

Public library programs help improve literacy

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Oregon Daily Emerald

The economy is improving, but people who lost their jobs in recent years are having a much harder time getting jobs. New and existing businesses are requiring higher skill capabilities, capabilities that, for workers who have low literacy levels, are difficult to attain according to Marjorie Smith.

According to the Oregon Testing Service Assessment there are approximately 67,900 people in Lane County with little, if any literacy skills. In Eugene alone, there are 40,000.

For Smith, this is a big problem.

"We are looking at more and more people who are seriously under-educated and less and less able to function in today's economy and especially tomorrow's economy," Smith said.

Smith, the coordinator for the Literacy Education and Referral Network (LEARN) at the Eugene Public Library, has been working on various literacy programs in Lane County since 1962.

LEARN comprises two main programs, the Literacy Council and the Adult Basic and Second Education Program (ABSE) through Lane Community College. The two programs offer courses on the GED and for learning to read, improving math skills and learning English as a second language.

ABSE is the largest literacy program in Lane County and serves 4,000 students. The students work in a classroom setting at LCC's downtown site.

The program through the Literacy Council serves approximately 150 students in one-on-one tutoring sessions. These sessions offer flexibility in the place and time, arranged on an individual basis to fit the needs of the student and the tutor.

"A lot of people we work with are initially scared of group situations because that is where they failed to begin with," Smith said.

Both ABSE and tutoring through the Litera-

cy Council are free and open to the public.

Smith also works with University programs like the High School Equivalency Program (HEP), the DeBusk Group, specialized education groups and Escape.

Volunteers including those from Escape work mostly with the program management aspect of the program, answering phones, following up on students and tutors and sending out information.

Lisa Lundquist, a junior majoring in Planning Public Policy and Management, is one Escape volunteer working for the literacy programs at the Eugene Public Library.

"I love reading and I chose this program because I wanted to help others enjoy access to information about everything, even whole other worlds," said Lundquist.

Students and community members interested in volunteering should be aware that there are a variety of literacy programs they can work on with a variety of time commitments.

"There is a continual need for volunteers for tutoring and program management," Smith said.

Smith receives about three requests for individual tutoring services each day and gets about three calls from people interested in volunteering.

According to Smith, when a student calls, they want to start learning immediately. When a prospective tutor calls, it's a different situation.

"It works best when we have twice as many people wanting to volunteer than we have needing tutoring," Smith said. "A lot of people who call about volunteering to tutor are only thinking about it; they don't always follow through."

Tutors for the LEARN program are asked to attend training sessions offered at the beginning of the term. The next training session will be on December 13. Call the Eugene Public Library at 687-5450 for more information.

"We can only train just so many people," Smith said. "It's difficult to keep up with the demand for help. We don't have the time to train people."

SCHOOL

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"I really don't think one day in a term is going to make all that much difference in the amount of learning that happens," said assistant marketing professor Mark Spriggs. Spriggs said he understands the importance of student attendance at the Rose Bowl.

"Intercollegiate athletics are a significant part of the college experience," he said.

Mark Shinn, an associate professor of psychology, said he's happy to see so many students excited about the Rose Bowl.

"It's actually interesting to see people enthusiastic about something here," Shinn said.

However, professors said, students must be willing to make up for lost learning time when they return.

"Students have to be flexible too," Shinn said. "We're here to learn."

"We're delaying classes, not closing the University," Frohnmayer said. The delay will not affect the scheduled Jan. 2 opening of residence halls, according to University Housing Director Mike Eyster.

DEADY

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Smith is taking the year off from his studies to work full time on the project, with seven other students working full or part time on the restoration of Deady Hall.

According to J.R. Vandenburg, one of the full-time employees working on the project, the restoration of Deady Hall should be finished by the end of next week if the weather holds.

"It will be good to have it done," Vandenburg said, "and it's a great opportunity to use the skills I have learned in

years of architecture class."

Vandenburg said he has enjoyed several aspects of the project in working on it over the past months.

"The variety of jobs, the historical significance of the building, leaving my mark on campus, the group of people we worked with and seeing how things were done the 1880's compared to the way they are done now has all been quite enjoyable," Vandenburg said.

Deady Hall was entered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972 and was elevated to a National Historic Landmark status in 1977.

■ ET ALS

MEETINGS

EMU Board House Committee will meet today at 5 p.m. in the EMU Board Room. For more information, call 346-3720.

MISCELLANEOUS

Educational Opportunities Program will hold a workshop for overcoming obstacles today at 2 p.m. in Room 627 PLC. For more information, call 346-3232.

Take a study break at the R & R Cafe

(located inside the Rec Center, next to the bowling alley)

**With \$5.00 in receipts from the R & R Cafe,
you can get \$1.00 off on pool or 1 free game of bowling.**
(Not good with any other offer.)

We are open Monday-Thursday 5-11pm, Friday 5-12:30am, Saturday 12-12:30am, Sunday 12-11pm

We offer fresh sandwiches, hot pretzels, Snapple, Pepsi products, coffee, donuts and Harmony snacks every night and Pizano's pizza Friday & Saturday (8pm-12am).

Weekly Specials

Monday

\$3.00
Pizano's Pizza & Medium Soft Drink

Not valid with any other offer

Monday - Sunday

Buy a Sub Sandwich and get a free game of bowling.

Not valid with any other offer

Thursday - Sunday

Bowling & Pizza Party
Buy a lane for an hour and get pizza and a medium soft drink for \$2.75 per person.

Not valid with any other offer

Friday & Saturday

Buy a Pizano's pizza & get a free game of bowling.

Not valid with any other offer

R & R Cafe

Inside the EMU Rec Center