

Ozarka College
Adult Education Advisory Committee
November 13, 2008
11:00 a.m.
Main Building, Conference Room

Wayne Wilson welcomed everyone and expressed appreciation for them taking time from their schedules to come. Members present included James Miller, Leland Jackson, Alan Sherrell, and Jackie Heck. Elizabeth Cowan was introduced as our newest committee member. She will be taking Carolyn McCurley's position on the committee. Others in attendance were Wayne Wilson, Sandra Miller, Trish Miller, and Debbie Yancey. Dr. Mike DeLong came by for a moment to greet everyone.

Wayne discussed our site visit with our Program Manager, Priscilla Flowers. It is probable that we will have a more extensive visit later in the year. Our new Director in Workforce Education is Senator William L. Walker and Jim Smith is our Deputy Director of Adult Education. There is concern, as always, about reduced funding. Out of 52 Adult Education Centers in Arkansas, 30 had their funding cut.

Trish explained that we are now able to accommodate students to obtain a Career Readiness Certificate. The KeyTrain software and WorkKeys assessment test are provided by the Department of Workforce Services and available at Ozarka College. The KeyTrain software prepares individuals to obtain a CRC (Career Readiness Certificate) by passing the WorkKeys assessment test. Individuals pass the WorkKeys assessment by obtaining a Gold, Silver, or Bronze certificate. Individuals are required to have a CRC to obtain jobs at various businesses and companies in Arkansas.

Other topics included our site visit from 04-05, the new funding formula, and student hours. We continue to advertise classes and testing dates on the radio and in the local papers.

The 2007 Statistical Report from the State GED Administration indicates that Ozarka tested 232 students with 178 receiving their GED credential, a pass rate of 77%. Of the 232 candidates tested, almost 50% were 16 & 17 year olds. To date for 2008, Ozarka has tested 191 examinees with 140 receiving a passing score for a 73% pass rate. We do anticipate the pass rate will increase before the end of the year.

Sandra announced that graduation will be May 14 and welcomed the committee to come to graduation and attend the reception we have for our GED graduates. It is also very gratifying to see our former GED graduates going through graduation after completing another program.

This year, Ozarka has paid \$11,000 in GED Scholarships. This includes the 2nd summer term and fall term. Since January 1, 16 have qualified for the scholarship. We again had the #1 scorer in the state for 2007.

Sandra presented an electronic version of the "White Paper" produced by the Department of Workforce Education, Adult Education Division. This PowerPoint provided state wide statistics reflecting the overall picture of Adult Education.

A Legislative Luncheon is scheduled for March 17, 2009, sponsored by AACAE. The luncheon will provide a venue for face to face interaction with members of the General Assembly to express appreciation for their efforts on behalf of Adult Education in the legislative session.

The meeting adjourned shortly after noon and a luncheon was served by the Kitchen Staff.