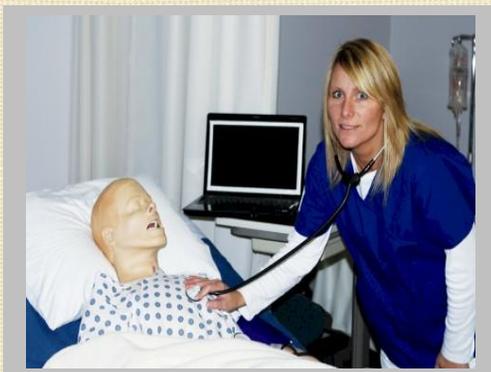


Iowa's 2011 Adult Literacy Fact Sheet

The Mission of Iowa's Adult Literacy Statewide Program is to provide accessible, quality instruction that develops life, work and literacy skills.



Iowa Lakes Community College's Success Center is the First Step to Making Dreams Come True!

In April of 2008, Rondi Miller overcame her biggest fear by walking into the Student Success Center at Iowa Lakes Community College. It was her very first step in achieving her goals to become a nurse. Rondi completed her GED in 2008 and went on to be accepted into the nursing program. Rondi needed a change in her life. "I chose to come back to school and obtain my GED/Nursing degree because I was working a job, I was miserable, and I felt trapped. I made a choice," Miller said. Rondi Miller completed her GED in 2008 and went on to graduate with her Practical Nursing Diploma. She is enrolled in college, so that she can be an RN.

What are some key numbers related to adult literacy in Iowa?

- ✓ The GED pass rate in Iowa in 2009 was **98.1% with 3,990 passers.**
- ✓ There has been a **23.9%** drop in federal funding for adult literacy from 2003-2011.
- ✓ According to 2000 census data, there are **289,280** Iowa adults without a high school credential.
- ✓ Of the adults without a high school credential, **1.4%** passed the GED tests in 2009. Many are still to be served.
- ✓ In 2010, **28,760** students were enrolled in adult literacy.
- ✓ In Iowa, approximately **165,039** of the **1,832,192** adults in the workforce have not completed high school or obtained a GED.
- ✓ **72.5%** of the workers at the closing John Morrell plant in Sioux City did not have a high school diploma or GED.

Association of Workforce Partners, 2011

2000 U.S. Census

Iowa Department of Education Annual
Condition of Community Colleges Report, 2010



JENNIFER AND KELLI BLACKCLOUD GRADUATE FROM THE PACE PROGRAM AT KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The first the PACE program began in March, 2010. This was a 6 week GED/CNA program. There were ten participants. Of the ten participants:

- 90% received the CNA certificate
- 80% received their GED
- 3 of the 10 are currently attending Kirkwood to further their education
- 80% are working in the health care field
- 100% are employed

The second cohort of the PACE program began in September 2010 and is currently underway.





How Much Does Education Pay in Iowa?

Over a lifetime of earnings, an Iowa worker with less than a high school degree will earn:

- \$1,078,097 by age 65, which is
- 16% LESS than an Iowa worker with a high school degree or equivalent,
- 35% LESS than an Iowa worker with an associate's or technical degree.

What are the Services Provided?

Adult Basic Education: Reading, math, writing and English instruction for adults functioning below the 9th grade level. Instruction is often contextualized around interest of the students and/or the high demand jobs in the area.

Adult Secondary Education: Adult high school and GED classes enable adults to acquire their secondary diploma or equivalent. Instruction can be integrated with occupational training leading to certification in a high demand job sector. Transition to postsecondary and/or employment is emphasized.

English for Speakers of Other Languages: New immigrants learn the English language and the culture of this country.

English Literacy/Civics: Instruction for new immigrants integrates English literacy and civics education services.

Family Literacy: Because the parent is the first teacher, family literacy programs enroll undereducated parents and their children and include individual sessions for the parents, individual sessions with the children and together time to assist the parents with their basic skills and the children with child development.



What is Adult Literacy Education?

In Iowa, adult literacy services are provided through the **15 community colleges**. Adult literacy is an education program serving adults, 16 years of age and older, who are functioning below the high school completion level with emphasis on **Reading, Numeracy, and English Literacy**.

Adult literacy educators work with each student to design an individual learning plan that responds to the student's needs and goals such as to:

- get a job;
- help their children with homework and be successful in school;
- get off welfare and achieve a family sustaining income;
- learn the English language, understand U.S. culture, and participate in society; and
- complete high school or obtain a GED; and/or to transfer to postsecondary or other training and education programs.

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Please call for more information or go to www.iowa.gov/educate for community college contacts and locations.



Where Does Iowa Stand?



Francisco is learning English at the Education and Training Center in Marshalltown, IA.

Higher education benefits not only individuals, but Iowa as a whole. College graduates are more likely to receive employer-provided health insurance and pensions, and pay taxes. They are healthier and less likely to be unemployed or poor, foster higher levels of educational attainment in their children, use fewer public resources, and are more likely to volunteer, vote and make charitable contributions.

Expanding access to education and training for low-wage workers is particularly important when economic prospects are dim. An investment in workforce skills would prepare Iowans for the future and contribute to rebuilding our economy.

The Iowa Policy Project, www.iowapolicyproject.org

