12,332 students, delivering 1,210,463 service hours. Over 68% of those served - 8,415- completed 12 or more hours of instruction, qualifying as Participants under federal definitions. Of these, 75% studied English as a Second Language, 20% Adult Basic Education, and 4% Adult Secondary Education. SPCLC continued as the largest consortium in the state.

❖ **The number of participants who completed a federal NRS level totaled 46% - a 21% increase over seven years.**

❖ 220 adults participated in Family Literacy programming.

❖ 74 adult learners obtained their GED or secondary school diploma.

❖ 85 individuals entered post-secondary education or training.

❖ FastTRAC and Transitions programming expanded, helping prepare adult learners for the workplace and higher education.

Distance Learning expands

Three years ago, SPCLC established a goal of increasing the availability of distance learning to better serve adult learners. **Last year, the consortium delivered 28,659 hours of distance learning - a 56% increase over the previous year - to 973 adult learners.**

A national resource for effective community collaboration on literacy: www.spclc.org

(Distance Learning - continued)

With assistance from Distance Learning Specialist Kristin Morris, member agencies created and implemented ambitious DL development plans. SPCLC also participated in Project IDEAL, a statewide distance learning development program.

"Developing DL services allows us to serve adult learners who need to 'stop out' due to childbirth, changing job schedules, or other challenges," said SPCLC facilitator Tom Cytron-Hysom.

"We can also provide additional services to learners who want to move beyond the classroom. Developing digital learning and DL skills is crucial for learners who plan to continue with higher education, as well as those seeking employment."

Digital Literacy project continues

Development of the online Northstar Digital Literacy Standards assessment is progressing steadily. *Email*, the first of five modules which will be created, is being piloted in locations around the Twin Cities. It can be viewed [here](#).

The next assessment module, dealing with basic computer skills, is in progress. Plans are to have all five assessments completed, piloted, and ready to go by early spring.

The project was featured in a panel discussion on digital literacy initiatives at the Minnesota Library Association conference, October 12-14, in Duluth.

The design team includes Michael Graif, digital literacy designer; Jennifer Asp, educational specialist; Jen Vanek, project liaison; and Tom Cytron-Hysom, coordinator.

State ABE Report Card Results for SPCLC

The Minnesota Department of Education recently released the ABE Report Card for 2010-2011, showing results in a number of areas for each consortium in the state. Results for SPCLC include:

SPCLC spent an average of $916 per participant, with a mean of $941 for the state.

47% of SPCLC participants completed an NRS level, which was also the mean for the state.

69% of all SPCLC enrollees became participants (receiving at least 12 hours of services), ranking 13th among state consortia. Participants averaged 139 hours of service.

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