

AccessPlus
 1020 9th Ave SW, Ste. 215
 Bessemer, AL 35022
 888.344.5950

accessplus Update

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Rhode Island installs AccessPlus Adult Education Information Management System

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In May of 2006, the State of Rhode Island Department of Education selected the AccessPlus Adult Education Information Management System to serve its adult education program management and reporting needs.

"We truly appreciate the State of Rhode Island giving us the opportunity to customize and implement a management system that will help the state more effectively manage its adult education programs," Kevin Strickland of AccessPlus

said. "Working with State Director Johan Uvin and his staff is a pleasure. We look forward to a long partnership with the State of Rhode Island."



Rhode Island's customized Adult Education System, named CALIS (Comprehensive Adult Literacy Information System) is scheduled for a July launch.

Strickland and Michael Newman of

AccessPlus traveled to Providence, RI in

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AccessPlus welcomes Lucas Alexander to team

AccessPlus is pleased to announce the hiring of Lucas Alexander, vice president of project management and quality assurance.

A native of Auburn, Alabama, Alexander graduated from Auburn University in 2000. After graduation, he moved to Tuscaloosa, taking a position as a Web developer and systems analyst for Randall Publishing.

In 2004 Alexander moved to Atlanta, and served as senior Microsoft SQL Server database administrator for Digital Insurance, the largest small-group focused insur-

ance brokerage in the country. In two years at Digital, he worked on a number of different initiatives including Web-based reporting for external partners and various projects related to HIPAA compliance and disaster recovery.

In addition, Alexander has performed freelance information technology consulting for many different organizations over the past several years, including Access Plus; Fidelity National Title, the nation's largest title insurance and escrow services company; and numerous other firms through-

out the United States and Canada.

"I'm excited about my new responsibilities with Access Plus," Alexander said. "I look forward to taking charge of quality assurance and helping develop world-class software for professional educators."

Alexander is married and has an 11-month-old son. He expects to receive a master of business administration degree with a concentration in operations management through Auburn University's graduate outreach program in 2007.



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AccessPlus a sponsor of International GED Administrator's Conference in Portland Maine

AccessPlus will participate as a GED Leader Sponsor of the 2006 GED Administrators' Conference in Portland, Maine. The theme for this year's event is "Reaching Goals, Avoiding Shoals: Toward 2011."

As a Leader Sponsor, AccessPlus will present a welcome address at the Leadership Development session as well as co-sponsor the Cyber Café and other conference events.

"We are proud to have the opportu-

nity to be a part of the GED Conference," Ray Barrentine of AccessPlus said.

AccessPlus offers both in-house and contract GED Scoring Services. With AccessPlus' comprehensive, user-friendly web-based software package, clients can self-serve the GED scoring process or contract AccessPlus to provide scoring services that can include same-day scoring turnaround.

The AccessPlus GED solutions also



offer a full suite of reporting tools, a financial module, extensive administrative functions and data export capacity.

AccessPlus team members Kevin Strickland, Michael Newman, James Wade and Ray Barrentine will attend the event.

NRS Training in San Diego

Kevin Strickland of AccessPlus attended an NRS Workshop on improving data quality held in San Diego, CA during the week of July 10.

The three-day seminar titled *The Five Sides of the NRS: Improving Data Quality and Use for the NRS* focused on training to state staff on how to im-

prove NRS data quality and use data to improve local programs.

"As part of our continuing effort to make the AccessPlus Adult Education Information Management System

as effective as possible for the adult education professionals who rely on it to provide accurate and meaningful data, it is important that we take every opportunity to learn what steps we can

take to enhance the system," Strickland said.

This training will provide a review of NRS requirements, suggest ways to improve data quality, and promote the use of NRS data to improve data quality and program performance. It will focus on five areas of the NRS: data collection, data systems, assessment, goal setting, and collecting follow-up measures.

AccessPlus offers webinars for training and demonstration

In order to facilitate better and faster communication, AccessPlus offers on-demand web conferences for initial training, refresher training, new module review and system demonstration.

Webinars are available for all products offered by AccessPlus, including the Adult Education Information Management System and the GED Scoring System. Participants need only to have a computer

and Internet connection.

To schedule a demonstration of any of the systems available from AccessPlus or to arrange for a training webinar, contact Michael Newman by email at mnewman@myaccessplus.com or call 888-344-5950.

"Trainers from the vendor, AccessPlus, did an excellent job in walking us through their product. "

— Recent AccessPlus training participant

Career Credentials, JET among new modules implemented for 06-07 in Adult Education Information Management Systems

July 1, 2006 marked the beginning of a new fiscal year in Adult Education. The new fiscal year brought not only the launch of the Rhode Island Comprehensive Adult Literacy Information System (CALIS), but also ushered in a number of new modules and enhancements for the three other states that currently use the AccessPlus Adult Education Information Management System (AIMS) to monitor, manage and improve their AE programs.

All states implemented changes to the ESL leveling as mandated by the National Reporting System. The revisions split the beginning ESL into two levels (Low Beginning and High Beginning) and dropped High Advanced ESL. Other levels remained as they were. These changes were automatically implemented in all systems using AIMS and the appropriate reporting revisions were made for Fiscal Year 2006-07.

The State of Alabama implemented a new Career Credentialing Module which

provides for the creation and printing of Career Credentials Certificates based on the entry of WorkKeys assessment scores. The state will issue Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates to those candidates who achieve the appropriate levels on WorkKeys assessments.

WorkKeys designation is independent of ABE/ASE or ESL designation. WorkKeys assessments operate independently from regular assessments that generate Educational Functioning Levels.

The state of Idaho implemented a new Job Education Training (JET) module. JET is a short-term job training program for eligible, low-income parents. Through short-term training, JET can help learners obtain skills necessary to get a job, get a better job, or prepare for a professional-technical training program. The new JET module will allow program administrators to better track JET participants during the training process. They system will also assist in timely

follow-up for each student and the recording of various outcome measures.

The State of Arkansas developed a new series of test batteries which allow administrators to combine BEST Literacy with either Oral BEST or BEST Plus to create a single battery.

USER TIPS

Here are some hints AccessPlus users have found beneficial.

Unenrolled Class

To remove students from the Enrollment Alerts, create a class in each program called Unenrolled. Based on the user who entered the student, transfer each to the appropriate program. Administrators can then place these formerly unenrolled students in the proper class.

All States

If your program serves students from out-of-state, change the state filter to "All States" on the federal tables to ensure that all students are properly counted.

Got a tip?

Send your tips to mnewman@myaccessplus.com

Rhode Island launches CALIS

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June to train program directors and intake specialists who will soon begin working with CALIS. The hands-on training sessions provided trainees with the ability to review and practice data entry and routines with the new system.

The web-based system has

various functions that enable users to effectively manage all aspects of their Adult Education programs. These include, but are not limited to, instant access to data, organizational structures that provide various levels of permissions/roles for different types of users, program improvement tools, deluxe

real-time reporting capabilities (including the ability to create all NRS reports), and a user-friendly design that enables all levels of users to take advantage of the system's features.

AccessPlus is pleased to have the opportunity to serve the state of Rhode Island.

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