

COMMUNITY LITERACY OF ONTARIO E-CHANNEL E-COMMUNIQUE SEPTEMBER 2009

Dear CLO members,

In this E-Communiqué, Community Literacy of Ontario provides an overview of E-Channel and other initiatives related to online learning in our province.

Topics covered in this E-Communiqué are:

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OVERVIEW OF E-CHANNEL LITERACY

E-Channel Literacy provides adult learners with the opportunity to upgrade their reading, writing, math, computer and other essential skills in a flexible, supported online learning environment. E-Channel Literacy is free for eligible adult learners and is funded by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

MTCU has appointed a lead e-Channel literacy organization for each delivery stream as follows:

Anglophone:

The LearningHub, Avon Maitland District School Board
www.learninghub.ca

Native:

Sioux Hudson Literacy Council
www.siouxhudsonliteracy.com

Francophone:

Centra d'apprentissage et de formation PLUS (CAF)
www.cafplus.ca

THE LEARNINGHUB AND E-CHANNEL LITERACY

By Heather Robinet, E-channel Learning Strategy, The Centres for Employment & Learning of Avon Maitland District School Board

The LearningHub has gained acceptance as a viable online alternative to traditional classroom delivery of Literacy and Basic Skills programming. The "Hub" reached a milestone in August when it registered its 1000th learner, less than two years after Avon Maitland District School Board began delivery of online LBS training to the English speaking population of Ontario. This rapid growth of online LBS programming is only expected to continue given the current economic climate in the province, the continued demand for skills training, and the growing awareness of the Hub amongst LBS agencies, EO services and the general public in both rural and remote areas of Ontario. It is a growth the Hub embraces.

An infusion of funding from MTCU as a result of the provincial government's 2009 budget commitment to distance learning and literacy, means the Hub is able to move forward with a number of initiatives this fall. In addition to hiring new staff to act as mentors to learners studying under the asynchronous (independent study) platforms (Plato, Learnscape, Moodle) the Hub will also be expanding its offering of scheduled online classes in communications, numeracy, workplace and essential skills related subjects. New this fall will be the introduction of several Moodle courses. These courses, each containing five to 10 modules for the learner to work through, have been developed specifically for the Hub and address such subject areas as: Apprenticeship Math, Maintaining Healthy Self-Esteem On and Off the Job, On the Job Report Writing, Spelling 101, Hiring Tests and Improving Your Job Skills. Other Moodle courses, previously available through AlphaPlus, will also be available on the Hub. All Moodle courses will be offered on a continuous intake basis throughout the year beginning this October. The LearningHub also hopes to contract development of more Moodle courses, plus partner with other LBS agencies, networks and literacy support groups, to adapt existing print curriculum to an online format.

The Hub will also be directing efforts to meeting online needs of lower level learners. In addition to developing curriculum directed at LBS Levels 1 and 2, the Hub also has plans to expand its learner (and practitioner) supports. A license for LogMeIn Rescue has been purchased to allow staff to assist learners experiencing technical difficulties by gaining access to their desktop to resolve issues.

As e-Channel lead for the Anglophone stream the Hub strives to build a system of online delivery that features a diverse staff of service providers from across the province. There are plenty of talented LBS practitioners out there. Anyone with suggestions for curriculum to be developed for CENTRA and/or Moodle, who would like help in bringing an idea or program to life, or who would like to discuss possible partnerships, please contact Heather at heather.learninghub@gmail.com or 519-482-1700. Please also visit our website at: www.learninghub.ca/ .

ACE ONLINE IS AN OVERWHELMING SUCCESS!

By Lynne Wallace, College Sector Committee for Adult Upgrading

In July 2009 the ACE Online program celebrated its first year of operation. Response from students across Ontario has been overwhelming. A total of 1,342 students have taken advantage of this opportunity generating 2,024 course enrollments.

Programming for all 10 subjects is available in English and French. The 10 subjects are Communications (French and English), Computer Fundamentals, Self Management/Self Direction, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Core Math, Apprenticeship Math, Business Math and Technology Math. In addition Anglais Langue Seconde is available to Francophones. There is no fee, and books are provided free of charge.

In order to register for an ACE Online course, participants must first successfully complete the 20 hour Learn to Learn (L2L) intake and assessment module. This module implemented in April 2009 determines if the person has the academic skills, as well as the personal and computer readiness to participate in a distance program. Each student develops an Individualized Training Profile in consultation with the online counselor. To register for L2L students should email Marla White at marlawhite75@gmail.com providing their full name and an operating email. Registrations are accepted daily for the first three weeks of each month. 900 students have completed the L2L course since its launch.

Students register for ACE Online through the Distance Education department at a college. Registrations are accepted until the first Friday of each month. Students have 22 weeks to complete each subject, but many have been able to finish a course in less than six weeks. Technology support is provided 24/7/365 and online teachers are required to respond to students within 24 hours.

We recommend that people take one course for the first month. If they are making progress and have adjusted well to the online learning environment, they can enroll for a second course the next month. We recommend no more than 2 courses at one time.

ACE is recognized as equivalent to college stream OSSD courses by Community Colleges, the Apprenticeship Branch and a growing number of employers including the OPP, Revenue Canada, Tembec, Vale INCO, CP Rail, Proctor and Gambell and the City of Ottawa.

For more information about ACE programming go to www.collegeupgradingon.ca or contact Lynne Wallace l.wallace@xplornet.com. For information about ACE Online for Anglophones contact Arlene Cronin arlene.ace@gmail.com and for Francophones Clarence Potvin cspotvin@boreal.on.ca.

SIoux-HUDSON LITERACY COUNCIL

The Sioux Hudson Literacy Council is actively involved in their e-channel literacy project entitled "**Good Learning Anywhere**". The mandate of the project is to reach adult literacy learners who are located in remote, isolated communities and offer them a variety of literacy and numeracy programs. *Good Learning Anywhere* has been working towards this goal for four years and continues to grow and reach out to more and more learners with each class.

In fall 2009, course include: mining prep; spelling; Internet safety; pre-GED math; pre-GED science and pre-GED social studies. You can learn more about Sioux Hudson's courses at: <http://courses.siouxhudsonliteracy.com/>.

ALPHAPLUS CENTRE'S TECH TUESDAYS

AlphaPlus has announced a new community initiative called **Tech Tuesdays**. Tech Tuesdays are a series of informal monthly meetings that bring together practitioners to share information and resources about new and promising tech tools and learn from each other how to use new web-based technology.

Their first **Tech Tuesday** is called "*Delicious' ways to integrate technology into practice*". This event will focus on social-bookmarking using a Web 2.0 tool called [Delicious](#) and will take place at the AlphaPlus Centre office on October 13, 2009 at 6 PM.

For more information please see: <http://alphaplus.ca/newsupdates.asp?eventID=236>.

NALD'S STORY OF THE WEEK

The National Adult Literacy Database (NALD) offers many effective uses of technology to support literacy agencies (including hosting and maintaining the CLO website!). One of NALD's services is to provide a "*Story of the Week*" which allows adult learners to share their stories in an online format. A new story is put online every Monday.

There are so many moving and powerful stories on the "*Story of the Week*" site. For example, please link to the July 2009 story written by Hewida Abdelmoaty who is enrolled in literacy classes at [Parkdale Project Read](#) in Toronto. See: www.nald.ca/story/archive/2009/09jul06.htm.

GETTING ONLINE PROJECT

For those interested in online learning, please visit the wonderful Getting Online Project website. Resources and information on a wide variety of topics are available, including topics such as:

- Overview of Online Learning
- Being an Online Learner
- Online Facilitation
- Tips for Online Learners
- Online Learning Content
- Online Learning Technology
- Trends in Online Learning

Please visit: www.nald.ca/gettingonline

THE CANADIAN COUNCIL ON LEARNING'S STATE OF E-LEARNING IN CANADA REPORT

The Canadian Council on Learning (CCL) has just released its *State of E-Learning in Canada*. This report reviews e-learning in our country and notes that it holds much promise to improve Canada's economic competitiveness and prepare Canadians for the demands of the 21st century.

For more information, please see: www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Newsroom/Releases/20090514E-Learning.htm