



# Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education News and Views



*For one human being to love another; that is perhaps the most difficult of all our tasks, the ultimate, the last test and proof, the work for which all other work is but preparation. - Rainer Maria Rilke*

Vol.4 No. 20

The "Will You Be My Valentine" Issue

February 9, 2005



## Proposed Federal Budget Slashes Adult Education by 66%

(Where is the love...)

President Bush's Budget Proposal for FY 06 cuts the funding level for adult education state grants from the current \$569 million to \$207 million, a reduction of almost 66%. A cut of this magnitude will destroy the adult education program delivery system in many states around the country. The funding for Even Start programs has been reduced to \$0 in the President's budget.

Now we must move to restore that funding through our work with the US House and Senate. We will be sending you information within the next two days that will assist all of us in a nationwide campaign to restore funding for our students. As Mother Jones said "Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living"

- Art Ellison, Co-Chair, Policy Committee, National Council of State Directors of Adult Education

## Student Satisfaction Surveys from the Learning Center— Fall, 2004. Now What? by A.V. Coyle

Learning Center teachers have reviewed their students' responses on the Student Satisfaction surveys completed in December, and we have identified several ways in which we can adjust both our practice and Learning Center policy in order to meet students' needs better. Students expressed appreciation of the flexibility they find in the program. In response, we have added a daily instruction time for morning GED prep students who have been doing computer assisted instruction as their primary mode of learning. We plan to offer additional small group workshops in specific areas of need, such as a Writing Workshop offered already for those who are just about ready to take the Writing GED. Although it is a big order in our space-challenged environment, we will try to identify a space for this type of small group instruction in an area more separated from the quiet computer stations. We also will encourage students to take greater advantage of the opportunity for easy movement between classroom instruction and computer assisted instruction in two of our classrooms. And we will be more alert to students who seem to need occasional one-on-one support.

We noted that although the responses were overwhelmingly positive, one area that did not receive as consistently high a rating as others was the "Course Content" item. Desiring to find out how we might meet students' needs more directly in that area, we will take another very brief survey within the next couple of weeks, asking students more specifically what changes they would like to see in the course content. Then we'll determine how best to respond to the suggestions.

We want our students to experience that we do listen to and act on their feedback, that the Surveys are not just an empty exercise. We hope that by responding actively to student input we'll enable our learners to become more active participants in their education.



# WAAE Calendar

## Data Summit

Efforts increase to get more data about student achievement  
How do we know our students are getting what they want and need?  
Friday, Feb. 11, 3:00-5:00. Green Valley.

## No Classes - Presidents' Days

Monday, Feb. 14, and Monday, Feb. 21

## Student Councils

Porter Day - Tuesday, Feb. 15, 12:00

Porter Evening - Tuesday, Feb. 15, 9:00

Green Valley Day - Wednesday, Feb. 16, 12:00

Green Valley Night - Wednesday, Feb. 16, 9:00

## *School Council (all welcome!!)*

*Feb. 16, 4:00-6:00, Green Valley*

Adult Ed. Student of the Month - Marisela Vega  
Board of Trustees Meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 23

March 1, All request for materials, books and equipment must be submitted.  
(in order to close books for fiscal year)

Statewide Adult Education Week. March 7-11 (Suggestions?)

Community Advisory Council. March 9, 10:00-noon. Green Valley

Adult Ed. Postive Program Report, Board of Trustees, March 9, 7:00pm. G.V.



## February Birthdays

Rosalyn DiNatale 2/18

Jim Kosinski 2/29

Antone Mercurio 2/29

