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What's Up in Greensboro Basic Skills?



Program Highlights

Director's Corner



Holidays, seasons, and, of course, birthdays seem to come and go so quickly. Halloween always signifies to me that the year is almost over and that the holidays are creeping up. This year, Halloween came upon me so suddenly that I nearly missed it. When I arrived to work on October 31, I noticed some faculty and staff dressed in orange and black and several in costumes. I thought, "Oh my goodness! Is it Halloween already?" I normally would have donned a costume too. Yes, this year it almost got by me. But it didn't move too fast for the ghouls and goblins I saw that day. Check out the photo below. Because of spirited employees like these, we all get to celebrate in spite of what seems to be fleeting moments in time.



Instructor Gaynessa Allen (center) and staff members Myah Drumm and Diane Little "ham it up" on Halloween

"Boning Up" on Biology

One of the many student enrichment workshops recently launched in Greensboro Basic Skills was a 2-day workshop on human biology. Designed to assist students in the sciences, the students gained an understanding of how systems and organs in the human body work. They identified features of the human body, explored needs of the human body by explaining the importance of good health in relationship to the body, and studied functions and care of the human body and its organs.

The instructor, Darryl Jackson, introduced and explored with the students the nine

important systems of the human body: skeletal, muscular, nervous, digestive, excretory, respiratory, circulatory, reproductive, and endocrine.

Jackson peppers his lessons with humor and says, "It's important to me to create an interactive learning environment." Rock on, Mr. "J"!



Darryl Jackson and "friend" with some of their biology students

CED Pumpkin Patch

Students in Doretha Craig's off-site CED class started getting in the Halloween spirit the day Ms. Craig brought in pumpkins for each student. Excited to have a pumpkin of their own to touch and decorate, students first discussed the various ways a pumpkin can be used. This discussion led to a word association activity where the students identified 50 words associated

with a pumpkin.

With the lesson plan and learning session completed, Ms. Craig turned the students loose to work on their pumpkins. With a little help from their friends (the instructor and one-on-one assistants), students drew faces on the pumpkins, cut the tops, scooped out the inside and carved their masterpieces!



Ms. Craig's CED Class



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**Preparing Students to
 Achieve their Dreams!**

Fall Enrollment: 2,083

Free Flu Clinic

On October 24, the New Arrivals Institute sponsored a free flu clinic for our ESOL students and teachers at the New Arrival School. New Arrivals Institute Executive Director, Leilani Roughton, said, "We look at having clients do this kind of activity as an important part of their education and (it) gives the students the opportunity to apply concepts and skills learned in class to a real life situation."

Roughton explained that a week before the clinic, Lois Bazhaw, congregational nurse, did a presentation for students about the flu, how to prevent getting ill during the winter months, and the upcoming free clinic. Our teachers gave out the required paperwork in their classrooms. A total of 115 shots were given to adult students and teachers.



The Mad Scientist



As part of the Reading Learning Community's series of workshops/enrichment labs to provide our students with in-depth critical thinking skills and content knowledge, Instructor Karen Forster conducted a 2-part chemistry workshop in November.

To illustrate what happens during a chemical reaction, Forster used the "building a volcano" experiment which can be found on a variety of internet sites. Combining baking soda (sodium hydrogen bicarbonate) and vinegar (acetic acid), the students saw that different chemical compounds were produced as a result of the chemical reaction (sodium acetate, water, and carbon dioxide).

Forster is now fondly referred to by her students as the "Mad Scientist" of Room 246. They loved the experiments.

Recycling Benefits Everyone

In November, students in Ms. Gaines' ESOL class received a lesson in recycling from Yvonne Foust, education specialist with the City of Greensboro. Students prepared beforehand by studying books on recycling and related vocabulary. Mrs. Foust presented various recyclable materials and explained which types of materi-



als are accepted by the City of Greensboro. She reminded us how important it is to recycle so the landfills do not run out of space. We also need to buy recycled goods to make the recycling process work.

Hopefully, our students and readers will be inspired to recycle because recycling benefits everyone and it takes little time to sort garbage and recyclable items.

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-Oct 2011



Assessment	# of Students
TABE Placement	2,944
GED	847
ESOL	979
NC Competency	0
GED Graduates	<u>87</u>
Total:	4,867



GTCC's annual "Celebration of Excellence" recognizes the service and dedication of its faculty and staff. This year's highly successful celebration was presented by Corporate and Continuing Education, the division which houses the Basic Skills program. Greensboro Basic Skills employees recognized this October were:

Professional Recognition

Instructors: Gaynessa Allen
 Karen Forster, Darryl Jackson

Service Awards (5 years)

Krystal Gossett
 Brenda Robinson

Retiree Recognition

Barbara Avent

President's Award Recipient

Diane Hankins