

# ABSE News

February 2016

Adult Basic and Secondary Education at Lane Community College

Volume 1

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*Hello,*

*I hope you enjoy this first edition of the ABSE Newsletter. The purpose here is to improve and enhance communication within the ABSE department and its campus partners. I would like to clarify, that the improvement and enhancement are from a perspective of learning more about the things we often do not have time to share or reflect upon. All the links are active, and in keeping with my promise, there WILL in fact be talking dogs!*

*We provide courses in Basic Skills, Reading, Writing, Math fundamentals, GED Prep, and College Prep. In addition to the four campus locations pictured above, we also have classes in Junction City, Springfield, and Lane County Corrections. The students, who come from diverse backgrounds, are hard working, resilient and persistent. You can learn more about them on the next page.*

*Amy*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS and CELEBRATIONS

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dogTube

For ABSE News information contact Amy at 541-463-6184 or [gaudiaa@lanecc.edu](mailto:gaudiaa@lanecc.edu)

## Amazing ABSE Students

### *Did somebody say hard working, resilient and persistent?*

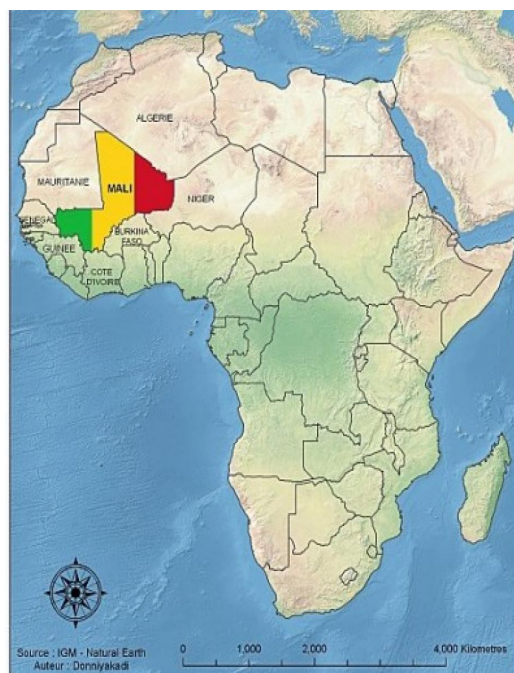
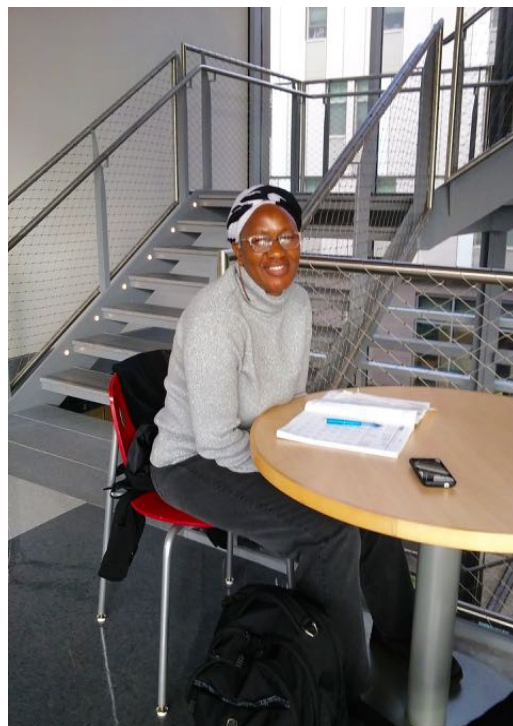
#### **Bonkana Traore**

Bonkana came to us from Mali where she had no schooling, with the exception of some Arabic. When Bonkana came to the United States, she could not hold a pencil properly. Her personal language is Bambara. She also speaks some French which is the official language of Mali, and now she speaks English very well. She wants to speak, read and write in English because this is her new home and she would like to become a citizen.

Bonkana married her husband David 27 years ago when he was in the Peace Corps. He was from California and Oregon and she met him in the Friday - Sunday market in Mali. They moved often to Africa for David's work, and now she stays here to finally learn English well and get her citizenship. They have three children; daughter Mariam is almost ready to graduate from O.S.U., daughter Nandi is a sophomore at O.S.U. and son Laye is a junior at South Eugene High. All of them speak Bambara, French, and English, and David also speaks Portuguese. He came with her to English classes for three months to help her (with translating and supporting).

The instructors and tutors who have had the pleasure of working with Bonkana all agree that she is extremely dedicated to her education. She is always in class and strives to understand and complete all of her assignments. She asks questions, seeks out additional resources and materials, and keeps trying – even when she's confused and uncertain.

Bonkana says she thanks God and her husband for enabling her to come here and support her 100%. She also thanks her teachers and tutors because she wants to be a productive member of this country and English will enable her to do this.



## Volunteer Tutor Extraordinaire

### Fumiyo Tao

#### Interview by Keren Levine

*Fumiyo has been a volunteer since 2013 assisting in classes at the Downtown Campus. She collaborated with Keren in developing a Behavioral Observation Assessment instrument to measure student social skills development and is also working 1:1 with a student in reading literacy. Last term, Fumiyo gave 94 hours of service to our students..*



#### 1. What was your work before you retired?

I was born in Japan in 1945 and raised by parents who worked with an American missionary to build and manage several orphanages, child care centers, and widows' homes in post-war Japan. My early experience instilled in me a strong desire to help disadvantaged persons and influenced the nature of my 30+-year social/behavioral research career.

I came to the US at age 15. After finishing my doctorate in developmental psychology, my career began with studies on infant motivation (NIH), then moved on to ROTC officer training (Army Research Institute), then evaluation of the Food Stamp and School Lunch Programs (Department of Agriculture), and, evaluation of national education programs, including ABE. For the last 5 years before retirement, I was a research scientist in the Department of Education, reviewing the technical quality of evaluation reports published by the Department.

#### 2. How did you come to settle in Eugene?

I wanted to live in the West Coast, a university town, but not in California, not a big city, not as rainy as Seattle or Portland.

#### 3. What is your impression about your new community?

I love Eugene -- especially the friendly, compassionate people and the natural beauty here. I do wish that this community would gain more social diversity and acceptance and comfort level in living with more people of color.

#### 4. What do you enjoy about being a volunteer at ABSE?

The deep commitment of teaching staff and the students' motivation to learn despite their disabilities.

#### 5. What are you involved with as a retiree?

I volunteer for the LCC's ABSE program and Food for Lane County, GrassRoots Garden; a member of a community choir, Obsidian hiking club, and Eugene Natural History Society.

#### 6. What advice do you have for people thinking about retirement?

Don't dwell on life's disappointments, but pursue old and new dreams and seek opportunities to "give back" to the community. This keeps me enjoying life.

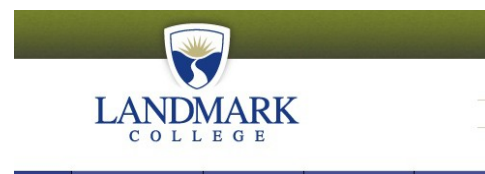


## Recent Professional Developments

**Julie Pfaff and Aliscia Niles joined Christine Grutta** to attend the 2015 Landmark College Summer Institute this past summer. Landmark College is at the cutting edge of research and practices that inform LD education. Three day strands were offered in New Neuroscience of Teaching and Learning, Supporting Academic Reading and Writing, and Executive Function Coaching. The conference brought speakers from the top of the education field including MIT and Harvard, with compelling new research in brain studies and the learning mind.

For more information about the 2016 institute:

[Landmark Events Calendar](#)



Inspired by one of the speakers at the Landmark College Summer Institute, Vanellsa Rodriguez from Harvard Graduate School of Education, Patti Lovemark, Karen Schaefer, Julie Pfaff and Aliscia Niles formed a FIG to discuss her book, *The Teaching Brain: An Evolutionary Trait at the Heart of Education*. We examined the theories and practices offered in the book, reflected on our own teaching, and discussed how this could inform us on the learner/teacher relationship to improve outcomes. Here is a clip of her work:

[Vanellsa Rodriguez](#)

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### Alise Lamoreaux

I attended the Regional Open Educational Resource Conference held at OCCC in December. Finding ways to use OERs in ABSE classrooms is a passion of mine. The idea of low cost or free curriculum is important for our student population. The conference was designed to support planning and redesign of courses to support the use of high quality freely available materials. It was a great chance to learn more about Creative Commons and what can be done with those types of materials. It was also a fantastic opportunity to meet more experienced peers in this field.

The keynote speaker was Quill West, Open Education Project Manager at Pierce College, who is a nationally recognized expert and advocate for OER, bringing faculty and librarians together to create sustainable change. She was a great speaker, and here is a link to a similar presentation she did at an earlier event:

[Quill West at PCC](#)

Since attending the conference, I have reviewed an OER textbook titled *College Success* and I have joined the OER Steering Committee at Lane. There are several OER textbooks in existence that could be applicable to ABSE students. A great place to look for OERs is the [Open Textbook Library](#).

If you are interested in learning more about OERs, Open Oregon has 3 short videos to get you up to speed:

[Open Oregon Videos](#)



**Amy Gaudia** completed Mental Health First Aid training, here at Lane.

Subjects included defining what Mental Health First Aid is and Mental Health Problems in the USA. We covered Crisis First Aid for Suicidal Behavior and Depressive Symptoms, Non-Suicidal Self-injury, Anxiety Disorders, Panic Attacks, Traumatic events, Acute Stress Reaction, Psychotic Disorders, Acute Psychosis, Aggressive Behavior, Substance Use Disorder and Overdose and Withdrawal. Upon completion of the eight-hour program attendees received a certificate for 8 hours of Mental Health First Aid. I highly recommend this training! Debby Ganser is an excellent presenter, the participants were engaged, and it seems that all of us found it very worthwhile.

The next training will be held:

February 12, 2016

8 a.m.-5 p.m., Building 4 Room 264.

Open to Faculty and Staff of LCC

Please contact Debby Ganser at

ganserd@lanecc.edu to reserve a space.

Mental Health  
First Aid USA



## TED Talks and YouTubes Recommended by...

Alise:

1. [Emile Wapnick: Why some of us don't have one true calling](#)
2. [Susan Cain: The Power of Introverts](#)
3. [Sugata Mitra: New Experiments in Self-teaching](#)
4. [Shane Koyczan: Remember How We Forgot](#)
5. [The hip-hop of Shakespeare: MC Lars at TEDxUSC](#)

Karen:

1. [Ma and Pa Kettle: Math](#)
2. [Barney Fife: The Preamble to the Constitution](#)
3. [Famous Failures](#)

Amy:

1. [Randy Pausch Last Lecture: Achieving Your Childhood Dreams](#)
2. [Crash Course](#) (History, Science, Economics, Government & Politics, and more...)
3. [Kathryn Schulz: On Being Wrong](#)

## What do teachers REALLY do? (when they're not teaching)

### Julie Pfaff

I've been playing hockey for about 13 years - I grew up in the Midwest, so I learned to ice skate at a very young age, but I never played hockey until I was an adult. I was inspired to play after women's hockey became an Olympic sport; I missed ice skating, and hockey looked like a lot of fun. After taking lessons for a few months, I was totally hooked and joined the local co-ed adult league. Since then, I've become a team captain and managed the local women's hockey team.



There are several things that I love about hockey. First, I've met wonderful people of all ages and walks of life, who have become some of my best friends. Second, it's a challenge and there's always something new to learn or something to get better at. I usually pick two or three things to work on each season, and really try to focus on improving those things until I feel like I've met my goal - then I choose something new to work on. Finally, though we don't "check" in our league, hockey is a physical game, a great workout, and a terrific stress release. As one of my former teammates likes to say, it beats the treadmill any day of the week.

Hockey in Eugene takes place at The Rink Exchange (used to be Lane County Ice, at the Fairgrounds). We have lessons, open skates, drop-in games, and leagues for all levels and abilities. We have a Special Hockey team for athletes with disabilities, and some of our skaters are connected to sled hockey (adaptive hockey for skaters with lower body mobility issues). There are scholarships for player fees and loaner gear for new players. The hockey community is a very welcoming group - we love new players and do whatever we can to grow membership. No skating experience required!

More info at:

<http://www.therinkexchange.com/>



## Aliscia Niles

What's defined my life over the past couple of years, as many of you know, are our children who came to us through DHS. There have been many ups and downs as we learn to meet their unique needs. Both are beautiful children at the core and we hope to keep unraveling the good stuff as they learn and grow. I've also been fostering rescue dogs and puppies but that will go on hold for a while being that I adopted our last pup, Mia. She just pulled too hard on my heart strings too much let her go. I grew up mostly in Southern California but spent most of my childhood moving every 6 months to a year so I've been in a total of 12 schools, including three different high schools so I personally understand where some of our GED students come from when our credits do not meet graduation requirements or we keep getting put in repeat classes. I kept up a nomadic life for many years, leaving the country at 17 to work with refugees in Denmark, living outside of the US for 5 years continuing my work with refugees, and living within our borders on both coasts. But, I've called Oregon home for a long time now and this is where I feel most connected. It's a beautiful place to land and settle.



## Amy Gaudia

Music has always captivated me, dating back as far as my time in the womb, and right on up to this very present moment. It is a major ingredient in my life in so many ways, it has been a creative, therapeutic, entertaining, educational, spiritual practice. I studied the piano and a variety of band instruments during my early school days, then spent many hours in my teen cave practicing the guitar. In college, I tried performing at a few coffee houses and during the late 80's started writing music. One of the fun highlights of my teaching career was during the time of Lane's Adult High School. We needed to offer some elective credits for our students, and I was given the opportunity to teach a songwriting class. Nothing happier than inspiring and encouraging young people to follow their muses! Last decade, I was squeezing the accordion in a Mediterranean cafe style trio alongside clarinet and mandolin, and presently my fascination is the cello, and chamber music. I've been taking lessons for about 3 years now and progress is, shall we say... slow. But I really love it, and had an exceptional experience at the Navarro River String Camp for adults, which I plan to attend again this summer. Lately I have been joining my 86 year old father at the [RealityKitchen](#) open mic night.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM...

### Rachel Shelly:

**Faculty members, who are OEA members,** can apply for \$100 grants for their students. Students may receive one grant of \$100 in any 12 month period. A maximum of \$2000 is awarded to a school per calendar year (January through December) unless there are extenuating circumstances. Examples of approved items: Eyeglasses, clothing, dental care, GED fees, doctor visits, and more... Supporting documents can be found here:

#### [Grant Cover Memo](#)

#### [OEA Foundation Guidelines](#)

The 2 documents are now being stored on the [Volunteer Tutor](#) web page.

### Rosa Lopez:

**The Wayne Morse Center** awards project grants each year to support community organizations, university faculty and departments and student organizations to help fund projects and educational events that are related to the Center's theme of inquiry.

#### [Wayne Morse Project Grants](#)

**Omnibus Appropriation:** Well it looks as though the Senate has passed the 2016 Omnibus Appropriations Package. I assume the President will soon sign.

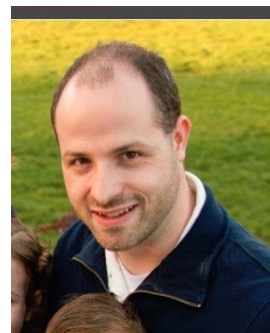
This Omnibus appropriation includes an amended definition of "eligible Career Pathways Programs" for Ability to Benefit. The definition here matches that of WIOA. I thought you might be interested.

#### [Appropriations News](#)

### Cathy Lindsley:

#### **Grant Matthews**

began Feb. 1, 2016 as dean for Adult Basic and Secondary Education and Academic Learning Skills. Grant holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Portland State University and is a candidate for a Ph.D. in Education Leadership from Oregon State University. Between 2002 and 2012, Grant served as a Student Support Coordinator, instructor in ESOL, GED preparation and College Success, Diversity and Equity Coordinator, and Director of College Assistance Migrant Program at Chemeketa Community College in Salem, Oregon. He comes to Lane from Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills, Illinois where he was Assistant Dean for Learning Enrichment and College Readiness. Cathy Lindsley will assist with the transition during February.



### GED Testing:

**The passing score has been lowered!**

**Beginning 1/26/16, the passing score for high school equivalency moved from 150 to 145.**

The program will also include two optional levels above high school equivalency to signify college readiness, and for some test-takers the opportunity to earn college credits. The scoring change and performance level enhancements were driven by a detailed analysis of both test-taker performance and of educational outcomes of GED program graduates over the past 18 months.

#### [GED Testing Service](#)

**Submit your news for the next edition by April 22, to: [gaudiaa@lanecc.edu](mailto:gaudiaa@lanecc.edu)**



## CELEBRATIONS

### Multi-cultural Party in the Florence Classroom

#### Our “Getting to Know You” Party

By students, Rosa Meadows and Lourdes Howard)

The Holiday party that we had last December 8, 2015 was so exciting. There were lots of different kinds of foods: Japanese, Mexican, Filipino, Italian, Chinese, and American food and everything was yummy and delicious.

The activities that we had for the kids were balloon lady who made sculptures for the kid, a piñata also. The kids received a gift of bags with candies and bookmarks.

There were activities too for the family and guests like “find where you came from” on the map and “the opposite game”.

There were two persons receiving an award that night; Marcela Romero received her US citizenship, and Beverly received an appreciation award too.

And the last but not least, Lourdes taught making holiday decorations to a large group of guests. The people took their “Parol” decorations to their home.

Our volunteer teachers Paula, Pat and Frances were present too making “parol” and joining games. Everybody enjoyed the party.

Special thanks to Leonora, and Beverly for making the party possible and successful.

