

The Learning Curve

MULTNOMAH COUNTY * OREGON / ADULT COMMUNITY JUSTICE
SPRING 2005—QUARTERLY

JUNE 17th GED GRADUATION

Success is not final, failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts.

Sir Winston Churchill



Our mission is to help corrections and treatment clients develop the cognitive, communication, and functional literacy skills needed to make responsible decisions, build and sustain positive relationships, achieve goals, and realize their potential at work, with their families, and in the community. In our efforts, we respect human dignity and celebrate the accomplishments of those with whom we work.

AT THE MULTNOMAH BUILDING, COMMISSIONERS' BOARDROOM, FRIDAY, 3pm

AMONG THE CELEBRANTS WILL BE TWO GED SPANISH GRADUATES

Experts say it takes 7 to 8 years to develop full proficiency in a foreign language. Passing the GED can be an impossible dream for students who are just learning English. Because a GED is a goal for many of our Spanish speakers, the Londer Learning Center has begun offering Spanish language GED testing, as well as basic math in Spanish and reading in Spanish.

In June, we will have two Spanish GED graduates: Salvador D. and Angel C. Salvador began studying English at the Learning Center last year. When looking for jobs, he learned how important the

GED is to employers. Salvador relapsed, but was able to resume his studies at the Learning Center once he was stabilized. To pass the math section of the GED, he took an advanced math class in English, yet took that portion of the GED in Spanish. For his effort, Salvador has earned a free term at PCC. He plans to enroll in intensive English courses.

Though Angel and Salvador were able to pass the GED in Spanish with little difficulty, such is not always the case for Spanish speakers. Many immigrated here as teenagers, or left school for work. Some of these immigrants are now parents with kids in the public school system. Their children speak English, and the parents may as well, but the parents don't have enough educational background to successfully help their children with homework. Other immigrants need to use math on the job, but don't have

the math background to help them succeed with numeracy problems on the job, such as measuring for construction work.

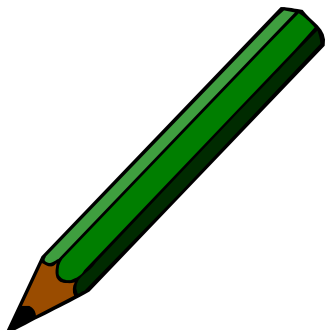
Due to these factors, the Learning Center has begun working with the Mexican Consulate here in Portland. Through an agreement with Governor Ted Kulongoski and Mexico's President Vicente Fox, the Mexican Consulate is setting up Spanish literacy programs throughout the state. Materials are free and can be accessed off the internet. Through these courses, a Spanish speaker from any country in Latin America can earn a primary or secondary school certificate. These studies enable students to pass the GED, meet math

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The *Learning Curve* is a quarterly newsletter published by The Donald H. Londer Center for Learning, Multnomah County Oregon, Adult Community Justice.

The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Learning Center or the Department. Please direct questions or comments to AI, editor, at (503) 988-3747 ext. 27378.



Student Work

Students have been reading "The House On Mango Street" as part of Everybody Reads 2005. These essays were class projects inspired by Sandra Cisneros' book.

WAITING AND WONDERING

After a while, I'll feel better.

After a while, I'll drop you a line.

After a while, I can't help but smile

After a while, I'll be able to walk a mile.

After a while, things begin to fall into place.

I get tired of always doing the right thing.

I get tired of listening to others complain.

I get tired of waiting for the bus.

RAIN IS GOOD

No wonder the grass is so green

We're in Portland!

No wonder the trees are so green

We're in Portland.

Without the abundance of rain that falls here annually, it would be brown and barren.

I like the rain; it cleans the air. Ever smell the air after a generous downpour? Ahhhhhh.

All things grow better with rain water.

That's what I believe, anyway.

COMPLETION

I'm waiting for my completion date on Feb. 19th. As the date draws nearer, my mind ponders many questions. Will I be able to make it out there in the real world?

I'm waiting for my completion ceremony which will hopefully be on Feb. 24th. There will be several of us. The proposed plan for the ceremony also includes a proposal to celebrate Back History month.

We will have a guest speaker and a movie. I've also been invited to sing, and I am very flattered to be asked. I'm hopeful staff will approve. Also, the festivities will conclude with an authentic meal for Black History which will include fried chicken, okra, black-eyed peas, corn bread, ribs, and sweet potato pie!

CLOSE YOUR EYES

Close your eyes and imagine a perfect world. What would that be like? For me, I'd like all the fighting and violence to stop. Yes, all the wars would end.

WORLD PEACE. Not a very realistic viewpoint, but a pleasant one, just the same.

A WOMAN'S PLACE

A woman's place is wherever she wishes to be. She is only limited by herself. A strong woman can do anything she puts her mind to. I am a strong woman, getting stronger every day.

When I think I can't,

then I'm not trying, or I'm giving in too easily to my fears. When I think I can, then I know I can do it!

Society puts limitations on what a woman should and should not do, but those molds are being broken every day.

Liz S, student

CLOSE YOUR EYES

Close your eyes. What do I see? I see visions, movies, and pretty colors. I see memories. I see pain. I see sadness, and I now feel the rain.



A WOMAN'S PLACE

A woman's place is with her children, watching over them, protecting them, feeding them, bathing them, and putting them safely to bed.

I'M AFRAID OF NOTHING

I'm afraid of nothing except love.

I'm afraid of nothing except losing an uphill battle.

I'm afraid of nothing except for fear. I only feel fear and cannot see it. I do not love fear.

I'm afraid of nothing except for me not facing

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reality.

I'm afraid of nothing except for how this applies to me.

I'M WAITING

I'm waiting for this journey I'm on to begin on my own out in the world.....living and doing all the things that "normies" do, so to speak.

NEXT YEAR

Next year, I'm going to have a year in sobriety, living my life on life's terms; being the best woman, daughter, mother, and grandmother I can be.

YOU CAN NEVER TELL

You can never tell how things turn out unless you live it out.

You have to go through many different experiences, and the things you'll go through will either make you strong in your life or not.

That's why you should try, try, try to learn from your mistakes and NEVER, NEVER, NEVER give up.

I KNOW BETTER

I know better than to cut corners, take the easy way out, or give up.

AFTER A WHILE

After a while you get to know the rules.

You become familiar with the faces and the names, and after a while, you're gone.

I GET TIRED

I get tired when I don't get enough sleep and stay up late.

I get tired sometimes of paperwork.

I do a lot of it, but mostly,

I get tired of repeating my mistakes.

NO WONDER

No wonder I'm here today.

Something or someone has seen in me what I never knew.

Something I can do, and that's to be here with you.

No wonder.

Stacy Y, *student*



WHEN I WAS 12...13

When I was 12... 13, I loved to do skateboarding and climb trees. Quite the tomboy I was.

At family gatherings I would sit and listen to the grown-ups chatting. The women saying, "How'd you make this cake so fluffy," or "I love your dress!" or "Where'd you buy it?" or "You MADE it!"

The men talked about sports and cars and exciting adventures. I always liked listening to them better.

And, yes,.....still.....to this

day, I'm a tomboy who occasionally wears a dress and high heels—just to remind myself that I am a woman, and to feel pretty.

HIPS ARE HIP

Hips are hip.

Hips can be replaced.

Then they're totally hip, And your pain is erased.

The road is long.

The road has pain.

When the hurt is gone, You've got everything to gain.

Freedom to move

Yes, another chance.

Get into the groove

Join in the dance.

Don't miss out

Though it may cause you some strife.

You must never doubt or Stop believing in life.

You're not in a chair, a crutch, or a cast.

The surgery is over, and you're free at last.

Get up. Get out,

And follow your dreams.

This thing we call life

Is way too short it seems.

MOVING ON

I am tired of looking at the same-old, same old. It must be time to move on. Clinging to the familiar is a valid belief. Fear of the unknown and anxiety and worrying is a lack of faith. It takes courage to believe. Never give up. Always continue to try. If you do, you'll never know your true heart's desire.

I won't forget where I came from. It helps remind me where I am going. When I was in the driver's seat, I got no-

where fast. I fell in too deep. The insanity was, as I can now see, fighting a losing battle. I was too proud to admit defeat.

Once I surrendered and waved the white flag, my path became clearer. No longer alone or afraid to ask for help when I needed it, I found a great friend--a guide that I needed.

Acceptance and willingness to try something new has given me hope and dreams to pursue.

Liz R, *student*



MI TRABAJO

I've worked many places. I've worked in a restaurant, at a farm, in a nursery. I've picked peaches, apples, and grapes. I've cooked pancakes in jail. I've put the roofing on the houses. I've worked in landscaping. I've painted houses. I've sanded cars. I've cut branches off the trees. I've put together metal shelves for supermarkets. I've loaded boxes of milk. The best job was landscaping. The most difficult job was picking peaches. The most dangerous job was roofing.

Alejandro M, *student*



MY DREAM JOB

Having a good job is important to me. Three qualities of a good job are the benefits, good pay, and I like the job. I'm going to talk about my dream job.

First, I'd like to have a job as a airline stewardess. I would like this because of the benefits they offer. Some of the benefits would be a pension plan, health insurance, and a great dental plan. And last but not least, flying for free.

Second, I'd want good pay because of terrorism threats on airlines. And stewardesses work hard and long hours and deserve good pay.

Finally, I would really enjoy my job because I'd get to meet interesting people from all around the world. And I'd enjoy flying places I would never be able to see unless I had this job. And I'd really enjoy the people I work with.

I think my working as a stewardess would be exciting, adventurous, and could be a financially stable job for myself. Then I would have the dream job I've always wanted.

Hope L, student



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standards for employment and help their kids with homework!

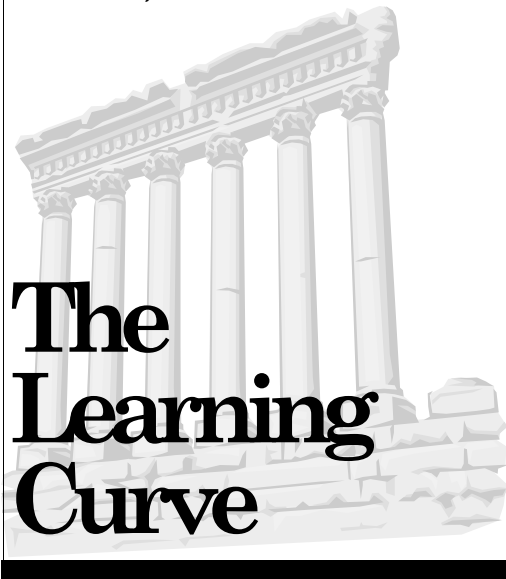
Thanks to this access to Mexico's adult education material, the Londer Learning Center currently has one student who is learning to read in Spanish. This student, Luis, was orphaned at an early age and never attended school in Mexico. Luis's son dropped out of high school in Portland and has been involved in gangs. Since beginning his reading classes at the Learning Center, Luis now has the confidence to start studying English.

Stay tuned for further information on Spanish literacy and GED programming from the Londer Learning Center. And, remember... the Londer Learning Center still offers English as a Second Language classes, 6-8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and by appointment. Call Carole Scholl at x27299 for more information.



**Donald H. Londer
Center for Learning**
Dept. of Community Justice
Multnomah County, Oregon

Mead Building
421 SW 5th Avenue
Fourth Floor
Portland, OR 97204



IMPORTANT GED REMINDER

As of January 1, 2002, if you hadn't completed your GED, all previous GED tests are no longer valid.

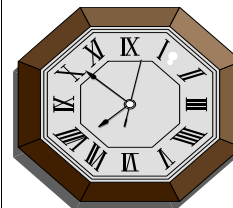
Everyone must start fresh and take all 5 tests to get their General Equivalency Diploma.

The State Office of Community Services has made some changes in the new tests. The most obvious changes are in the math test. It is more business oriented plus a student may now use a calculator during a portion of the exam.

If you are already coming to the LLC, have a staff person give you a practice test. If you score high enough, we'll sign you up for an official GED test.

If you are not yet a client of the Learning Center and would like to be, have your PO or counselor call our referral line (503) 988-3747 ext. 27353.

**LEARNING CENTER
LAB HOURS**



(503) 988-3466

The weekly schedule is: Six days a week, Monday through Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, and 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; except on Friday morning (closed for staff meeting); in addition, Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (For Saturdays only, please call ahead and make an appointment.)

If you need more information, call the Londer Learning Center at (503) 988-3466 or Cindy Stadel, Program Administrator at (503) 988-6828.