

CASAS 2012-13 WIA Title II Promising Practices Awards

The Promising Practice Award recognizes California ABE, ASE or ESL adult education providers that have implemented strategies and practices to help students attain their goals. These practices must improve program accountability, develop skills needed in the workplace, promote collaboration and cooperation with other programs or agencies, promote the effective use of technology, promote effective student transitions, or have potential application in other adult programs. CASAS is managing this CDE award process, which is open to WIA Title II ABE, ESL/ELL, VESL, ASE, and GED programs in California. All award-winning agencies have performed at or above California State averages for all involved programs for the last two program years, or have shown marked improvement in all instructional levels.

Corona-Norco Adult School: Unlocking the Potential to Positive Student Engagement.

Category: Curriculum / Instruction.

Beginning in the fall of 2010, the Corona-Norco Adult School English as a Second Language (ESL) Leadership Team sought to improve student performance outcomes by actively examining student engagement. The primary goals for improving student engagement in the classroom were to increase student persistence rates, increase student attendance hours and increase student outcomes. Corona-Norco implemented a number of programmatic changes to pursue this goal, including creating a level specific pacing guide, an objective observation checklist, and student feedback forms. This project has positively affected 35 classes and 1100 students and has increased persistence over the past two program years.

Los Angeles Unified School District: ESL Teacher Academy. Category: Curriculum / Instruction.

The ESL Teacher Academy is a hands-on community of practice for ESL teachers who want to learn how to implement best practices for English language acquisition and increase learning gains. Participants attend three face-to-face trainings sessions over a three-month period which teach and model good ESL andragogy using CASAS data. Participants are then given ample time and support to bring the practices into the classroom and reflect with their colleagues during activities and discussions. Since the Academy started in 2012, 30 out of 35 participating instructors have seen increases in both their percentage of paired scores and percentage of students earning a payment point.

Mt. San Antonio Community College District: English as a Second Language Student Profile Data. Category: Accountability.

The ESL department at Mt. San Antonio College created an online data entry system in which all students provide up-to-date information as they progress through the levels of the ESL Program. This has enabled students to track their progress, revisit their academic goals, and modify their educational plans. Instructors use the database to customize classroom assignments based on the individual needs and interests of students. Overall ESL performance has improved as a result of more targeted instruction, and the percent of students passing EL Civics objectives has increased.

Rancho Santiago Community College District (Santa Ana College): Discovering Santa Ana College. Category: Transitions.

Discovering Santa Ana College is a program created by ESL faculty at Rancho Santiago CCD to help students become comfortable in the credit college environment and increase transition between programs. Credit and noncredit ESL instructors work together to develop and implement this program, which consists of lessons on reading, writing, and computer usage, panel discussions on career planning, and tours of the Santa Ana College campus. Students receive comprehensive resources to prepare for transition and learn about all the different career and educational opportunities available. Students are given a one-on-one orientation and assistance for multiple semesters, as they matriculate from lower level ESL classes into higher level ESL classes, with plans to transfer into ABE, ASE or college classes. For the five ESL Intermediate High classes involved in 2012, 75% of the students were able to transition into higher-level ABE or ASE classes and five students who were enrolled in the program since 2011 were able to transfer to credit-bearing college courses in 2013.

2012-13 EL Civics

Making a Difference in the Community Awards

The federally-funded English Literacy and Civics Education (EL Civics) program in California is designed for adult students to acquire the language and literacy skills to become citizens, exercise the rights and duties of citizenship, and enrich the communities in which they live. This award recognizes EL Civics programs that teach skills required for citizenship and empower students to take the initiative to make a difference in the community.

CASAS is managing this CDE award process, which is open to all EL Civics (Citizenship Preparation and/or Civic Participation) programs in California. All award-winning agencies have met or exceeded California State Performance averages for all ESL levels for the past two program years.

ABC Adult School: International Day

Students in the English as a Second Language (ESL) Program at ABC Adult School host International Day, a festival to present the culture, food, art, and traditional costumes of students' native countries. The event begins with a flag parade, followed by student-run exhibits to highlight different aspects of their cultures. Past exhibits included a Korean drum performance, Thai fruit and vegetable carving display, and a Mariachi band. ABC Adult School incorporates EL Civics lessons into the planning and execution of International Day. This project makes a difference in the community by increasing cultural awareness, and highlighting the diversity of ABC Adult School.

For more information about the 2013 award winners, please visit the CASAS website at www.casas.org.

