



Summer

# NEWSBYTES 2002

Publication of the Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative

## OVEC campaigns to halt teacher shortage crisis

### Focuses on recruiting math and science teachers

The National Science Foundation has awarded an \$850,000 three-year grant to an alliance that includes the Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative to recruit and train mathematics and science teachers and to develop a model that will vastly improve classroom teaching of these two core subjects.

The Louisville Area Science and Mathematics Alliance for Recruitment and Teacher Education Reform, shortened appropriately to LA-SMARTER, brings together the University of Louisville, Jefferson County Public Schools and 10 OVEC districts. These are Eminence Independent, Trimble, Henry, Bullitt, Owen, Spencer, Oldham, Shelby, Carroll and Franklin county schools.

The alliance is part of a national effort to unite the activities of higher education and public school systems in support of pre-K-12 students and teachers. It is tied to President Bush's No Child Left Behind initiative.

UofL will play a critical role in reforming math and science education. Faculty in math, science, engineering and technology disciplines will be involved in preparing the next generation of teachers as well as supporting those already in the classroom. Of the \$850,000, some \$330,000 will be used to strengthen the college level courses in math and science education, and develop new faculty and new materials to boost learning in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

In its grant application, LA-SMARTER noted that the "large lecture general studies courses do not provide...mathematics and science teachers the depth of understanding and experiences with problem solving and inquiry necessary to teach...to national standards."

The essential goals of the partnership is to enhance the ability  
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### OVEC schedules Leadership Workshops in Lexington July 21-23

The Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative will hold its annual summer conference, now called Leadership Workshops, July 21-23 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Lexington.

You can register online at our web site, [www.ovec.org](http://www.ovec.org), and view the schedule and detailed workshop descriptions and presenters for each of the three days.

The conference will include workshops on personnel evaluation, the media and the schools, the transition years for students, higher order thinking, grief counseling for educators, school law updates, brain-compatible strategies to enhance student achievement, technology, standard-based teaching and learning and LessonPlan Xpress, a software program.

The workshops will feature Joan Farabee as the after dinner speaker on Sunday, July 21, and Ralph Hood, who will make two presentations on Tuesday, July 23, including the closing keynote address.

Farabee is the elementary curriculum coordinator for the Northwest Local Schools in the Cincinnati area. Her presentation, "Once upon a time...and beyond..." will be about stories and the impact they have on



**Ralph Hood, the Flying Humorist, keynote speaker.**

education. Find out why "hope is the color of yellow."

Farabee earned her bachelor's and master's degree from Miami University in Ohio. She is listed in Who's Who Among America's Teachers.

Hood's morning address, "Morale, Motivation & the Real World," will be about team building.

In the afternoon, Hood will talk about "It's clear on Top," words that may not mean much if you're not a pilot, but are quite powerful in the context of this

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### Promotes profession to high school students

Ten high schools in the OVEC region will be participating in a project to promote the teaching profession to students.

"The focus of this program is for districts to identify students who have shown an interest in teaching as a career and to nurture their interest through the participation in Future Educators of America (FEA)," said Carol Wright, Director of Special Initiatives for the Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative.

OVEC will work in close partnership with the University of Louisville and the 10 high schools to "develop and increase participation in an early identification, recruitment and retention model to promote the teaching profession," Wright explained.

Wright said that one of the goals is the establishment of Future Educators of America clubs in each of the high schools and for students to engage in teacher-type activities. Participating are North Bullitt, Carroll County, Eminence, Franklin County, Western Hills, Gallatin County, Oldham County, South Oldham, Shelby County and Spencer County high schools.

Once in the program, which is funded by a state grant, students will be made aware of the need for teachers, and exposed to opportunities for teaching. In addition, training will be provided to advisors who will form the FEA organizations in their schools. A one-day training session is

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### OVEC partners with Whitney Young Job Corps Center

The Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative will be forming a partnership with the Whitney Young Job Corps Center in which both organizations will be sharing their expert skills in academics and job training for students who have dropped out of school.

The center, located in Simpsonville, down the road from OVEC's Shelbyville offices, has an increasing demand for students to get their General Education Development (GED), or high school equivalency diplomas. OVEC, which operates several

adult education programs in its member school districts, will be assisting the Job Corps Center in these services. In turn, the center, will accept students enrolled in OVEC's adult education program for vocational training.

Karla Gibbs, OVEC's director of Adult, Family and Community Education, said that the cooperative will provide GED testing at Whitney Young, and assign a part-time adult education instructor to support the academic courses and activities at the Job Corps Center.

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**CEO Message****PD and Bid Information Online!**

School is out that means time for two fun activities: attending professional development events and ordering bid items for the next school year! OVEC is assisting in both arenas. Here are the details:

**Summer PD Opportunities**

OVEC is sponsoring several PD events for teachers and administrators in May, June and July. One special event is a joint effort with Oldham County Schools to host a two-day PD Academy on June 13-14 for teachers who will begin their journey towards National Board Certification next school year.

Other OVEC PD events scheduled for the summer include:

- Teacher Academies in Elementary Math (June 10 – 14) and Middle School Science (June 17 – 21).

- Personnel Evaluation Training for Experienced Administrators (June 6 and July 21).
- SBDM Training for Experienced Council Members (May 24, 30, June 27, and July 18.)
- SBDM Training for New Council Members (June 3, June 25, and July 25).
- OVEC Leadership Workshops (July 21-23).

Information and online registration for all these PD events are available on the OVEC Web Site: [www.ovec.org](http://www.ovec.org)

**Bid Ordering Information Online**

We have posted on the OVEC web site under the Bid and Purchasing Info Page, the following ordering and pricing information for OVEC bids for the coming year: School & Office Supply Bid, Copier & Fax Supply Bid, and Computer Supplies Bid.

In each of these bids, we provide a complete alphabetical index of all awarded items. Each item is linked to the awarded

vendor. For each vendor awarded a contract, we list all their items with a complete description and pricing information. Using special software, an online form is automatically created that keeps track of all the items a user selects and posts the items in the “shopping cart.” The shopping cart calculates the price extensions and totals the “order” automatically. In addition, the “shopping cart” provides information on each vendor’s address, contact person, telephone and fax numbers, the minimum order amount required, and the anticipated time for delivery. If the vendor requires a reference number, that number is provided. Printing out the “shopping cart” can save school personnel time and avoid errors in calculations.

We strongly encourage school personnel to follow their district purchasing procedures when using the online ordering system.

**John Rosati,  
OVEC CEO**

**HIGH SCHOOL, from page 1**

scheduled for June, with the primary presenter a college faculty member or consultant with experience in setting up FEA clubs.

Five schools have gotten off to an early start. Franklin, West Hills (in Franklin County), and Oldham County high schools have formed FEA clubs, two of them having just started. Shelby County High School has a semester class for students interested in elementary teaching. South Oldham High School has a program for students who want to become special education teachers.

In a first step toward retaining student interest, a visit to the UofL campus and its College of Education and Human Development has been set for June. Wright anticipates that the university will host about 250 students from the 10 high schools.

“The visit will acquaint the students to course work in education and with enrollment procedures,” Wright said, “and hopefully convince them to consider teaching as a viable career.”

The year-long project, ending in June 2003, is, of course, an outgrowth of the teacher shortage facing school districts across the state and nation. In a recent survey of nine districts in the region, 866 teachers either retired or left for other reasons in the past three years. In 2000-2001, these same districts had 105 emergency-certified teachers.

“There is a great need for school districts to be proactive now and to explore various avenues for recruiting students into the teaching profession,” Wright said.

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of public schools to provide a challenging curricula and to encourage more students to succeed in math and science, as well as to increase the number, quality and diversity of educators teaching these courses. Another key goal is to establish a network of researchers and teachers to share, study and evaluate math and science education reform, including improving teacher preparation and professional development.

According to the National Science Foundation, approximately 33 percent of math teachers and 20 percent of science teachers in grades 7-12 have neither a major nor a minor in their teaching field; yet these teachers teach more than 26 percent of math students and 16 percent of science students.

The NSF went on to say that “the challenges of teaching science, mathematics, engineering and technology have changed drastically,” and “that state testing requirements have put an emphasis in boosting overall achievement.”

**LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS from page 1**

presentation. Hood’s ability to share his experiences, laugh at himself and deliver a message which inspires thought and hilarity will make his closing keynote speech a perfect ending to this year’s conference.

A graduate of Clemson University, Hood taught aviation management courses at Southern Illinois University. Today, he is known as the Flying Humorist.

State Commissioner of Education Gene Wilhoit will be the luncheon speaker on Monday, July 22.

**JOB CORPS and OVEC form partnership, from page 1**

She said the GED tests will be administered twice a month to accommodate the rising number of students seeking their diplomas. Also, the center’s academic instructors will be invited to participate in OVEC’s professional development programs and to network with school district adult education teachers.

Job Corps targets 16-to-24-year old men and women, most of whom are high school dropouts. Students at the Whitney Young center come from all parts of the south, and live and take their academic and job training classes there at no cost to them. In fact, the students receive a small stipend to meet their essential needs.

The students taking adult education in the school districts and referred to the center for job training will not be residents while they are still enrolled in the districts’ academic classes. But,

Other presenters featured include Sandra Graves, who will speak on grief counseling. She is director of the Drawbridge Counseling Services in La Grange. Wayne Young, head of the Kentucky Association of School Administrators, will speak on changes in state education laws; Linda Allen, learning strategies consultant at OVEC, will talk about brain compatible learning.

Dick Brundage, a well-known crisis management consultant, will address the issues of schools and the media. Linda Hargan, executive director of the Collaborative for Teaching and Learning, will be

among the presenters addressing task rotation and standard-based teaching. The collaborative is a non-profit organization established to support school success with reform initiatives. She was executive director of OVEC.

John Kuglin, vice president of Education and Training Programs for ComChoice Inc., will focus on the advancements of several technology innovations and their application to schools. ComChoice is the only North American affiliate licensed and certified to author Warner Brothers feature films in the DVD format.

Ann Buchanan will address the issue of higher order thinking skills. Her workshop will introduce the basic components of critical thinking and ways to build those components into what teachers teach. Buchanan received the Apollo Education Foundation Lesson Plan Award. A teacher at Bryan Station Traditional Magnet School in Lexington and a member of the Kentucky Writing Program Advisory Committee, she has played an integral role in the writing of her school’s transformation plan.

they will receive the same benefits that resident students get, including a personal career development plan, job placement opportunities and preparation for initial interviews from the center’s career counselors, as well as transition money prior to graduation from the Job Corps program. And a school ring upon receiving a GED and completing job training.

It is expected that the OVEC students will split the day between adult education classes and vocational training, with free transportation provided if necessary.

The trades offered include auto repair, computer operator, nurse’s aide, data entry specialist, medical records technician, culinary, retail sales, welding, carpentry, heavy equipment operator, and welding. More than 75% enrolled in Job Corps become employed, obtain further training, or join the military.

Mick Lunzer, one of the best professional jugglers in the world, will be sharing his Fish Philosophy. His team, the Dew Drop Jugglers, has won the Juggling World Championship. What’s the Fish Philosophy? Well, he won fifth place in the world yo-yo championships – after spending only 15 minutes preparing his routine in the parking lot. It’s about catching the energy, reaching your potential.

# Rappin' to the rhythm of the Ohio River

By Sandra Stone

Meade County Messenger Staff

Phyllis Free recently spent time with students in grades 4, 5 and 8 at West Point Independent Schools as an artist-in-residence. A grant from VSA Arts of Kentucky made the visits possible.

A nationwide non-profit organization affiliated with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, VSA stands for Vision, Strength, and Artistic Expression.

Free, of New Albany, Ind., is an interdisciplinary artist specializing in drums and percussion, rhythm and improvisation. The first couple of visits she discussed with the students instrument families, tempo, dynamics and the texture of music. She brought her favorite drum, the djembe, an African drum, and demonstrated different rhythms. Students used shakers to keep the beat and experiment with tempo and rhythm.

Free incorporated into the discussions exploration of the Ohio River and its impact on the lives of West Point's citizens.

"The students have such negative feelings about the river because all they know of it is that it floods," said Chris Deeley, who works with the students at West Point and was instrumental in obtaining the VSA grant. "We hoped to change that perception at little."



Photos by Sandra Stone

Artist-in-residence Phyllis Free with 4th- and 5th-grade students at West Point Independent Schools.

During Free's tenure as artist-in-residence, regular classroom instruction also included daily lessons about the river. The students drew pictures expressing their feelings about the river and then wrote lines expressing those feelings. Free then compiled the lines into "River Raps," and the students performed on video while she tapped out the rhythm on her djembe.

The experience of making the music video stands out for most of them, but there were other things that struck a chord - like learning how to spell "timbre" (pronounced "tamper"). They learned about styles and genres of music, the instrument families and how instruments work, and some new vocabulary words in addition to timbre. The experience exposed them to other cultures, and the Inuit music Free played for them stood out in their memories. And they learned an important life lesson: "It's hard work to be a musician."

Free took her leave of the students with the hope she had made a difference in their lives and acknowledging the difference they had made in hers. "What good writing you did, what good ideas you have," she said. "I'm so grateful I had a chance to be here to work with you."

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## Eminence kindergartners went shopping with a tight budget

Phyllis Jamison and Sarah Morgan's kindergarten classes at Eminence Independent Schools recently learned how to shop wisely - with a dollar bill.

As part of their culminating activity on the study of money, the children went to the local Dollar Store to put to practice what they learned in the classroom.

"We learned to identify the value of coins, and discussed what money is used for," explained Jamison. "We discussed terms such as consumer and product, and how to make wise choices with our money. We learned that 100 pennies equals one dollar."

The day before their shopping spree, the children walked from school to the local bank, exchanging their 100 pennies for a dollar.

The kindergartners walked excitedly into the Dollar Store, each tightly holding onto a small plastic bag that contained their dollar bill. They headed to the toy section like it was the last day of shopping for Christmas.

"We took our dollar to the Dollar Store to make economical purchases without going over our one dollar budget," Jamison opined.

Within a half hour, they completed their shopping and boarded the bus to head back to school. They did not drop.



Kindergartners, left, crowd into toy alley, as Tyler Daugherty and Brenna Willard, above, show off what they've got to spend.



Callie Rose and Aubrianna Roth check out their goods, sticking to the dollar limit.

Photos by Fred Gross



Shanna Crowe displays a decorated pot in front of plant growing system.

## Hydroponics in Henry County and maybe a career

**Shelley Goodwin  
Communications Coordinator  
Henry County Schools**

“What do you want to be when you grow up?” That is a pretty typical question for elementary students. But the answers you find in Henry County may not be so typical thanks to an active School to Careers program. Henry County has been participating in School to Work and School to Careers since funding for the programs began in 1995.

Students across the district participate in School to Careers activities beginning in elementary school. The most common career awareness activities in the early grades are guest speakers, work-site visits, or classroom discussions about careers and work skills. But some teachers take their lessons a few steps further. To help motivate and encourage their teachers, Henry County funds mini-grants for projects and activities with a career focus. The mini-grants are funded through School to Careers grants from the Kentucky Department of Technical Education, School to Work branch.

Mini-grants have been used to enhance career awareness in various ways, such as purchasing computer software and books, starting a recycling business, touring work sites, practicing business etiquette, landscaping school grounds, and consumer testing through product comparisons and evaluations.

Students from Suzanne Nelson and Terry Heffley’s primary classes at New Castle Elementary are currently working on a special project. Funding was provided

through a Soil Conservation grant, in addition to School to Careers. This creative school-based enterprise addresses topics in science, math, art, and economics. It also ties into the rich agricultural history that is so important to Henry County.

Rebecca Tipton explained, “We are growing plants and once they are ready, we will put the flowers in pots we are going to paint. Then we will sell them.” There is one little twist to the story. The students are growing their pansies in a hydroponics garden they built in their classroom. Another student told how the process works.

“Water comes up a tube and squirts into the first pot and trickles down to all the other ones.” Alex Day explained. “The plants are growing in squished coconut, but they think they’re in dirt.” The students enjoy seeing the benefits of their hard work as the flowers grow.

Another highlight of the project was a trip to Louisville Stoneware to see how they create the pottery. Students learned about the clay and designing, decorating, and firing the pottery. Watching the craftsmen in action was a real treat.

The excitement doesn’t end with the flower sale. As an added lesson in community service and to complement their study of Africa, students have decided to use the profits from the business to adopt one of the new gorillas at the Louisville Zoo. Mrs. Nelson was quick to explain that the adoption did not mean caring for the gorilla. Nonetheless, there are sure to be several proud “parents” visiting the zoo this summer!



A look at young flowers and watering system.



Jamie Holman checking on the plants in the hydroponic system

## Great gains in school performance prove power of scholastic audit

**By Gene Wilhoit  
Commissioner of Education**

Most of us, unless we are accountants, cringe at the word “audit.”

But my reaction to the word is changing. One kind of audit, Kentucky’s scholastic audit, has become a powerful and positive force in school improvement.

A scholastic audit sends a trained team to evaluate everything that goes on in a school in comparison to Kentucky’s “Standards and Indicators for School Improvement.” After a careful process, the team recommends steps the school can take to improve academic performance, learning environment and efficiency.

State law mandates audits, along with school improvement funds and a highly skilled educator’s assistance, for schools performing the lowest in the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System. At the end of the 1998-2000 accountability cycle, 46 schools were in this category. Just one year later – and just halfway through the final accountability cycle, after receiving an audit and other assistance – all but two of the 46 schools showed improvement, one by almost 30 points.

Schools may request a scholastic review (a voluntary audit) even if their scores are not in the lowest group, or they may conduct a self-review using the same assessment standards. These processes also are yielding positive results. Forty-one of 48 voluntarily audited schools in the state’s second-lowest scoring group improved

in the same one-year period, with 22 exceeding their goals for the 2001-02 cycle. Of 48 schools falling just under their goals in 2000 and conducting self-reviews, 42 improved.

This spring I visited a number of schools that posted some of the most significant one-year gains in the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System. I wanted to know how they did it. I discovered that several of those “great gains” schools had participated in the scholastic audit/review process. Administrators, teachers, students and staff at those schools, speaking with me independently and collectively, credited the process for their progress.

At Magoffin County’s Middle Fork Elementary, which improved by 24.9 points in one school year, Principal Ruth Montgomery said the audit provided a “picture” of where the school was and where it needed to be. “It’s hard to see the dust in one’s own house, but ‘new eyes’ will quickly be able to spot it,” she said. “The audit was our new eyes.”

At Jefferson County’s Lincoln Elementary, with an 18.7 one-year increase, Principal Susan French said the audit process “provided a pathway our school and community could follow to develop plans for reaching our goals.” She said the school staff continues to use the audit report as a tool in self-assessment.

These comments and others told me that the scholastic audit process is doing what it is designed to do: objectively evaluate a school against accepted standards of excellence, then provide specific steps toward meeting those standards. I’m sold on the power of “Standards and Indicators for School Improvement.”



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