



SPCLC begins new year, building on past successes while looking to the future

- NRS outcomes improve for 4th year** ◆
- Instructional Support Consultant enhances instruction** ◆
- Learner Web development continues** ◆
- Opening Day event draws 150 staff** ◆
- Future challenges previewed** ◆
- Leadership award received by CBO leader** ◆

NRS Outcomes: The number of SPCLC participants completing a federal NRS level during Fiscal Year 2008 totaled 43% - **increasing 4% over the previous year's level, and 18% over four years.**

SPCLC members and affiliates served **11,097 students, delivering 1,021,333 service hours during FY 08.** Over 81% of those served completed 12 or more hours of instruction. Of these, 81% studied English as a Second Language, 15% Adult Basic Education, and 4% Adult Secondary Education.



Suzanne McCurdy,
Instructional Support Consultant

Instructional Support: SPCLC became the first consortium in the state to retain an **Instructional Support Consultant** to mentor teachers and volunteers interested in improving their classroom effectiveness. **Suzanne McCurdy**, an experienced training coordinator and adjunct professor at Hamline University, provides a variety of coaching, curricula development, and professional development activities.

“Providing skilled support for the teaching of all our members has been important, allowing SPCLC to optimize instructional quality,” states Alice Neve, SPCLC Chair.

Learner Web Development: Following nine months of preparation, Learner Web went ‘live’ for the first time October 7th. **This dynamic web-based learner support system helps adult learners master a broad variety of basic educational and occupational skills.** Learner Web integrates support services from existing local education programs, community based organizations, tutors, and phone helpers.

SPCLC is one of seven pilot sites nationally for Learner Web. It is funded partially through a grant from the Otto Bremer Foundation. Jen Vaneck, who coordinates Learner Web development for St. Paul, said, “There is tremendous potential for Learner Web to expand access for adult learners to a wide variety of educational resources.”

Opening Day: More than 150 SPCLC staff from Saint Paul Public Schools, ten community-based non-profits, and the St. Paul Public Library attended the first consortia-wide regional event, August 28. Hosted by the Jewish Community Center, the event provided time to celebrate past successes while planning for the future. It also provided an opportunity for staff from many different sites to get to know each other and exchange ideas.

“Nearly 100% of participants said on evaluations that they obtained ideas or resources that they will use in their work,” said Instructional Support Consultant Suzanne McCurdy. “97% of respondents were *satisfied* or *very satisfied* with the event.”

Future Challenges: Chair Alice Neve observed, “We see the demographics of our community changing. I look forward to our members doing even more solid planning and piloting strategic initiatives in their own areas, which can help inform the overall work of SPCLC.”



Erika Vazquez, Adult Education Coordinator at Guadalupe Alternative Programs, received the Literacy Minnesota Leadership Award.



Marilynn Curtis, a teacher at Hubbs, Emily Williamson, Rondo Learning Center Coordinator, Minnesota Literacy Council, and Kara Schommer, ELL Program Manager at Neighborhood House, at the Opening Day Event, August 28.

“How will we serve groups who have not been well served?” Alice asked. “The K12 model widely used in ABE has its strengths, but there are new models we need to be open to. Learner Web is one such model.” Other ways of delivering services, developed for specific populations, are also being explored.

Award Received: **Erika Vazquez**, Adult Education Coordinator at SPCLC member agency Guadalupe Alternative Programs, recently received the 2008 Literacy Minnesota Leadership Award. Erika has worked in the field of ABE for over 15 years, creating a successful program which focuses primarily on the Spanish-speaking population.

Erika’s program combines professionally-developed curriculum taught by well-trained and well-supported volunteers. **Her strengths include a focus on student achievement, a commitment to do whatever it takes to reach and accommodate adult learners**, including holding classes during the day, during the night, on weekends, and anywhere in the community, and **her ability to motivate both students and volunteers.**