

ABLE Resource Center Network: *Perspectives*

Fall 2009



Supporting the
ABLE system to enhance
student achievement

Table of Contents:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| RCN Overview..... | page 1 |
| New Staff Orientation | page 4 |
| Reading and Writing..... | page 6 |
| Assessment and Instruction..... | page 7 |
| ESOL Bodega..... | page 8 |
| ABLELink..... | page 8 |
| Math..... | page 10 |
| Transitions Repository..... | page 11 |
| PD Day..... | page 14 |

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Professional Development...and Beyond!!!!

by Gloria Gillette, NE ABLE Resource Center

The purpose of professional development (PD) is to enhance skills and knowledge to support student achievement and program success. Professional development can encompass learning relevant information to meet grant requirements to developing sustained classroom practice to standards implementation. PD can be in many formats: face to face meetings, online, webcasts, teacher research, conference attendance and more. Just as classroom practice has changed significantly with technology, so have professional development opportunities. In Ohio, ABLE is fortunate to have a professional development system delivered through the Resource Center Network (RCN). ***We are here for you!***

The RCN is comprised of 4 regional resource centers and one state center. The three main goals of the RCN are to:

- Support professional development
- Provide technical assistance and resources
- Provide leadership

through collaboration and communication

While programs are attached to a specific Regional Resource Center (RRC) by geographic location for payment, any program can access the services of all 5 resource centers. Each center also has an area of expertise for statewide technical assistance.

- **Region 1** = NERC – ESOL, EL/Civics, ESOL Assessment
- **Region 2** = C/SERC – GED, Special Needs
- **Region 3** = SWRC- Reading and Writing
- **Region 4** = NWRC – Assessment, Transitions/ Workforce Education
- **OLRC** – Accountability, Distance Learning, Family Literacy, Numeracy

The RCN provides an integrated online professional development calendar containing both face to face and alternative delivery trainings available at www.ohioable.org. Be sure to click either the in-person PD events or alternative



PD events to see the entire listing of both synchronous or asynchronous events.

The RCN provides professional days and conference support throughout the year. Each RRC has an online library too! It also supports and plays leadership roles in state and national organizations such as the Ohio Association for Adult and Continuing Education (OAAACE), Teachers of English Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) and Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE).

The Ohio Board of Regents State ABLE Program takes great pride in the extensive network of services it provides through the Resource Center Network. This issue of Perspectives highlights not only the ongoing training opportunities but also the, resources, technical assistance and content expertise available through the Resource Center Network (RCN).

So...welcome! Begin your professional growth right here..... Learn about the upcoming **Professional**

Development Day.... where to buy ESOL tests at a reduced rate ...how to order materials from the free Bodega... help for trigonometry training...order some GED DVDs.....visit the 4 professional libraries online...visit the Transitions repository....borrow a literacy trunk....create your own PD....complete PD without leaving home...learn how to change the world one student at a time!





REGION 4

Northwest ABLE Resource Center

Focus areas

- Professional development for the Northwest region
- Assessment
- Transitions/Workforce Readiness

Special projects

- Transitions and Assessment Task Forces
- Career Readiness Credential
- Ohio Association for Adult and Continuing Education (OAAACE) liaison
- Portfolio System
- Community partnership outreach

REGION 1

Northeast ABLE Resource Center

Focus areas

- Professional development for the Northeast region
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
- English Language and Civics Education (EL/Civics)
- ESOL Assessment

Special projects

- Citizenship preparation (with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services)
- BEST Plus certified trainers
- ESOL Task Force
- Refugee Coalition
- TAPAS online community
- Ohio Teachers of English for Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) liaison
- *On Speaking & Cultural Terms* Pronunciation CD

RESOURCE CENTER NETWORK PROJECTS

- In-person local, regional, and statewide professional development activities
- Alternative professional development activities (including: online, DVD, videoconferencing, asynchronous, synchronous)
- Lending libraries
- Online professional development calendar and registration
- Professional development system alignment and redesign; professional development standards development
- Staterwide RCN newsletter and regional/topical newsletters
- Publications and resources for ABLE programs
- Conference preparation and support

REGION 3

Southwest ABLE Resource Center

Focus areas

- Professional development for the Southwest region
- Reading
- Writing

Special Projects

- Project STAR (Student Achievement in Reading)
- Reading/Writing Steering Committee

REGION 2

Central/Southeast ABLE Resource Center

Focus areas

- Professional development for the Central and Southeast regions
- Special Needs
- General Educational Development (GED) Test

Special projects

- Training/Communication partnership with GED Office
- Special Needs Steering Committee
- Online Psychologist Directory
- Online ABLE LD Policy and Planning Guide
- Peer Coaching
- Annual Success Calendar

Ohio Literacy Resource Center

Focus areas

- Accountability
- Distance Learning
- Family Literacy
- Numeracy

Special projects

- ABLELink Information Management System
- Eureka!
- Non-LEA Local Professional Development Committee (LPDC)
- Writers' Conference and *Beginnings*
- Accountability, Family Literacy, Math, and Technology Task Forces



What Has Seven Heads, 14 Hands and 70 Fingers?

by Mary Barbara Totten, Central/Southeast ABLÉ Resource Center

The Trainers of the Resource Centers: Joyce Winters, Christina Theuerling, Dianna Baycich, Judy Franks, Jenny Davis, Kathy Knall and MB Totten. That is, combined we have that many heads, hands and fingers. Over the last several months we have kept those appendages busy by updating the online portion of the New Teacher Orientation workshop.

Our first step was to update the name of the workshop series to New Staff Orientation (NSO), thereby including all directors, instructors, aides and support staff in our plans as we re-designed the online portion of this two-part training.

The second step was to create this online workshop in Moodle. Similar to Blackboard, Moodle is an online Course Management System. By using Moodle we will present not only coursework, but discussion lists and resources for everyone to use, at anytime. New Staff Orientation Part I is no longer just an online introduction to ABLÉ, it is a resource of basic ABLÉ information for the State of Ohio.

New Staff Orientation has been divided into six modules:

- Who We Are: The ABLÉ System
- Who We Serve: ABLÉ Students
- How We Serve: Student Experience Model (SEM)
- How We Know: Accountability
- How We Work: ABLÉ Programs Operations
- How We Grow: Professional Development

Directors will notice these modules are exactly the same headings outlined on the New Staff Orientation Checklist distributed last year to ABLÉ programs.

One highlight of this online training is that participants may review any topic, in any order, at any time, giving the learner freedom to read relevant information right away and peruse other topics at their leisure.

Finally, the last step is to present this online course to a pilot group. To that end, we have determined that the training will be made available to all new instructors from September 1st through November 30th. They will work through the six modules and complete the investigative activities. We will ask them to complete an evaluation of the course so that continued improvements may be made.

The most important aspect of the NSO facelift is that the two-part training may be done in any order – that is, new teachers no longer must complete the online Part I before attending the face-to-face Part II. The only stipulation is that both parts must be completed within the first year of hire.

Registration for the trainings (Part I and Part II) are done as before – via the RCN Calendar (http://mercury.educ.kent.edu/database/rcn/calendar_results.cfm). NSO Part I will be listed under Alternative Delivery and NSO Part II will be listed on the regular calendar as scheduled by your Resource Center.

After the evaluation period, although the current curriculum is focused primarily on New Teachers,



anyone in any ABE/GED program is welcome to view the online tutorial as all information presented is relevant in some way to those working in ABLE in Ohio. An announcement with further directions will be made in Friday Facts. In the meantime, feel free to contact your local Resource Center if you have any questions regarding this training.

The Central/Southeast ABLE Resource Center (CSERC) provides support to 19 ABLE programs in southeast Ohio and conducts professional development and shares resources statewide. Below are some of the other types of professional development and resources that are offered through the *Central/Southeast ABLE Resource Center*:

- Learning Disabilities Training
- Monthly conference calls
- Customized Site Visits

PD on topics including:

- Transitions for Special Needs Students
- Aspergers Syndrome
- Emotions and Learning
- Assistive Technology
- LD Screening Instruments

Instructional Resources including:

- FAT City Video
- Science Within Reach
- Hands On Equations
- Classroom Hi/Low Reading Sets

The CSERC Staff– Sharon Reynolds, Mary Barbara Totten, Kate Fergus and Brian McCoy – is here to help! Call us at (800) 753 - 1519 send us an email to able@ohio.edu or come visit us in Athens, Ohio on the

campus of beautiful Ohio University.

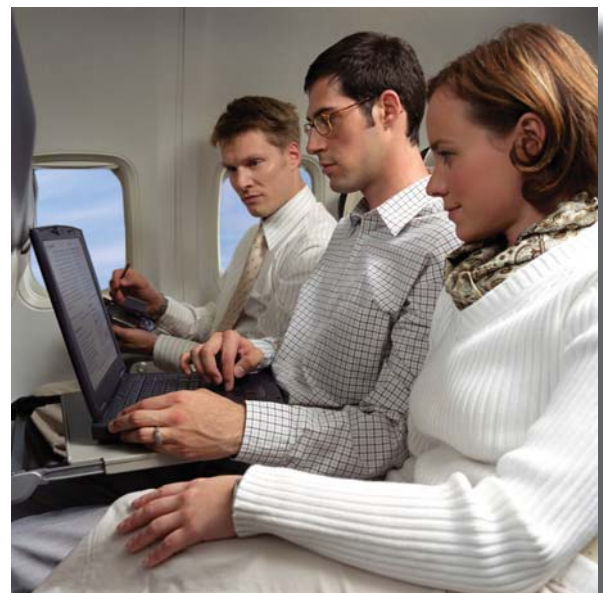
CSERC Resources and Services:

Focus Areas:

- Learning Disabilities
- Special Needs Areas
- GED

Special Projects:

- Special Need Steering Committee
- LD Policy and Planning Guide
- NAEHS
- NAASLN Board Member





The Perfect Pair- Reading and Writing

by Lynn Reese, SW ABLE Resource Center

Reading and writing go hand in hand and at the Southwest Resource Center (SWRC). They are our focus areas. While there is enough information about how to teach reading and writing to children to fill a football stadium, the SWRC is focused on what works for adults. Our students need instruction that effectively and efficiently helps them build skills to meet their academic, employment and personal goals. Our professional development offerings, our lending library resources and other “tools of the trade” represent the current evidence base for adults. These are all available to you.

In addition, we’ve been participating in a national reading reform initiative that provides us with “hot off the press” ideas and practice for adult readers. STAR (Student Achievement in Reading) is targeted specifically to those at-risk readers who are reading between 4th and 8th grade levels. You know these students: they struggle with PreGED and GED materials; they plateau; they leave. Reading to learn is not possible when you still need to learn to read.

Below is a sampling of what you can get from the SWRC:

- Online introductions to evidence-based reading and writing instructional principles.
- Videos/DVDs that demonstrate how to teach reading and writing.
- Classroom materials including sets of fiction and information texts at a variety of reading levels.
- Writing Helps that go from basic writing to college-ready.

- Access to a “person” to talk with you about your student’s individual needs and your professional development interests.
- Informal reading/writing assessment tools to dig a little deeper for student skills.
- Professional Journals from national organizations: *The Reading Teacher*, *The English Journal*, *Adult Basic Education and Literacy Journal* and *Educational Leadership*.

Our Resource Center is housed on the main campus of Sinclair Community College in downtown Dayton. From there we serve 14 ABLE programs stretching across 15 counties of southwest Ohio. Ann Marie Convey, Jennifer Davis, Kathy Knall and Lynn Reese, the SWRC staff, are happy to help you meet your professional development needs. Contact us at <http://www.sinclair.edu/facilities/swable/index.cfm> or (800) 558-5374.

SWRC Resources and Services:

Focus Areas:

- Reading
- Writing

Special Projects:

- STAR
- Technology Training



Everything You've Ever Wanted to Know, But Were Afraid to Ask!

By Joyce Winters, Northwest ABLEResource Center

The Northwest ABLEResource Center (NWRC) provides support to 16 ABLEResource programs in 29 counties throughout the Northwest region of the state. For its role in the Resource Center Network, the Northwest ABLEResource Center is charged with developing expertise in the areas of Assessment, Instruction and Transitions. So... for everything you ever wanted to know about these topics but were afraid to ask, hesitate no more! Just contact the Northwest ABLEResource Center at www.owens.edu/workforce_cs/nw_center.html.

Assessment is one component of the Planning, Teaching, and Assessing Cycle. It is as important to plan for assessment as it is to plan for instruction. The NWRC offers training in Assessment Fundamentals, as well as an overview of all forms of assessment used in the ABLEResource classroom. These trainings are available face-to-face and on-line. If you are not familiar with the types of assessments

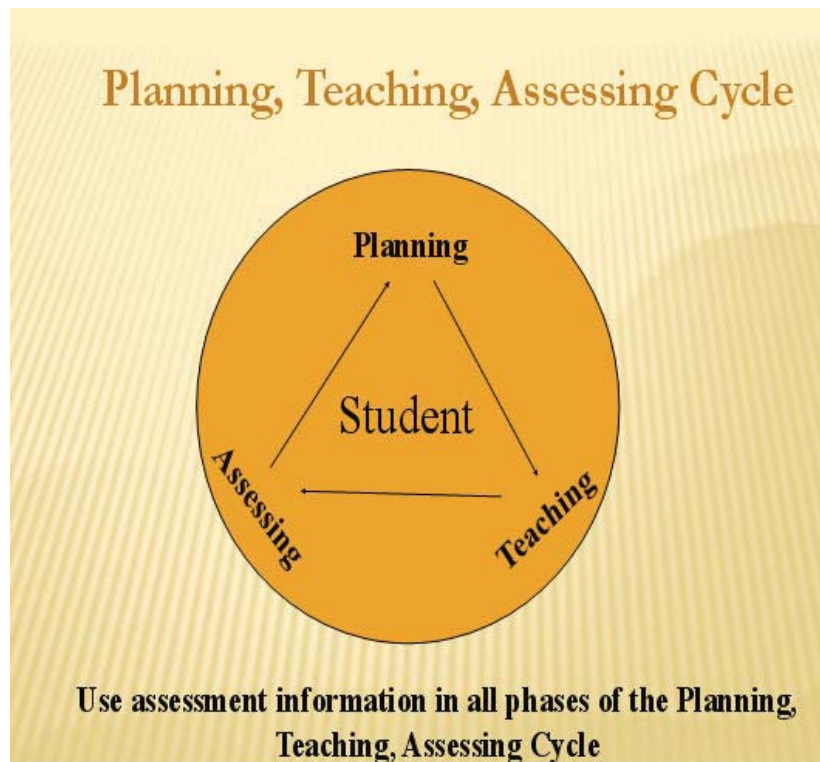
(standardized, alternative), the purposes of assessment (screening, placement, diagnostic), and the Ohio Board of Regents' policy on

assessments, then contact the Northwest ABLEResource Center or check the website for upcoming training opportunities. We are finalizing an Assessment Directory to help ABLEResource instructors access information about various assessment tools.

Planning is the next critical component of a successful ABLEResource Classroom. Staff is required to develop Individual Learning Plans for students and

Lesson Plans for their ABLEResource classes. The NWRC offers training for the Portfolio System: *Connecting Policy to Practice*. We also offer other trainings that relate to instructional approaches, including: *The ABLEResource Classroom, Overview from Orientation to Exit and Instructional Technology*.

Transitions: postsecondary training...preparation for successful employment... contextualized instruction...stackable certificates...the list goes on





with terms, concepts, and initiatives that have grown from ABLÉ's move to the Board of Regents to become part of the University System of Ohio. The NWRC offers trainings state-wide to help you stay informed of the latest developments as Transitions become a stronger component of each ABLÉ program.

Please check out the NWRC library at <http://safari.owens.edu/scripts/WebSafari.exe?> We have been working to expand resources that support your instructional needs and address current trends and issues in ABLÉ. Some of our newest editions include:

- Assessing Needs in Continuing Education
- Measures of Success
- Adult Career Pathways
- Chart Your Success on the COMPASS
- Master Student series
- Workplace Priorities and Postsecondary Education
- Using Technology in Classroom Instruction that Works
- Curriculum Alignment
- Transition to Postsecondary Education for Students with Disabilities

Look for the many options to obtain professional development listed on our website and on the RCN website www.ohioable.org Additionally, please let us know if you have a program-specific request and we'll develop a training to meet your particular needs at your location.

The NWRC Staff – Jody Angelone, Pamela Brenneman, Debra Morris, and Joyce Winters – is here to help! Call us at (800) 466-9367 ext. 7355, send an email to jody_angelone3@owens.edu, or stop and visit us at Owens Center for Development and Training.

NWRC Resources and Services:

Focus Areas:

- Assessment
- Transitions
- Workplace Education/Workforce Readiness

Special Projects:

- Assessment Task Force
- Transitions Task Force
- OAACE Board
- USO Talent Development Committee

Get It At The NERC Bodega!

by Gloria Gilette, Northeast ABLÉ Resource Center

Have you been looking for free instructional and professional development resources that can be sent to you without leaving your home or classroom? Visit the Northeast ABLÉ Resource Center's online Bodega at www.neable.org/resources/Bodega/bodega2 to view the available resources. Bodega is the Spanish word for store. This Bodega houses over 115 different resources ranging in topics, such as EL/Civics, GED, Math and Transitions and all of them are free to any ABLÉ program in Ohio. You can request the materials online or via email to bodega@neable.org and they will be directly mailed to you. The best part is that you get to keep the resource... and don't forget they are free!

The Northeast ABLÉ Resource Center (NERC) provides support to 20 ABLÉ programs in 10 counties throughout the Northeast region of the state. NERC



has expertise in ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and provides training, resources and technical assistance to programs statewide with ESOL components. NERC also provides support, materials and guidance for the 22 EL/Civics programs. NERC has nationally certified BEST Plus trainers and conducts ESOL assessment training for ESOL ABLE staff in Ohio.

Design your own professional development using the alternative delivery activities! You no longer have to attend a traditional face-to-face training at one of the Resource Centers. Check out our list of books, videos, packets, webcasts, etc. that you can complete on your own time at your own pace from the comfort of your home or classroom. Visit page two of the Training Calendar at www.neable.org to view the list of trainings.

Some of the other resources at the NERC include:

- Library – Our preview library houses over 5,000 materials for adult education teachers and students.. Visit www.neablelibrary.org to search and reserve materials today!
- TAPAS – join our online professional learning community for ESOL teachers statewide for biweekly updates and to contribute your own instructional ideas. Email tapas@neable.org or check the website for archived issues.
- Friday Newsbriefs – This regional biweekly newsletter contains updates and instructional resources for all ABLE staff in the Northeast region.
- Assessments – purchase BEST Plus and BEST Literacy tests at a discount through NERC. Download the order form at www.neable.org/esol/assessment/assessment.
- Ohio TESOL – This year’s annual fall conference

is October 30-31st at the Hilton Easton in Columbus. Register at www.ohiotesol.org and receive the RCN discount. NERC staffers, Gloria Gillette and Christina Theuerling are your Board representatives and will keep you updated on OTESOL news.

The NERC Staff– Gloria Gillette, Christina Theuerling, Alice Davis, Matt Gambrill, Bethany Pierce and Dottie Pasquale – is here to help! Call us at (800) 361-7076, send us an email to info@neable.org or come visit us at the Henn Mansion on beautiful Lake Erie in Euclid, Ohio.



NERC Resources and Services:

Focus Areas:

- ESOL
- EL Civics

Special Projects:

- TESOL
- Bodega
- BEST Plus



Math Resources and PD

by Marty Ropog, Ohio Literacy Resource Center (OLRC)

One of the specialty areas of the OLRC is Mathematics. We offer a number of different opportunities for ABLÉ teachers to develop their skills in math and the teaching of math.

Fall 2009 will mark the 16th year for conducting the Annual Math Kick-Offs, four regional daylong workshops focused on a targeted topic area or instructional methods. With post-secondary transition being of interest to many ABLÉ students, this year's topic will be on higher level math – register on the RCN Calendar for your region's Kick-Off.

A daylong, intensive Statewide Math Workshop is also held every spring and focuses on a specific topic of current interest and/or importance to ABLÉ programs. Additional math sessions are offered periodically throughout the year at RCN PD days and through Regional Resource Centers.

In between state and regional training dates, the OLRC also offers another option for Math professional development – on-site training in local programs! The director of any ABLÉ-funded program may request a math trainer to provide professional development at his or her local program at no cost to the program or participants. Four topic areas are offered:

- **Algebra content:** This interactive workshop will NOT focus on teaching techniques, but on the content needed to be successful for the GED test as well as the basic stackable certificate. Topics will include the coordinate grid, tables, graphs, equations, expressions, substitution, slope-intercept

equation of a line, slope, distances, the distributive property, operations with integers, absolute values, powers and roots, scientific notation, solving one and two-step equations, etc. Time suggested: 3 hours.

- **Geometry content:** This interactive workshop will NOT focus on teaching techniques, but on the content needed to be successful for the GED test. Topics will include: vocabulary, points, lines, angles, measurement, triangles, quadrilaterals, circles, Pythagorean Theorem, perimeter, areas, volume, surface area, etc. Time suggested: 3 hours.
- **GED Math Test:** What is on the test? How can I help my students succeed? This interactive workshop will focus on the content of the GED math test, along with ideas for student success. Ideas for effective structure of a multi-level classroom will be explored. Time suggested: 2½-3 hours.
- **Problem-solving:** This interactive workshop will provide teachers with an opportunity to explore and learn problem solving methods that will help both students and teachers become better problem solvers. Time suggested: 3 hours.

To schedule a training, go to <http://literacy.kent.edu/math/> and click on “On-Site Math Training Request for ABLÉ-funded Programs” at the top of the page.

Print resources are available on our website at: <http://literacy.kent.edu/math/> and include publications on contextual math, newsletter articles on special top-



ics, and curriculum resources. The Eureka! resource database (<http://literacy.kent.edu/eureka/>) has a wide variety of resources available designed to assist teachers with developing contextual instruction in math. Lesson plans, teaching strategies, , and instructional planning resources are all available online at no cost to users. The Eureka! Trade books search has a large number of books – all available at local libraries and through the OLRC – on math topic areas, including budgeting, estimation, measurement, logical reasoning, and more!

Transitions Respository

by Marty Ropog, Ohio Literacy Resource Center

The ABLE Transitions Respository is an online database of resources which relate to students transitioning to either post-secondary or to the workplace. Most resources have a direct application to transitions classes and content, but some (particularly in the Academic Skills section) may have an indirect application for preparing lower-level students for transitions coursework and goal-setting.

Since February of this year, over 300 resources have been recommended for review in the Ohio ABLE Transitions Respository! Currently 98 resources have been approved for inclusion in the respository and 83 more are at various stages of the review process. Because the number of resources is steadily increasing, a search feature will be implemented this fall.

In order to be included in the review process, all suggested resources must meet first-cut criteria, including being applicable to student transition goals and must be easily available to practitioners either online, through the ABLE Resource Center Network, or

through local libraries. Once the first-cut criteria are met, resources are reviewed by at least two reviewers and must meet minimum scores in order to be included in the respository. Reviewers are all ABLE practitioners and include teachers, administrators, and state leadership staff. Reviewers provide comments about the resources and may include instructional ideas, cautions, or general thoughts on the resource.

All resources are reviewed on the categories of: application to student transition goals; contextual content; and information presentation. Each resource is also rated on at least one of the following audience-specific categories: student engagement; instructional application; and enhancing the knowledge base of teachers and administrators.

Items in the Respository are classified into six defined categories: academic skills, career pathways, career/workplace transitions, contextualized curriculum, post-secondary transition, and professional development. Additional information, such as availability, keywords, and general description are also included.

Samples of accepted resources by category are:

Academic Skills

- **New Ways in Teaching Writing** - offers a range of activities that develop different composing skills, attend to the social processes of reading and writing, involve the peer group in evaluating and responding to drafts, focus on different types and formats of writing, and stimulate these activities through diverse techniques and methods. This book is primarily designed for ESOL teachers.

Career Pathways

- **Tools for Success, Soft Skills for the Construc-**



tion Industry - provides the fundamental tools necessary to ensure success in the construction industry. Being a skilled craftsperson is important, but in today's competitive workplace, the soft skills are equally important. This soft skills training workbook will provide a blueprint for a successful career in construction.

Career/Workplace Transitions

- **Occupational Outlook Handbook** - provides specific information on individual jobs, including what type of education is required, work activities, pay grades, and future outlook for the specific job. Website also includes information and tips on job-seeking and state-specific information.

Contextualized Curriculum

- **Embedded Learning Curriculum module: Social care** - This set of instructional resources is part of the United Kingdom's Embedded Learning Portal. The Social [Elder/Disabled] Care module is contextualized for healthcare employees who work with individuals who are elderly and/or disabled. The set includes five modules: communicating in care; information at work; communicating for care planning; figure it out (math at work); and worker development. All modules include skills checklists, lesson plans, activities, and related handouts. Modules are available in PDF and MS Word formats.

Post-secondary Transition

- **Transitioning Adults to College: Adult Basic Education Program Models** - this NCSALL occasional paper describes the five most common models of post-secondary transition programs identified by the New England Literacy Resource Center (NELRC) at World Education, Inc. The models are described in-depth and example pro-

grams are included, as well as the strengths and limitations of each model. State-level transitions programs are included with descriptions of four states' approaches. The authors also distill the benefits of post-secondary education for adult literacy learners as well as challenges and barriers that students may face.

Professional Development

- **Adult Reading Toolkit, The - A Research-Based Resource for Adult Literacy** - The ART covers all four components of the reading process identified by the Report of the National Reading Panel (2000): alphabets, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. It includes six chapters and within each chapter is a case study or practitioner research summary, key vocabulary terms, research findings from K-12, adult literacy, and adult ELL, key ideas for instruction and assessment, instructional activities, instructional decisions, and suggestions for using authentic materials, published curriculum and software.

Visit the Repository by going to: http://mercury.educ.kent.edu/database/uso/resources_all_bytopic.cfm Feel free to send comments or resource suggestions to repository@literacy.kent.edu!

Focus Areas

- Distance learning
- Accountability
- Math
- Family literacy
- Standards-based Education

Special Projects

- Online resources such as Transitions Repository and Eureka!
- Ohio Writer's Conference

ABLE Resource Center Network: *Perspectives*

Northwest ABLE Resource Center

www.owens.edu/workforce_cs/nw_center.html

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Southwest ABLE Resource Center

www.sinclair.edu/facilities/swable/index.cfm

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Ohio Literacy Resource Center

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Supporting the
ABLE system to enhance
student achievement