



Mindquest Matters

A Mindquest Academy Newsletter

Issue 5
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Mindquest Training for New Teachers

Trainings were held December 6-7 and December 13-14 with 34 ABE teachers and 2 program managers. Greta Ploetz gave an overview of Mindquest Academy. An introduction to the curriculum followed with trainers Paula Freiermuth, Rita Koon, Sue Ann Rawlins, Tammy Twiggs, and Karen Wolters.

On the first day a significant amount of time was spent on getting acquainted with the courses and the curriculum. Ways of incorporating courses into the program were presented, and basic approaches to online teaching were discussed. The morning session on Friday was spent learning about orienting students and using the First Class system.

Teachers who attended are from 15 ABE programs:

Betsy Schroeder, Albert Lea
Ruth Aldrich, Bloomington
Mary Holzemer, Bloomington
Jeanne Plack, Bloomington
Susan Ward, Fergus Falls

Sue Bredeck, Granite Falls
Jennifer Rud, Granite Falls
Tonja Stier, Granite Falls
Nikki Mallak, Hutchinson
Julie Mischke, Hutchinson
David Hoyord, Lakeville
Grady McGovern, Lakeville
Shelley Leenhouts, Mankato
Bob Maas, Mankato
Bryce Stenzel, Mankato
Sandy Farder, Metro North
Kristin Keller, Metro North
Julie Kleve, Metro North
Rebekkah Morrison, Metro North
Rosemary Seifert, Metro North
Pam Sherwood-Gabrielson, Metro
North
Molly Stewart, Metro North
Gail Stone, Metro North
Vicki Tatting, Metro North
LeeAnn Triden, Metro North
Desiree Fintel, MLC East Lake School
Carol Bell, Rosemount/Apple
Valley/Eagan
Tracie Bowman, Rosemount/Apple
Valley/Eagan
Donna Dieruf, Rosemount/Apple
Valley/Eagan
Rita Ray, Rosemount/Apple Valley/
Eagan
Marilynn Curtis, St. Paul
Carolyn Oleson, South Suburban

Cheryl Lubinski, Wayzata
Sidonia Balke, Waseca
Claryce Haug, Waseca
Andrew Hendrickson, Willmar

Responses from teachers included:

About the curriculum...

- How well thought-out the Academy classes are
- How wonderful the courses look with all the student-centered aspects and wonderful teaching
- There are more subjects there than I thought.
- How fabulous these courses are – how many choices and how it's NOT drill and kill. I love how the courses are written to help with both reading and writing.

About the questions they have...

- I'm anxious to dig in and just wonder how this will "look" in our program and wondering what pieces will be the easiest and most challenging.
- How should I begin, and how can I make it work within our work schedule; which class should I start with?
- How will I manage my response time for student writing assignments?
- Can I do this and reach my students?

Participants were assured that their trainer/coach will be available to help them answer their questions.

The next face-to-face training will be February 15 for the Dec. 6-7 group and February 29 for the Dec. 13-14 group. Both trainings will be at MLC.

Online Training

A major part of the training this year will be in six training modules. The first module will be sent on January 28. There will be a module every two weeks thereafter through April 7. There will be approximately 4 or 5 assignments in each module. Bella Hanson and coaches will be responding to assignments.

October Seminar for Pilot Teachers

Teachers in the three-year pilot attended a seminar on October 26 at MLC. Teachers shared how they are going to use MQ curriculum this year. A lively 'jigsaw puzzle' activity ensued around five "What if" questions, e.g. "What if a student has trouble staying motivated and meeting timelines."

A second seminar is planned for February on the topic of scaffolding and teaching a module with a group. The third seminar will focus on helping

students learn how to operate in college ("schoolability").

GED Scenarios

GED scenarios have been written around ten different student profiles. The scenarios are offered as examples of how teachers might group modules into a GED plan for an individual learner or for a small group of learners. For example, one of the ten scenarios is for students who have trouble with reading comprehension and need practice.

If you do not have a copy of the GED scenarios, contact Bella.

Transitions Modules

Transitions is a set of online materials designed for use in ABE classrooms where teachers combine direct and remote instruction to learners who are preparing for the GED, who want to brush up their academic skills, and/or are college-bound. Transitions modules are in the Teachers' Corner in FirstClass.

College Prep Programs Receive Award

The two College Prep programs, North Hennepin Community College/Osseo ABE and South Central College/Mankato ABE won the

Minnesota Association for Continuing Adult Education (MACAE) award for Outstanding Adult Education Program.

They were cited for their achievements: each site has between twenty to thirty students enrolled in College Prep at any one time, some students have raised their placement test scores so they can bypass or take fewer developmental courses, some have moved from non-credit ESL to credit-bearing courses, and some entered college for the first time and are doing well in their studies.

The programs are having an impact by filling a need that until now was unmet. College prep staff has worked to develop positive relationships with faculty and other staff. The colleges have responded by contributing resources such as peer tutoring, work study program aides, counseling and financial aid information – as well as in-kind support.

Karen Wolters and Bob Maas teach in the Mankato program. Terry Jaakkala and Mary Klis teach in the North Hennepin program.

"The value of a college education is not the learning of many facts but the training of the mind to think."

Albert Einstein