

Adult Education Report- March 2019

Enrollment Update:

Enrollment numbers in our adult education programs continue to increase. As of March 1, 2019, we are at 84% of goal, having 981 students enrolled in 12 or more hours of programming. We will begin our last 7 week enrollment period for the fiscal year on March 25th at our sites in Iowa City and Cedar Rapids.

Federal Testing:

We are required to give CASAS testing in math and reading to our ABE students in order to receive federal funding. This past July 1st we were able to give the new Goals Reading test. This is a more updated version of the reading test than the previous one. Students should be able to relate more to the Goals form than the earlier version. We are happy to announce that we will also have the new updated Goals Math test available July 1st of the upcoming fiscal year. Previously, students were not able to use calculators on the math portion, however with the new test, they will be able to access an online calculator. I know our students will appreciate the ability to access a calculator.

ESL:

Kirkwood Community College provides free community ESL classes in Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, Coralville, and Washington. We serve around 700+ students each year by offering morning classes 9-11:30 and evening classes 6:30pm-8:30pm Monday through Thursday. We assess all of our new students and place them in one of our 5 levels of ESL classes. Over the last 5 years, Kirkwood has been developing partnerships with local businesses to provide contextualized ESL to help English learners navigate the various pathways to employment and postsecondary training. We provide contextualized ESL in the fields of basic healthcare communications, light manufacturing English, warehouse English, English for environmental services, and transportation English.

ABE:

We just completed 2 more Pathways to Success classes which will add around another 40 students to our enrollment for this upcoming session. We have seen an increase in our HSED official test scores. Many students are scoring at the post-secondary level for their final testing. We are hoping for a strong finish before our graduation, on June 13, 2019, at the Kirkwood Hotel. We have also seen an increase in our persistence rate. This stems from the advising our instructors do with the students, along with the direct and explicit instruction that is taking place in our classes, and finally the Pathways to Success course.