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AccessPlus Update

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AccessPlus welcomes Idaho to the Adult Education Management System

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January 1, 2006 began not only a new year, but also new and exciting changes to the field of Adult Education for the state of Idaho. The anticipated launch of the Idaho Management and Accountability System (IMAS) was very successful according to the state's Director of Adult Basic Education, Cheryl Engel.



The AccessPlus team traveled to Boise, Idaho December 7 - 9 to train the Adult Education employees who would soon begin working with IMAS. The hands-on training sessions were quite productive as employees were not only able to see, but also use and input data into the new system.

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

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

Once again, we are pleased to have the opportunity to serve the state of Idaho. For more information regarding IMAS, please contact either Vicki Morgan at vicki_morgan@nic.edu or Cheryl Engel at csengel@sde.idaho.gov.

Special points of Interest:	
• All AccessPlus applications now offer Firefox browser compatibility	
• ESL changes slated for Fiscal Year 2006 - 2007	
• Customization is key to successful data management	

Michael Newman Joins the AccessPlus Team

Michael Newman, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, recently became the newest member of the AccessPlus team. Newman has a Bachelor's degree in Education and a Master's degree in Health Studies both from the University of Alabama. He has also completed his coursework for his Ph.D in Instructional Technology. Since joining

AccessPlus, he has created the company's website (www.myaccessplus.com), developed an Online Essay Reading prototype, and is currently working to build a number of other project prototypes.

him a tremendous asset to AccessPlus."

- Kevin Strickland

"We are very pleased to add Michael to our team. His experience in web development combined with his background in educational technology make



2006 Brings Enhancements for the Adult Education Management Systems of AccessPlus

AccessPlus is pleased to announce the release of the newest version of its Adult Education Management System. The new version includes the implementation of a number of features to its software as well as performance enhancements that will increase system functionality. Many of the system enhancements are a direct result of feedback received from users who access the system, and AccessPlus would like you to know that your input is valued and appreciated.

Among the enhancements in the latest release are the following:

- At-a-glance Level advance status bar
- Fiscal year filter for all reports
- Alphabetized lists
- User list search
- Separation alert showing student goals
- Approval page enhancements

- Area for downloads of important documents such as intake forms and directions
- GED Pass/Fail entry
- Firefox browser support

We hope all users enjoy the new features and benefits of the system. We look forward to serving you and providing more enhancements in future system versions.

Alabama College Association Conference

AccessPlus was pleased to be a part of the annual Alabama College Association (ACA) Conference held in Birmingham, Alabama on November 22 - 25. Adult Education directors from across the state of Alabama gathered to learn

the newest information regarding the Adult Education field.

AccessPlus was given the opportunity to share two presentations. The first was geared towards new features of the Alabama Adult Education

Management system (AAESAP), mainly the Work-Based Project Learner Module as well as the call log function. The second presentation served as a training/ refresher course for GED Examiners from across the state. AccessPlus hopes to

"Outstanding job with the new version. I found these changes to be very helpful"

—Staci Bryan, Wallace State

continue to serve and work with the Alabama College Association.



New NRS Policy for Fiscal Year 2006 - 2007

As discussed at last winter's NRS Third Wave trainings the NRS educational functioning levels for ESL will change, effective **July 1, 2006**. The new levels break the current beginning ESL level into low beginning and high beginning and discontinue the advanced

ESL level. What is currently low advanced ESL will become advanced ESL. The descriptors and test benchmarks for the new levels have been revised accordingly, as has exit criteria for advanced ESL. The chart for the new ESL levels is attached and is also



National Reporting System for Adult Education (NRS)

available for downloading at: <http://www.nrsweb.org/pubs.asp>. This change will be made automatically for users of the AccessPlus data management system. The change will be reflected both in data entry and reporting measures.

The State of Alabama Receives 2006 GED Scoring Center certification

For the third consecutive year, the state of Alabama was certified by the federal government as a National GED Scoring Center. The site was named “one of the best in their field.”

Under the direction of Dr. Joe Macaluso, the staff received superior ratings in the areas of essay scoring, objective test scoring,

organizational structure, rapid turn around time, and overall management.

The site itself is able to score and manage GED exams for over 50 testing sites across the state in an efficient manner.

Scoring turn around times are typically three days or less and the web-based

system allows instant access to the data.

The state of Alabama in conjunction with AccessPlus would like to thank those that utilize the scoring services and look forward to another successful year.



Have It Your Way

“Have it your way.” That was once the motto of Burger King. It’s also the AccessPlus approach to development.

Each of the systems developed by AccessPlus has a set of core functionality, but beyond that core, customization is key.

As part of the Alabama Adult Education Management System, AccessPlus developed a

Work-Based Project Learner Module and is currently in development on three other custom modules to provide and collect data critical to the state’s mission.

Similar customization took place in Arkansas where a WAGE component was implemented, allowing the state to monitor and manage a student certificate program.

Development is currently underway in Idaho for a new JET module.

The Alabama GED Scoring Site recently released a custom Free Class feature, and there are a number of custom modules currently in the planning stages.

I haven't felt this sure about where our program stood with NRS in several years.
— AERIS user

User Tips and Tricks

To better serve users of AccessPlus systems, here are some hints from tips and tricks our users have found beneficial.

Vicki Morgan currently manages the IMAS (Adult Education Management System for the state of Idaho.) As the ABE/JET and Database/Program Development Coordinator for Northern Idaho College, she has several important pieces of advice to share:

1. When entering TABE scores with two or more tests, I copy and paste the dates.
2. You can enter an SSN after having given a student a Federal ID number.
3. I found that doing the data entry in batches and then doing the approvals keeps the approvals from getting out of hand.

If you have a tip and/or

trick you would like to share with other users, please submit those and be sure to include the following information to lprice@access400.com:

1. Your name
2. Your position/title
3. The system you currently use
4. Any tip or trick you wish to share as it will benefit other users



