



# 2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

The Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center is a division of The Literacy Institute at Virginia Commonwealth University.

**2013-2014 brought significant changes to the field of adult education**, most significantly the transition to the computer-based 2014 GED® test. The Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center (VALRC) made extra efforts to provide timely and relevant resources, publications, technical assistance, and training to Virginia adult educators during this critical time. We worked closely with the Virginia Department of Education's Office of Adult Education and Literacy (OAE), actively participating in working groups to address the priorities of OAE's Strategic Plan and collaborating in the creation of an Action Plan to guide our efforts in the coming year.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE RESOURCE CENTER'S 2013-2014 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORK ARE FEATURED BELOW.

### ONLINE AND ON-SITE TRAINING

In program year 2013-2014, **the Resource Center provided 366,199 hours of training to 3,640 participants around the state.**

In addition to face-to-face workshops, we offered six- and eight-week facilitated online courses on topics such as ESOL multilevel classes, reading, and numeracy and self-paced, non-facilitated courses that provided policy and assessment certifications.

### 2014 GED® TEST PREPARATION

VALRC specialists worked to gather the most up-to-date information about the 2014 GED® test from GED Testing Service and disseminate it to the field through trainings, technical assistance, listservs, and social media including the Virginia GED® 2014 online discussion forum. We developed five new trainings focused on math and math practices. VALRC delivered 62 on-site trainings to inform teachers about the 2014 test and support them in making necessary instructional changes. Representatives from each of Virginia's 22 adult education regions attended one of our *Unpacking the 2014 GED® Test* workshops. Also in high demand were the *Teaching Strategies for the Extended Constructed Response Items on the 2014 GED® Test* and *2014 GED® Science and Social Studies through Project-based Learning* workshops.

### VIRGINIA ADULT EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The Resource Center continued to promote high quality, research-based program and instructional practices through the Virginia Adult Educator Certification Program (VAECP). 2013-2014 saw 52 level completions across two strands, bringing the total number of VAECP level completions to 514. This year, Level I for both the ABE/GED and ESOL instructor strands was converted from a series of three face-to-face workshops to an eight-week, online course. The shift increases depth of learning and reflection opportunities and builds teachers' technology skills while making it easier to reach participants from diverse geographic regions. Session 2 for support staff was also developed.

### REGIONAL PROGRAM MANAGER TRAINING

VALRC developed and conducted training for new regional program managers that also fulfilled the requirements of the VAECP's program manager strand. The Resource Center trained mentors for new managers and provided OAE with assistance in the content of three regional program manager meetings, including one held at the VAILL Conference.

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### OUR VISION

**That the field of adult education and literacy will have the best available tools and training to help adult learners build a better future**

### OUR MISSION

**To equip the field of adult education and literacy with essential skills and resources by delivering innovative and effective training, publications, curriculum design, and program development**

## PLUGGEDINVA

The Resource Center continued to promote this innovative career pathways program, delivering technical assistance to 11 programs in different regions around the state. Additionally, VALRC worked to define a three-tiered system for PluggedInVA: Pathways (for adults with skills below fifth grade equivalency), Workforce (fifth through eighth grade skill levels), and Careers (for adults with skills at or above ninth grade equivalency). VALRC received a subaward to a U.S. Department of Labor Trade Adjustment Act for Careers and Community College Training grant to develop PluggedInVA curricula for phlebotomist, forensics technician, and pharmacy technician careers.

## EL/CIVICS SYMPOSIUM

In spring 2014, the Resource Center conducted the annual EL/Civics Symposium, with 67 participants and presenters. VALRC developed 10 new EL/Civics lessons in history and government for the *EL/Civics Gateways for Teachers* website, which were debuted at the symposium.

## PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

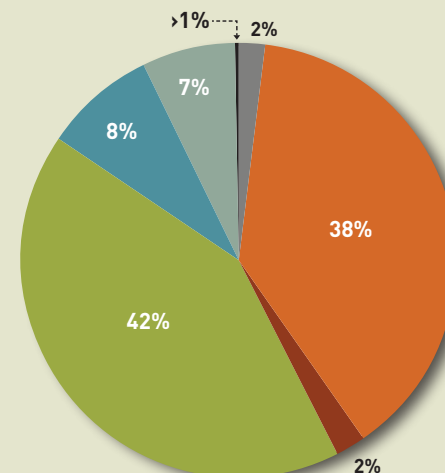
The comprehensive *Virginia Adult ESOL Health Literacy Toolkit* was published in summer 2013. Major revisions were made to the *New Teacher Handbook*, which is hosted on a newly developed website and was introduced to the field in summer 2014. VALRC also prepared the *2013 Survey of Virginia Foreign Born Population*, which gives reader-friendly regional profiles of Virginia's immigrant population, for publication in print and online.

During 2013-2014, the Resource Center maintained eight websites, four listservs, and the Provider Directory with contact information for adult education programs around the state. We developed an annotated list of *Apps and Websites for Teachers and Students in Adult Education Programs*. We fostered active online learning communities through our Facebook and Twitter accounts and the Virginia GED® 2014 forum.

## KNOWLEDGE CENTER

VALRC undertook an in-depth evaluation of Virginia's learning management system, Knowledge Center, and adopted Knowledge Center as a replacement for the Electronic Registrar Online system formerly used to track Virginia's professional development efforts. Resource Center data and records were converted from ERO to Knowledge Center; the new system will be accessible to the field in fall 2014.

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN 2013-2014 VALRC TRAININGS



- Online Facilitated Courses
- Online Non-facilitated Courses
- VAECP Trainings (ABE/GED Instructor, ESOL Instructor, and Regional Program Manager strands)
- ABE/GED On-site Workshops (non-VAECP)
- ESOL On-site Workshops (non-VAECP)
- General On-site Workshops
- Train-the-Trainer Sessions

## CONTACT INFORMATION AND LINKS

■ Resource Center phone number: 1-800-237-0178

■ Resource Center website: [www.valrc.org](http://www.valrc.org)

Scroll to the bottom of the homepage to find links to our Facebook and Twitter pages.

■ VAELN Listserv registration page: [www.valrc.org/resources/vaeln.html](http://www.valrc.org/resources/vaeln.html)

■ Knowledge Center logon page: <https://covkc.virginia.gov/valrc>

■ EL/Civics Gateways for Teachers website: [www.valrc.org/gateways](http://www.valrc.org/gateways)

■ PluggedInVA website: [www.pluggedinva.com](http://www.pluggedinva.com)

■ GED® Virginia website: [www.gedva.com](http://www.gedva.com)

■ GED® Helpline phone number: 1-877-37-MY-GED (1-877-376-9433)



The Literacy Institute and VALRC are part of Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Education.