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Congratulations to Pace Learning Scholarship Winners

Pace Learning Systems (PLS) is proud to announce the winners of our 2004 Pace Learning Scholarships. We had five winners this year, two from Georgia's FLAG Adult Education program, and three from the CITY programs for adjudicated youth in Alabama. As always, the winners of this scholarship receive \$500 to attend the educational enterprise of their choice, and the nominating teacher

receives a \$500 PLS product voucher. We had numerous qualified applicants this year, and we hope to have many more for the next Pace Learning Scholarship in 2005. The next application deadline is June 1, 2005.

If you would like to learn more about the 2005 Pace Learning Scholarship and how to nominate your own students, fill out and return the request form on Page 4. We will send you the application form.

The Pace Learning Scholarships have made positive impacts in the lives of many well-deserving students. This issue of the Pacesetter is dedicated to the 2004 Scholarship winners with the hope that their continued success in education will inspire others to achieve. Success stories like these are what Pace Learning Systems is all about.

Pride of Epworth, Georgia

Times are tough in Epworth, Georgia. Like numerous other small towns across the South, Epworth has lost many of the manu-



FLAG scholarship winners and their teachers. L to R: Bev Whitmer, Oneita Long, Charlotte Hunter, Donna Earl.

facturing jobs that once sustained it. Companies such as Levi Strauss and American Uniform recently closed plants that once employed much of the surrounding county, leaving many people scrambling for work.

Charlotte Hunter was one of these. Charlotte lost her job when the Levi Strauss factory moved away. "I didn't know what to do," she recalls, "because the thought of going back to school really scared me." She remembered being a "country girl" in a "city school" during her high school days, and was afraid that the embarrassment and frustration she suffered as a child would repeat themselves in adulthood. It was very hard for her to get up enough courage to attend FLAG classes.

"I remember Charlotte being very shy that first day," says her FLAG instructor Donna Earl, "She told me she didn't know anything, and I should just put her back in kindergarten." However, it was clear from the beginning that Charlotte did not lack knowledge;

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A Letter from the President Susan P. McKee, Ph.D.

Pacesetter

Purpose

To inform educators of new product developments from Pace Learning Systems and to highlight exemplary educational programs. To update educators on current trends in assessment, curriculum, and instructional design.

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About the Pacesetter

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Send manuscripts, stories, and pertinent information to the Editor.

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Dear Friends:

We at Pace Learning are very excited to announce the winners for the 2004 Pace Learning Systems Academic Scholarships. In fact, we dedicate this entire issue of the *Pacesetter* to honoring these well-deserving students and the fantastic programs that have been essential to their success. Congratulations to the students, the teachers, and the CITY and FLAG programs from which they come. These students represent everything that Pace Learning has worked for 27 years to achieve.

Great things are happening in programs all over the country, and we are extremely proud to be a part of it. Our Scholarship winners are but a tiny representation of the success that is being achieved with Pace Learning Systems, but they are certainly a special part.

This scholarship program has been so successful that we want to expand it. Next year we hope to have many more applicants, so that we can continue to use these gifts to impact lives. I would like to personally invite each of our valued customers to look closely at their students' progress, find those who truly need and deserve a helping hand in continuing their education, and nominate them for the 2005 Pace Learning Academic Scholarships. See page 4 of this issue for a form to request a scholarship application, or download an application from our website, www.pacelearning.com.

The \$500 scholarships are making a difference in these students' lives. The money can be used for any aspect of furthering education. This money is not just for tuition; it can be used for books, child care, transportation, or anything else the student needs. In addition, the nominating teachers receive \$500 vouchers towards Pace Learning products. Five hundred dollars can go a long way, and will be useful especially because we are expanding our product line.

Remember, we need your help to continue this success. If you know of any products or enhancements you would like to see in the future, please do not hesitate to contact us. We've listened to your suggestions, and so our new Social Studies product has been a resounding success. Just wait until the Spring, when we release our new and improved Science Program.

We are having our best year ever. We continue to grow as more people discover how effective our materials are in helping the at-risk learner succeed, but we also need your assistance in spreading the word. Let us know if you would like to host a seminar or if you want us to sponsor your program at a conference. Our fall seminars are listed on the back; we would love to see you there. Perhaps we could write an article about your program and students. Perhaps you are teaching our next Scholarship winner!

Good luck, and have a great year!

Sincerely,

Susan P. McKee, Ph.D.

President, Pace Learning Systems, Inc.

C.I.T.Y. Program of Alabama— A Tradition of Success

Clanton is a small town between Birmingham and Montgomery. Even though the kids in Clanton have an interstate running through their backyard, “many have never left Chilton County” says Betty Tidwell, an 11-year veteran teacher at the Chilton County Community Intensive Treatment for Youth Program (CITY). “They quickly get frustrated with school,” she continues, “they have no idea what else is out there.” The children Ms. Tidwell teaches often come from broken homes. Some got into trouble at a very early age, and for many of them school was an awful place that “knocked them down even more.”

Lisa Mathis came into the CITY Program hating school because the teachers “never showed [her] anything and went too fast.” She liked the CITY program because “the teachers actually stopped to show me how to do it.” Now Lisa is “friends with everyone there,” and the speed and accuracy with which she completed the program amazed many people, including herself.

Ms. Tidwell calls Lisa was a typical CITY student except for one thing: she had more focus than Ms. Tidwell has ever seen. “Lisa is a fighter,” says Ms. Tidwell, “As soon as she found out she could do it, she did.” Lisa went through the CITY program in six months and passed the GED on the first try. Pace Learning Systems helped her gain an astonishing *seven* grade levels in Language and 5 grade levels in Spelling! With her newfound success, Lisa hopes to go to nursing school.

Lisa did not come from a broken



Lisa Mathis, above left. Dian Campbell and Heather Cochran, above right. Oceanina Pruitt and Jack Kephart, left.

Lisa went through the CITY program in six months and passed the GED on the first try.

home; she has two very supportive parents who have helped her all the way. When Lisa goes to college she will be the first person in her family to do so, and her parents couldn't be prouder. Lisa gives Pace Learning and her teachers at CITY credit for her success, but we know that the ability to succeed was within her the whole time, and for that reason she is well-deserving of the 2004 Pace Learning Academic Scholarship.

Truly, we need more students with Lisa's kind of motivation, and Alabama's CITY Programs across the state are teaching students just like her. Tiny

Russellville, Alabama, situated in the Appalachian foothills west of Birmingham, is home to our next Scholarship winner, Heather Cochran.

Heather's nominating teacher, educational coordinator Dian Campbell, has been with CITY “since the day they opened.” She says she enjoys being there for the students, and she is careful to remind us that “CITY kids are just like all kids. There is no difference. They need love, they need to be reached out to, and they need a sense of direction.” Heather was typical in this respect. “I remember her being very angry at the beginning,” says Ms. Campbell, “She was a teenaged mom with problems at home. School was the last thing on her mind.”

Indeed, Heather didn't like her “normal” high school. As a single mother, she often had to be out of school to take care of her son, and the administration wouldn't let her leave. “I had to stay until 3:00, no matter what,” Heather remembers, “Even with my mother there they still wouldn't let me go.”

The CITY program was different. They worked with Heather and allowed her to both attend school and take care of her child. Ms. Campbell relates that her attitude improved within days, and soon she was working with teachers who “took time to make sure she understood.” Heather used PLS lessons to gain 5.4 grade levels in Math and 4.1 grade levels in Reading. Soon Heather will attend Northwest Shoals Community College to study nursing. Her family and friends are excited about her

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2005 Scholarship Request Form

send to:
Scholarship Winners
3710 Resource Drive
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Number of
Applications desired:

Name:

Address:

Phone: (____) _____

FAX: (____) _____

Email: _____

There you have it, folks. The deadline for next year's scholarship competition is June 1, 2005, so start early. Document the progress of your exceptionally motivated students and be sure to get an application. Pace Learning Systems is committed to helping students achieve success even after their program is completed; when our students succeed, we all win. Your student could be next!

Scholarship FAQ

With so many exceptional students applying for Pace Learning Scholarships, educators want to know how to distinguish their students from the crowd. I spoke with Dr. Carl Clements, Psychology professor at the University of Alabama and chairman of the PLS Scholarship Selection Committee, to find answers to some commonly asked questions.

Q: How can I find more information about nominating one of my students for the Pace Scholarship?

A: You can access our website, www.pacelearning.com, for a free and downloadable application. You could also fill out and mail us the request form on the left, and we will send you an application through the mail.

Q: What types of achievement and improvement impress the scholarship committee the most?

A: It is very important for instructors to list their student's improvement on their TABE and/or GED scores. At least three months of sustained study and a jump in TABE results over this period is preferred. It is also impressive to see passing GED scores in areas that were first targeted as weak or deficient, but were improved by using PLS materials.

Q: What specific points should be covered in the teacher's recommendation essay?

A: Instructors should focus on the student's sustained effort and motivation. Discuss the student's specific goals for the future and how well they have improved since beginning the program. Show that the student has formulated a realistic plan for the future.

Q: What should the student write about in their own application essay?

A: We appreciate it when the student focuses less on why they "deserve" the scholarship and more on their plans for using it. I would rather see them describe their own educational progress, attitude changes, accomplishments, and their all-important future goals.

Q: All five winners of the 2004 scholarships were from either the FLAG or CITY educational programs. What did these instructors do right?

A: The FLAG and CITY program instructors did very well with their documentation of student progress. These applications were very detailed in describing the connection between what was studied and the gains made by each student.

Q: Do you have any advice for the applicants that might give them a better chance of winning?

A: I would like to see learning managers let the students know about the program early on, perhaps after the first round of TABE or GED pre-testing. That way, the students can already be thinking about what to put on the application, and the teacher can make notes in the Fall on potential Spring nominees. The documented progress towards a goal that is eventually achieved is a major factor in selection. 

– Zac Showers

Special Scholarship Issue

“Congratulations...”

continued from page 1

she lacked only confidence, and it wasn't long before her work with the PLS lessons gave her all the confidence she needed. Ms. Earl relates that Charlotte now has “tremendous leadership qualities,” and she has put her success to good use as the organizer of a charity yard sale for displaced workers. In the future, Charlotte hopes to go to Appalachian Tech to study automobile repair, so she can restore a '55 Chevy she has had for years.

Charlotte remembered crying in English class as a child because “she didn't even know what an essay was.” But within a year of starting FLAG and using Pace Learning materials, Charlotte passed the GED and the ASSET College Entrance Exam. She gained 2.2 grades on the TABE Language Test and 3.3 grades on the Reading. Best of all, she was able to write an essay to her four grandchildren telling them just how important it is to have an education.

Charlotte Hunter's story of success with Pace Learning materials is inspiring, but she is not the only reason the folks at

*“Oneita came to FLAG
faithfully, without
incentive, and still managed
to be a caregiver
for her large family.”*

FLAG have to celebrate. Oneita Long is a retired, 85-year-old great-grandmother who is living proof that you are never too old to learn new things. Oneita's specialty is computers, which she admits is strange because, as she says, “When I first came to FLAG I didn't even know how to turn one on.” However, with the help of her instructor Bev Whitmer, Oneita soon became a computer whiz, and is now so adept with computers that FLAG hired her on the spot!

Oneita says she had trouble staying in school because she has always had to care for ailing relatives. After a lifetime away from education, Oneita was sur-

prised that she was able to pick up new concepts so easily. However, Ms. Whitmer knew that it would be easy for Oneita because of her constant motivation. “Oneita came to FLAG faithfully, without incentive, and still managed to be a caregiver for her large family,” says Ms. Whitmer, “She has been a positive role model for all our adult students.” With the help of Pace Learning materials, Oneita passed the GED and gained 5.3 grade levels on the TABE Math Test. Now that she has mastered QuickBooks, Excel, and Powerpoint, Oneita hopes to study even more about computers and use those skills to help the FLAG Program that did so much for her.

Pace Learning Systems come highly recommended from the folks in Epworth. Both Charlotte and Oneita said that PLS was “wonderful,” and they recommend system-based learning to “everyone they see.” We at Pace Learning are thrilled to give two of the 2004 Pace Learning Academic Scholarships to such highly intelligent and motivated students. There is no doubt these scholarships will be put to good use. 

“C.I.T.Y. Program...”

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success, and she and her beautiful three-year-old son are doing great. Ms. Campbell said it best; when I asked her why she recommended Heather for the scholarship, she said, “because I knew she would use it, and I knew she would make it.”

Last but certainly not least, the fifth winner of the 2004 Pace Learning Academic Scholarship is Oceanina Pruitt from Huntsville, Alabama. Like Heather Cochran, Oceanina is a teenaged mother and has had many obstacles to overcome in her pursuit of educational success. Oceanina knows that “worthwhile things are not easy... but if I try hard and believe in myself I know I can succeed.” This was certainly

*“worthwhile things are
not easy... but if I try hard
and believe in myself I
know I can succeed.”*

true during her time at the CITY Program in Madison County.

Oceanina's teacher Jack Kephart says that though she had “several bouts with frustration,” Oceanina was able to overcome and has “never coasted through.” With the help of Pace Learning Systems, Oceanina gained 4.4 grade levels in Math and 3 grade levels overall. With the GED

now behind her, Oceanina has huge aspirations. She wants to be a nurse practitioner, a position that means several years of college as well as graduate school. Her motives are straightforward; she wants to “help people lead healthy lives” and “provide a good life for [her] child.” Oceanina's teachers at CITY know she will make it, and we at Pace Learning are just happy to help out any way we can.

As is made clear by these wonderful stories of success, educational programs like FLAG and CITY are changing lives with the help of Pace Learning Systems. No doubt success stories like these are repeated all over America. All these students deserve congratulations and recognition, so be sure to nominate your own bright and motivated students for the 2005 Pace Learning Scholarship! 

Product Updates

*from the desk of Deanna Crosson,
Vice President of Research and Development*

Science

Research and Development is working hard on Science in preparation for a Spring 2005 release. This is both a revision of the Science print system and the introduction of PaceWare for Science. This new release of Science will include pretests and posttests, as well as the introduction of new lessons, the revision of existing lessons, and the construction of many new activities as well as experiment simulations in the software.

If you have any suggestions or recommendations for our R&D staff concerning this revisions and new release, please email Research and Development at DCrosson@pacelearning.com. We have recently faxed a questionnaire on this topic to our customers. If you own a Science system and have not had an opportunity to respond, please let us know and we will have a questionnaire sent to you immediately.

Executive Briefing/Non-disclosure

In October, in Miami, we will be holding an Executive Briefing for our customers to discuss future product development plans for Pace Learning Systems, Inc. In particular, we will be discussing new hardware technology and the web-based platform for our software, PaceWare. If you would like to participate, just contact us via the email address listed above or call us at 800-826-7223, ext. 3124.

*Research and Development
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PaceWare 4.0.1.80

PLS is constantly updating software to resolve issues and include suggestions that have been reported to us. In September, we released an update to PaceWare 4.0 that included some content fixes, version PWC092004. These updates will be going out to our customers sometime this fall. When you receive your update, please contact technical support for help in installing, backing up, and restoring your data. Call Dan Watson at extension 3143. 

Individual Diagnostic Profile Sheet (IDP)

by Lottie Duff

Pinpoint those objectives and subskills that gave the examinee difficulty during a TABE assessment. The Individual Diagnostic Profile sheet (IDP), used in conjunction with a corrected TABE test, yields valuable information for both student and teacher, alike. Many school districts begin writing a student's IEP (Individual Education Plan) from the framework provided in the TABE Individual Diagnostic Profile sheets.

What is it?

The Individual Diagnostic Profile (IDP) sheet is a quick way to diagnose individual skills deficiencies from existing TABE test results. No additional testing is required.

How does it work?

All you do is mark the TABE test question number that was answered incorrectly and you will immediately see exactly which objective and/or subskill needs work. For instance, if Lottie missed questions 20 and 21 on the TABE Form 7 – Level M, Mathematics Computation, the IDP tells me that Lottie needs to work on multiplication of fractions.

Who fills out the IDP?

The teacher, a teaching assistant, or someone else designated by the teacher. Even the examinee may complete the IDP.

NOTE: For those who wish their students to participate in the diagnostic and prescribing process, the IDP's are set up so that there is always mastery and or partial mastery in some areas; there is always some positive feedback. In addition, the students are, in fact, assigning themselves the remedial curricula. A personal responsibility is automatically (often eagerly) assumed, with the assignment. This method allows learning to be student-centered rather than teacher-centered, which is especially important with adult education students and basic skills remediation students.

Are these profile sheets expensive?

NO! TABE IDPs cost \$26 for a package of 25 sheets. That's less than \$1.05 per diagnostic.

Where can I get TABE IDP's?

Call Lottie Duff at Pace Learning for additional information or ordering assistance. Toll-free telephone 800-826-7223, x3125.

Why does Pace Learning Systems sell TABE?

Pace Learning Systems educational materials are correlated to many standardized tests, including TABE. For educational programs all across the country, successful, quantifiable grade level gain is achieved by baseline testing with TABE, using Pace Learning's excellent remedial materials as prescribed, and posttesting with TABE to show grade level gain.

Where do I get a free TABE Correlation to Pace Learning Materials?

Contact your educational consultant by calling 1-800-826-7223. You may also send an email to: info@pacelearning.com

Pace Learning Systems and TABE[®] are a winning combination.

Free shipping via UPS Ground on all TABE orders.
Checks, Visa/MC and purchase orders accepted.

Pace Learning Systems, Inc.
3710 Resource Drive, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401-7059
800-826-7223, 205-758-3222 fax
email: lduff@pacelearning.com

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C A L E N D A R O F E V E N T S

Seminar/Workshop Schedule for Fall 2004

October 5
Baton Rouge, LA

October 26
Tallahassee, FL

November 16
Tampa, FL

November 30
Jacksonville, FL

October 12
San Antonio, TX

October 28
Miami, FL

November 17
Orlando, FL

December 2
Pensacola, FL

October 20
Chattanooga, TN

November 16
Little Rock, AR

November 18
Daytona, FL

Call 1-800-826-7223 to register today

Conference Schedule/Attended thru December 2004

October 13-15, 2004
Jacki Beck
LASAFAP Fall Conference
Baton Rouge, LA

October 28-29, 2004
Jacki Beck
Adult Education Conference
Hot Springs, AR

November 7-10, 2004
Joe Jernigan
Fall 2004 Title I Conference (State Conference)
Lake Buena Vista, FL

October 17-20, 2004
Shelly Justice
South Carolina Workforce Development Conference
Greenville, SC

October 30-
November 3, 2004
John and Susan McKee
National Dropout Prevention Conference
Orlando, FL

November 7-10, 2004
Jacki Beck
AASSP-Secondary School Principals' Conference
Orange Beach, AL

October 19-22, 2004
Jacki Beck
National Workplace Peer Conference
Biloxi, MS

November 1 and 2, 2004
Shelly Justice
North Carolina Exceptional Children Conference
Greensboro, NC

November 10-12, 2004
Allison Anderson
Georgia Educational Tech. Conference
Macon, GA

October 20 and 21, 2004
Shelly Justice
National Community College Adult Ed. Conference
Greensboro, NC

November 1-3, 2004
Jacki Beck
Arkansas Assoc. of Secondary School Principals
Little Rock, AR

November 17-19, 2004
Shelly Justice
Texas Workforce Conference
Grapevine, TX

October 27-29, 2004
Shelly Justice
North Carolina Workforce Development Conference
Greensboro, NC

November 3-5, 2004
Jacki Beck
Alabama Workforce Development Conference
Birmingham, AL

November 29-December 2, 2004
Shelly Justice
NC Educational Technology Conference
Greensboro, NC