

Tarrant Literacy Coalition Newsletter August 2013

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Upcoming Events

Book Lover's Day (8/9) Literacy Tex<u>as Conference</u>, San

Marcos (8/12-13)

August Fourth Friday (8/23) TEX Basic ESL Training,

Garland (8/24-25)

TEX Basic ESL Training, Fort Worth (9/6-7) International Literacy Day (9/8)

Quick Links

Online Teaching Resources Online Courses for Adult Educators Tarrant Literacy Coalition Website Email for Support & More Info Sign-up to Become a Volunteer Make a Donation YouTube Social Media A few weeks ago, TLC staff and volunteers (me included) witnessed something wonderful. We watched as our own GED students, as well as students from other programs in Fort Worth, donned caps and gowns and crossed the stage at GED graduation. For many graduates, this was the first time they'd ever entered to "Pomp and Circumstance," waited through the long list of names for their own, and turned their tassel.

I think I can speak for every tutor in the audience when I say that we were incredibly proud. Of course, the stands weren't just filled with excited teachers. They were filled with friends, spouses, parents, children, and countless other relatives. Every time a name was called, a different section of seats broke into cheers and applause. Although energy and excitement bubbled up from all over the room, everyone shared a common focus. All eyes were on the grads; the day was about them.

Every student has their own story. With adults, those stories are often complicated. There are reoccurring themes, though: sacrifice, dedication, perseverance. No matter how they ended up in your class, they've done something truly extraordinary: showed up. They managed to overcome every obstacle thrown at them - family, work, self-doubt, and the rest - and be in class.

GED graduation was a great opportunity for teachers, along with families and friends, to say "good job." But it can take a long time to

July in Review

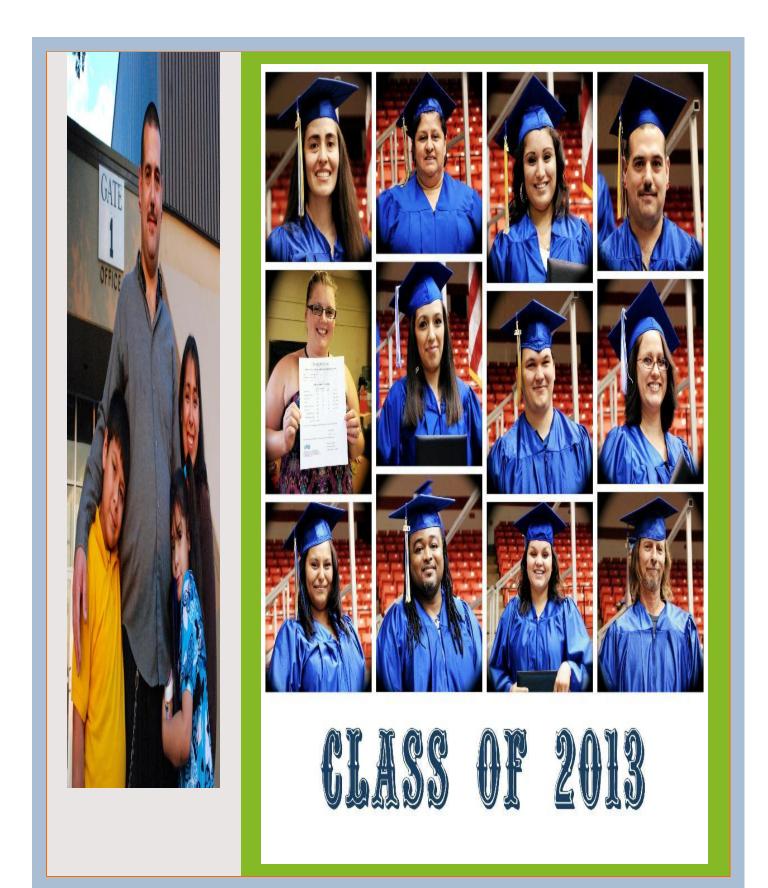
Congratulations to all of our GED graduates!



get there. This month, I challenge you to look for other reasons to congratulate your students. Set small goals, and celebrate when they're accomplished. When you help everyone remember how awesome they already are, they might just start trying to do better.

In any case, you'll be making it seem a lot easier - and more worthwhile - to walk through the door.

Sincerely, Rayna Smith Intern











August 23rd we will be hosting back to school themed round table discussions on a variety of programmatic topics including volunteers, student motivation and retention, goal setting and achievement, the new GED, getting serious about fluency, tracking and measuring progress through informal assessment, along with other back to school topics. Get excited about going back to school with lots of great door prizes. Please join us at the TCC-Opportunity Center at 5901 Fitzhugh Ave., Fort Worth 76119 from 9-11 A.M.

Space is limited. Please register no later than August 19.

Click to register now!





Teach English with Excellence! TEX basic ESL training for new ESL teachers of adult students

- Emphasis on teaching beginners .
- · Great opportunity for new teachers or higher-level teachers who have not attended a basiclevel workshop
- Literacy ConneXus ESL Training Certificate given

September 6-7 Friday, 6:30pm-9:30pm Saturday, 9:00am-4:00pm (must attend both sessions) Western Hills Baptist Church 8500 Chapin Road Fort Worth, TX 76116

Cost: \$35 (includes notebook manual). Please bring a sack lunch. Payment to be made on September 6th by check (to Karen Peiser) or exact amount of cash.

Reservations: Contact Kathy Cervantes at (214) 918-4630 or katxochitl@yahoo.com before September 2nd. You must register as an individual; leadership may not reserve spots. You will receive a confirmation email upon receipt of your registration.







We want to feature YOU in upcoming issues of the Coalition newsletter. You get to hear about our efforts and events all the time but we really want to hear from you! Please submit stories and articles to:<u>Jennifer Rollins</u> Be sure to include a short author bio and some general information about your program

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To learn to read is to light a fire; every syllable that is spelled out is a spark.

- Victor Hugo



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