

The VRABE Voice

Vernon Regional Adult Based Education

70 Loveland Hill Road, Vernon, CT 06066

860 870-6060

www.vrabe.org

Issue: Winter 2017



shari.beaupre@vernonct.org



Mid Year Recognition Reception

Vernon Regional Adult Based Education hosted a Mid Year Recognition Reception on Monday, January 23, 2017, for Credit Diploma, GED and National External Diploma Program completion. Twenty students have successfully completed thus far, while eight students and their families and guests attended this event.

The highlight of the evening included several family members speaking on behalf of their graduate, summarizing the sacrifice and hard work that their loved one endured during this

process.

ESL News



E.O. Smith/Mansfield Library - On Saturday, February 18, Mansfield locals crowded into the lecture hall at their public library to listen to an interesting presentation by Ahmed Elsherif, an Egyptian immigrant who is planning on staying in the area. The community listened to Ahmed proudly speak about the wonders of Egypt, its beauty, and its warm-hearted people. A tasty Egyptian Lentil soup was served with delicious Kanafi pastry for dessert. This was one of a monthly series showcasing VRABE immigrant population.

Submitted by: Marian Bissonnette, E.O. Smith

Glastonbury Site - Mariana Neves, our ESL Student in Glastonbury received recognition from the CHANGE AGENT for the following article which was recently published!

I always was a good student in my English classes in Brazil, my home country. So, I thought I would do fine when I came to the U.S. to work as an au pair. Well, life in America

is not my teacher speaking slowly. Life in America is more like Eminem rapping. So many times I have felt disappointed in my English. I asked myself: "What am I doing here?" and "Why can't I express myself?" Even going shopping was a learning experience. Sometimes I knew exactly what I wanted, I just didn't know how to say it.*

Then I started attending classes, meeting people, making friends, joining a gym, and a bunch of other fun stuff that helped me realize that it was possible to overcome the obstacles. Although my vocabulary had increased a lot, I still needed to learn expressions and improve my pronunciation. As an adult, I used to feel like a child among my American friends and in other American environments.

My friends encouraged me and told me that my English was very good. I thought, "That is what friends do: they always try to make you feel better." But one of my best friends made me see things differently. She told me to stop underestimating myself. She said I should look back and see how much I've done and how much I've improved. I realized she was right. I have come a long way! And that makes me feel so excited about everything that is ahead of me! Yes, I've fought. Most important, though, I've won!

Mariana Neves

**Eminem is a pop star, and rapping is a very fast form of talking/singing*

National External Diploma Program News
Congratulations Adelina!



We have our first NEDP graduate for 2016-2017. Adelina Santiago became interested in the National External Diploma Program in 2013 after several attempts to achieve a GED diploma. Driven by her dream of earning a high school diploma, she participated in a year of tutoring to prepare for the Diagnostic Phase of the program. Having demonstrated the score levels needed in Diagnostics, Adeline began the Assessment Phase which required her to demonstrate 72 performance based competencies with 100% accuracy. No easy task for a single mother of four daughters and a full time position at Legal Aid! She persevered in spite of her life's many challenges.

Adelina is the NEDP's third Wethersfield graduate and intends to pursue a career in the legal field.

Submitted by Cindy Magaldi

Guidance Counselor Breakfast



Vernon Regional Adult Based Education hosted a breakfast meeting on Wednesday, February 15, 2017, for the school guidance counselors that service the Region's public high schools.

The purpose of the meeting was to update the school counselors and principals on VRABE's program offerings for our adult education students. The counselors enjoyed a presentation by Richard Welk, Workplace Coordinator about navigating through the VRABE website. Svetlana Grishtaev, Family Learning Coordinator gave an presentation on the comprehensive orientation process.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes



Eleven ESL, GED and CDP students from our Vernon and Wethersfield sites are taking Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes at Manchester Adult Education. Classes include: Customer Service, Computer Aided Drafting, MS WORD, Keytrain, ServSafe, and Culinary Arts. In December, David Lee (Manchester's Program Facilitator) spoke to our students at Rockville High about career pathways and employment in our region, and invited them to attend their CTE classes.

We are seeking innovative programs and community partnerships so we can help students identify a career pathway and enhance their job prospects. We greatly appreciate Manchester's collaboration.

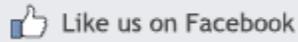
GED NEWS



Congratulations to our latest GED Passer! A.J. is super excited as she learned she passed

the GED Exam. She worked very hard and has a great future ahead of her. We look forward to seeing her walk at our graduation ceremony on June 8th.

FACEBOOK FANS



www.facebook.com/vernonadulthood

What better way to promote our programs than to have our VRABE staff, students, and community supporters join Facebook! "Like" us and contribute to our page at <https://www.facebook.com/vernonadulthood>. Each month we will feature a program, a student, a teacher and/or an event to promote, and hopefully expand our exposure within the greater VRABE community. If you aren't already on Facebook and are a bit uncomfortable about privacy issues, we will show you how you can participate with as limited personal exposure as you need. If you have information or photos you would like to post on Facebook, please send them to sandy.callahan@vernonct.org and shari.beaupre@vernonct.org.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR NEWS

To all of our Mid Year Graduates

Congratulations on a fine achievement. Please do not stop learning at this point of your life. Take advantage of all the opportunities that come forth your way to keep on advancing and improving. You must be very happy to graduate after years of sacrifice and hard work. It takes special dedication and perseverance to get through such a demanding program. We congratulate you and wish you the best as you embark on your next exciting adventure.



Steven Phelps

VRABE

Regional Director

www.vrabe.org



There's an App for that!

Please download our VRABE App

Vernon Regional Adult Based Education, 70 Loveland Hill Road, Vernon, CT 06066