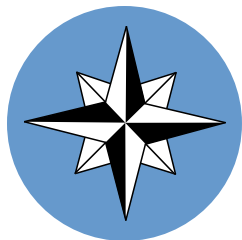




Third Quarter FY14

Volume 6, Issue 3



Education is a journey,
not a destination.

In this Issue:	Page
Student Successes	1
Student Successes Remember Me?	2
Critical Thinking Corner In the Pipeline Classroom Update	3

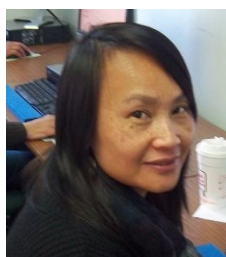
Quote of the Day:

"Education is for improving the lives of others and leaving your community and world better than you found it."

-Marian Wright Edelman

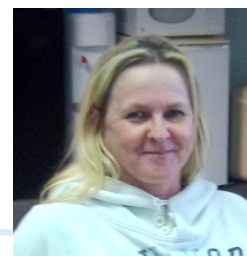
Carpe Diploma

Student Success Stories



Chanthavone (Yvonne) Phongsa is originally from Laos. While she had many impressive skills, her English was a bit weak so she came to our class to enhance those skills. In three months, her English was vastly improved, which also affected her math scores. She left here with an impressive 11.9 in applied mathematics and went to an accounting/bookkeeping training at NEBES. With her helpful personality, fantastic math, and great English skills, we just know she'll be successful!

Diane Pitz did bookkeeping/accounts payable work for most of her career (although she professed a deep and abiding hatred of math). Then she was laid off and stayed out of the workforce for several years. When she came to us, her skills were understandably rusty so she was enrolled in the ABE class. Despite her assurances that math was her weakness, I found no such thing to be true. She worked hard, pulled all her scores up two grade levels in only three months, and transitioned to the same accounting training as Yvonne! The funny thing is, they had never met before my class. However, they became fast friends, helping each other through the workload here, and are now helping each other in their occupational training! Wouldn't it be funny if they ended up working for the same company when they graduate? Either way, I'm happy to report that Diane and math are now on friendly terms again!



Student Success Stories Continued

Tracie Randolph started our ABE class to refresh her skills before choosing an occupational training to further her career. She was in the class for four weeks, making great strides, when she was offered a fantastic job! Since the whole point of our program is to help people get great jobs that will be sustainable, we were all thrilled when she was able to exit the class early! She got the job offer on a Tuesday, we sent the Dress for Success referral over the next day, she exited the class Thursday, got her fitting and new suits Friday, and started her brand new job as a Clinical Services Manager for the Justice Resources Institute the following Monday! It was amazing how beautifully everything went! The Justice Resources Institute is certainly lucky to have her. Congratulations Tracie!



Remember Me?



Tong Duong, originally from Vietnam, was working for Evergreen Solar when he got laid off a few years ago. He came to our class to improve his skills - and improve them he did! His language, for example, went from 3.2 to an amazing 11.7! He graduated this class and went on to an MBA program at Fitchburg State University. I'm proud to say that he has just finished his coursework and came in to

show off his brand new **Masters of Business Administration** diploma! He certainly inspired the current class of ABE students and me as well! He had an interview with the Social Security Administration and should hear about that job in a few more weeks. Whether the SSA gets him, or another lucky company, I know he's going to succeed in whatever he sets his mind to!

"Brenna was my first teacher in the United States and I [will] never forget her."

-Tong Duong

Critical Thinking Corner

The ability to think critically is the difference between passing and failing most standardized tests, especially the GED. If you've been out of school for a while, chances are those skills are rusty at best. With that in mind, a critical thinking exercise is a part of every class day. It helps students get focused first thing in the morning, and sharpen that crucial skill! Try this one:

Where Have All the Numbers Gone?

You wake up one morning to discover that all the numbers have disappeared from the world! Make a list of at least ten things that would be different in this new numberless world...

(answer at the bottom of the page)



"I felt at ease and comfortable with Brenna to ask any questions that I didn't understand."

-Diane Pitz

In the Pipeline...

MA has finally decided on a new high school equivalency (HSE) test! It's the HiSET exam offered by the Educational Testing Service. It officially launched on Monday, March 24, 2014 and will be the only HSE test available in MA until December 31, 2016. After that... who knows?!



HSE / Skills Enhancement Classroom Update

In the third quarter of FY14, three new students entered the class: all ABE. Three students also exited during this quarter: two to occupational training, and one exited directly to employment.

Since the GED closeout last year, we, like all other prep programs in the state, were on hiatus. Now that we have a new HSE, we're back in business!

Critical Thinking Answer:

Like many critical thinking problems, this one does not have a right or wrong answer. The point is to think of as wide a range of possibilities as you can. Without numbers, there would be no time - what effect would that have on the world? Without numbers, there would be no money - how would anyone buy or sell anything, be paid for going to work, what would happen to banking? Without numbers, there would be no internet, no email, no phone systems - what would that mean for communication? Without numbers, there would be no birthdays. Oh wait... that might be a good thing!