

OCCLC News

Serving Calhoun, Dallas, and Ouachita Counties

2012 MLK Day Collage of Services

'Celebrating Service & Promoting Economic Opportunity'



To once again honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., OCCLC partnered with the African American Historical Commission of Camden, Zion Hill Baptist Church, and Webster Enterprise to commemorate its third annual 2012 MLK Day Collage of Services event. Each year the MLK Collage of Services one-day event has centered on giving back to the community as a whole through volunteerism, service, and donating to another community agency. This year, the event was held to 'Celebrate Service and Promote Economic Opportunity' with a focus on the area's youth, and was extended over a four-day weekend. The MLK Collage weekend of celebrations began on Friday, January 13 at the SAU Tech Charles O. Ross Center with 'Family Togetherness @ Movie Night with a Twist. Parents were encouraged to spend an evening with their children learning about past history events that led up to the Civil Rights Movement and the philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In addition, local elementary and intermediate school students submitted posters on the life and legacy of Dr. King, where 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winning posters were also judged on Friday night. On Saturday morning, OCCLC joined Zion Hill in presenting a historical monument at Bragg Lake to the 1st Kansas Regiment Volunteer Infantry. AAHCC presented their annual MLK Unity Sunday evening at Greater St. Paul Baptist Church, in which local youth choirs and talents, and guest youth (Gloryland Pastor's Choir Little Rock) led the program. The 2012 MLK Day Collage of Services were held at the Camden Fairview Intermediate School Cafeteria at 10:00a on Monday, January 16. Special guests were Arkansas State Representatives David Fielding and Garry Smith, and Arkansas Senator Gene Jeffress. Twenty-three council and community volunteers were presented the 2012 Presidential Drum Major Awards by Rep. David Fielding and OCCLC Director, Linda Nelson for their exceptional service to the community. Middle school aged youth participated in an MLK trivia based discussion with AmeriCorps member Emeka Nnoli and Bishop Chester Thompson, and was allowed to speak on community and life opportunities with Jamela Bradford and Linda Nelson. Linda Nelson also presented the audience with the state and county Opportunity Index, which is part of the national Opportunity Nation campaign to promote opportunities for economic and social mobility, and the American Dream for all, regardless of where one starts out in life. The program ended with an announcement of the poster contest winners, and an invitation for volunteers to participate in and OCCLC annual service project (Project Opportunity). The 'Empowerment March' was cancelled, but a voter registration station was set-up during the program. The 2012 MLK program was the best in quality, yet we experienced a disappointing lowest in community attendance and participation in three years. (Photos page 4)

Director's Editorial

Linda Nelson, OCCLC

Power in the Use of Words, Literally

Will what you say next breathe life into a situation, or will what you say kill opportunities? Words are powerful, and they are the seed that replenishes life. Those hearing the words are like rich soil; therefore, words can and does create change and effect. What is just as important as the choice of words? How we choose to use the words. Are the words and tone of use positive or negative?

Our personal issues, emotions, opinions, attitudes, and overall outlook on life effects what we say out loud. There is great power in our tongues. Once we speak and release seeds out into the universe, we cannot retrieve them. When seeds fall upon soil, they become planted. They will grow good fruit or they will grow bad fruit, but there will be growth that only the one who released the seeds is responsible for.

If we feel good, think optimistically, and live positive lives, our spoken words will reflect it. If we are pessimistic, negative, and feeling defeated, words will flow out of our mouths as such. We literally become the change that we speak about, and effect the change of others around us. Let us be conscious of how we use the power of our words, literally.

A word is dead when it is said. Some say. I say it just begins to live that day. ~Emily Dickinson



W
I
T
H
T
H
E
R
A
R
E
2
0
2
0

Become an Adult Literacy Advocate

South Central Arkansas Advocates for Adult Literacy
Join Today!

Visit: www.scaaal.com or
Call Linda Nelson @
OCCLC, 870-837-4005

“Be the change you want to see in the world” ~Unknown



How Essential is Reading & Literacy for Adults?

It has been estimated that currently there are 3 million available jobs across the nation, yet 30 million adults lack the education, English language, and job skills necessary to access these jobs. Education and the workforce are intertwined. Median and low-skilled jobs are on the decline in America, and being replaced by jobs that require specialized skill, experience, and knowledge beyond the high school graduate level, yet one-fourth of the nation's adults lack a high school education. With 49.2 million Americans now living in, or below poverty, and more Americans falling from middle-class status into poverty, our nation is in an economic crisis, and economic recovery in America is dependent upon this nations' adults gaining skills to match both currently available jobs, and jobs being created for the future.

With Congress now pushing its UI Extension agenda, unemployment insurance for the low-literate, less educated in America is at risk. If passed, workers without a high school diploma, and not enrolled in an adult education program will be denied unemployment insurance regardless of the number of years they have been employed, or whether or not they have access to an adult education program. The nations' high school drop-out rate is on the rise, and the literacy skills that high school drop outs possess at the time they drop out are extremely low, on average. In a constant struggle to decrease the nations' deficit, budgets for many social programs are being cut or deleted.

Rapidly, adults are losing the option of deciding if, or when they want to improve their own skills. It is becoming mandatory for them to do so if they desire to maintain the essentials of life in America. Without access to jobs, the adults' ability to provide basics; shelter, food, clothing, and medical care, educating children beyond high school, and maintaining good health will not be possible. Adult literacy is no longer just the ability to read well, but is also the ability to compute and use technology; however, reading ensures that one will have the same access to job opportunities in America. Reading and literacy are essentials for all adults.

People functioning below basic literacy levels may be able to identify what is going on in these photos, but they may struggle with the activity



Be a friend and encourage adults to read and learn.

Need help approaching the subject or referring someone for help?

Call 870-837-4005 or 870-836-7700



Training and Learner Enrollment

Adult learner enrollment is always open to citizens in Ouachita, Calhoun, and Dallas Counties through OCCLC. So that learners are not placed on a waiting list, and can partner with a tutor immediately upon request, tutors are needed in the following areas: Camden, Hampton, Fordyce, Louann, Stephens, Chidester, Bearden, Carthage, and Sparkman. Advocates and volunteers are also needed to help at start-up council locations in these areas. To initiate adult literacy and skills improvement in your community, contact Linda Nelson at 214-669-5113 to schedule an on-site tutor workshop (minimum of 5 attending required). Tutor training workshops are free, and adult learning materials are provided at no cost. OCCLC's training staff is ProLiteracy trained and certified.

AmeriCorps Members "Get Things Done" to Improve Adult Literacy in Ouachita, Calhoun, Dallas Counties



Eligible AmeriCorps members who wish to join AmeriCorps Alumni Association in Arkansas, contact Linda Nelson, Arkansas AmeriCorps Alumni - Camden Chapter



Literacy, Learning, & Transitions

Because of a generous textbook and software donation from ProLiteracy, Inc. and the National Book Fund, OCCLC has openings for 20 adult learners to participate in the Literacy, Learning, & Transition (LLT) pilot project. Through LLT, an adult with low literacy skills can partner with a tutor to improve basic literacy skills in reading, writing, and math, or English as a Second Language, as well as explore workplace/job/career, basic life, and financial literacy skills through small group classes. Learning additional skills will put the learner on the fast-track to reaching their overall goals of interest. Individuals interested in Literacy, Learning, and Transitions may request services at the time of literacy tutoring enrollment, or call 870-836-7700 on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9:00a-12:00n and speak with an available tutor.

2012 Upcoming Event

OCCLC will hold its second annual community resource fair on Saturday, April 28. Due to the lack of participation in the councils' 'Million Wishes' Book Fair last year, and the community resource fair, OCCLC is adopting the name from the book fair for the community resource fair so that it is now called 'Million Wishes Community Resource Fair'. Local agencies and educators turned out generously last year to interact with local citizens, and the event was held at the First Baptist Church of Camden. The event was originally designed so that all adults in the community could not only become aware of available resources, but individuals could also connect with those resources in a one-stop setting. Through all community events, OCCLC consistently attempts to present social, holistic approaches to adult literacy. The location of the 2012 Million Wishes Community Resource Fair will be announced soon through Camden News Times, and other local media outlets. Citizens in all surrounding communities of Ouachita, Calhoun, and Dallas Counties are encouraged to attend.

2012 MLK Day Collage of Services Presidential Drum Major Award Recipients

The award consistent of certificate, level of service pin, and a signed letter from President Barack Obama

Lifetime Recipients

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.-Psi Iota Beta Chapter – Gold, Call to Service Award
Bishop Chester L. Thompson – Blue, Call to Service Award

Young Adult Recipients – 200+ Hours Silver

Rachel Osinuga
Kaitlin Frazier

Adult Community Recipients – 500+ Hours Gold

Ann Lumsey**** Nnaemeka Nnoli*** Adrienne Toney*** Rudy Galbert

Adult Community Recipients – 200+ Hours Bronze

Jamela Bradford*** Brandon Jones*** Sue Frazier*** Elenor Thompson*** Alethea Henderson***
Rebecca Hiatt*** Andre' Rucks*** Sharron Ekpe*** Kerron Simpson*** Moriah Hicks*** Corick Williams***
Sheryl Hamilton*** Donald Williams*** DaNita Webster***

Congratulations to all recipients. Thank you for your honorable service to the community.



Ouachita-Calhoun County Literacy Council, Inc. **Learning/Tutoring Centers**

DHS, 222 Van Buren, Camden-Monday-Thursday, 9:00a-12:00n, Call 870-836-7700

DHS, 137 Archer St., Hampton-Wednesdays, 9:00a-11:30a, Call 870-798-3588

FISD Admin. Bldg, 114 Collins, Fordyce-Tuesday-Thursday, 9:00a-1:00p, Call 870-250-0288

2011-2012 OCCLC Board of Directors

President:

Robert Gunnels, VC SAU Tech

Vice President:

Dr. Richard Piles, FBC of Camden

Treasurer:

Sandy Neely, SAU Tech

Secretary:

Barbara Hamilton, Director Ad.Edu.

Members of the Board:

Dr. Corbet Lamkin, SAU Tech

James Rawls, SATCO

Mandy Noles, City of Fordyce

Erma Brown, Retired State of AR

Elenor Thompson, Community Member

Sue Frazier, Career Pathways

Sharron Ekpe, Camden Fire Dept.

Kerron Simpson, Former Career Pathways

Mattie Hanley, Retired Teacher-Chicago

Bishop Chester Thompson, Community/Civic Leader



Pictured left to right: Elenor Thompson, Dr. Richard Piles, Sandy Neely, Kerron Simpson, Robert Gunnels, and Sue Frazier.

2011-2012 Council Memberships

Dr. Corbet Lamkin

Harriet Washington

Sue Frazier

James Rawls

Cheryl Suave

Rebecca Hiatt

Elenor Thompson

Linda Nelson

Lenora Roberson

Catherine Boston

Alethea Henderson

Jamela Bradford

Willie Bradford

Jason Jeffers

Evelyn Jeffers

Ethelene Garrison

Christine Nkeumen

Amy Johnson

Robert Gunnels

Richard Piles

Foundation Donors 2009-2012

Arkansas Literacy Councils, Inc.

Arkansas Black Hall of Fame

Dollar General

Entergy

National Coalition for Literacy

ProLiteracy, Inc.

National Book Fund

Verizon

Wal-Mart

Ouachita-Calhoun County Literacy Councils, Inc. sincerely thanks each individual member and donor for their outstanding contributions in support of adult literacy and OCCLC.

SOUTH CENTRAL ARKANSAS ADVOCATES FOR ADULT LITERACY

Join **SCAAAL**! Become an adult literacy champion. Be a member of a team that raises awareness of adult illiteracy issues in South Central Arkansas on local, state, and federal levels, and advocates for the adult literacy learner community. Both training and membership are free. Contact Linda at 836-7700, or 214-669-5113.

Volunteers are needed to contribute to the 2012 MLK Day Annual Project Opportunity

This is a project to promote social mobility and economic opportunity. If you would like to make a difference in the life of a family or individual who would like to access opportunities, but cannot due to their current socio-economic status, please e-mail lnelson@sautech.edu.

'Together, we can make a difference'

SCAAAL Book Club

SCAAAL's Book Club Meets Every 3rd Saturday of the Month at 1:00 PM

The SCAAAL Book Club is for readers and non-readers to meet socially and enjoy reading and discussing a chosen book-of-the-month. Locations for each meeting will be announced in the 'What's Happening' section of the Camden News Times. SCAAAL's Book Club seeks to 'Keep Readers Reading' throughout the community. January through March meetings will focus on *Life Is So Good*, George Dawson. Mr. Dawson tells his life's story in his own words. He became famous for learning to read at the age of 98. Buying the book is not necessary, but this is an interesting story of a man who lived to be 103. Become an active member of the book club by joining the group for free today! Call Sharron Ekpe at 832-647-3286, or Linda Nelson at 214-669-5113.

Attention Parents of Ouachita County

OCCLC is seeking interest for starting a Family Literacy Night program for parents with children, ages 3-6 years of age, who will be starting, or are currently in an early childhood education program. The program will be created to assist parents who are seeking to improve their own literacy skills with additional help in preparing their children for success in early education, both socially and educationally. Please call 214-669-5113, or e-mail lnelson@sautech.edu.

Young Ladies Be a Springtide!

'Springtides' is an exciting, newly-formed skills association for young ladies, ages 9-15. For more information contact Sharron Ekpe at 832-647-3286

Support Adult Literacy Efforts through Annual Membership

Annual membership with OCCLC is only \$5, but it can make a huge difference. OCCLC is a 501(c) 3, not-for-profit community-based organization. The organizations' mission is to 'Assist adults in becoming economically self-sufficient, employable, and able to move to higher levels of education'.

Visit our webpage at <http://www.sautech.edu/community/literacy.aspx>

Ouachita-Calhoun County Literacy Council, Inc. is a partner with SAU Tech, and an affiliated member of Arkansas Literacy Councils, Inc., ProLiteracy, Inc., and COABE

