Attitude x Discipline = Success

Maintaining a positive attitude can be difficult when coping with stressful situations. However, a confident attitude and goal accomplishment have a common denominator. When dared by a difficult situation, try not to presume the worst result. Look at the situation with a positive perspective. There are many things in your life that are not under your control, and these things have a tendency to make things more difficult in your life (weather, time, people, etc.). When dealt with these situations, are you going to fall into society’s trap of being a victim of your environment? Or, are you going to find a positive way to deal with misfortune? People who look at a glass half full are more likely to be successful in life and be responsible for their own actions even if something beyond their control goes wrong.

Who sees a person without discipline accomplish success? So many people today are lacking self-discipline. Discipline is a commitment to yourself; it means doing what you have to do even when you don’t want to. If you wake up on a rainy day and decide to stay in bed instead of going to work, what have you done? You have allowed your uncontrollable environment to take control of your attitude and your self-discipline. This can cause you to fall behind in your work, feel guilty for breaking a commitment to your employer, and be identified as untrustworthy. Instead of blaming the weather for staying in bed, you should accept that you created this situation. A good attitude to maintain should be founded on Dave Ellis’s philosophy, “treat experiences, events, and circumstances as if you created them,” tell yourself, “I create it all.”
As some of you may know, the now free GED® test will soon no longer be free of charge.

As stated in a March 21 news release by the Department of Career Education, “Arkansas is one of only a few states that offers the General Education Development (GED®) test at no cost to the student, but that may soon change.”

The GED® test is going through a sizeable change in Arkansas and in the entire country. In January 2014, the test will be updated to reflect the common core educational criterions of today’s high school graduates. Every few years, the state begins a new testing series; however, the same GED® test module has not been updated since 2002. The new test standards will include problem solving, computer skills, and more advanced mathematic skills. The GED® Program will also indicate that the graduate is college ready and career ready.

In addition to the subject matter, the new GED® test will be administered by computer starting January 2014. Students will no longer use pencil and paper. All adult education centers in the state of Arkansas will be equipped with the proper computer-based testing (CBT) environment in order to meet the terms of the new requirements. GED Testing Service® is still managing and producing the test, but they have now partnered with Pearson, a global leader in testing and education.

The GED® test currently has five content sections consisting of writing, reading, social studies, science, and mathematics. The new computer-based GED® test will combine reading and writing, leaving only four areas of content. Each of these four areas will have an estimated base price of $24, totaling $96. If the student fails to pass a portion of the test, each attempt after is $24.

Unfortunately, students who have not successfully completed all portions of the current GED® test by January 2014 will have to begin their testing all over. For example, if a student has successfully completed four content portions of the current test and lacks math only, after January 2014, that student must retake all content portions by computer-based testing.

The UACCM Adult Education Program, along with other programs across the state, is frantically encouraging students to “Get it while its FREE.” Kim Darling, Amanda Atkinson, and Aaron Spivey have met with UACCM’s Institutional Advancement Department to strategize upcoming marketing plans. We plan to print brochures, hang posters, advertise news ads, and utilize radio announcements to inform individuals in Conway and Perry County of the soon-coming change of adult education.

In recent research, we found that Conway and Perry County combined has 4,315 eligible targeted GED® students, also known as “eligibles.” These are individuals living in our community who have not earned the equivalent of a high school education. To much surprise, we found that in UACCM’s surrounding six county area there are a total of 28,675 eligibles. This information is constructed from a 2010 Census Report.

We have encouraged the UACCM Adult Education Advisory Board, along with our students, to spread the word that now is the time to earn a GED®.

2010 Eligible Census Statistics

8% Conway County
10% Pope County
5% Yell County
19% Faulkner County
27% Van Buren County
31% Perry County

Tip: Never Trust an Internet Website to Earn a GED®

You may not be aware of the hundreds of well-intentioned adults who are being scammed everyday by deceitful online businesses who claim to offer GED® testing. These businesses are charging individuals anywhere from $200 to $400 for an equivalency of a high school diploma.

GED Testing Service® has filed a federal lawsuit to shut down a network of fraudulent websites that are unlawfully using the GED® trademark. These sites mislead adult learners and award false high school diplomas and GED® test credentials.

GED Testing Service® has developed a public relations campaign to inform test-takers, third-party organizations, members of the media, and state adult education directors about the claim.

As part of the campaign, GED Testing Service® has created an online website where educators and test-takers can report suspicious websites. Visit www.GEDtestingservice.com/fraud to learn more.
Continuing Collaboration

The UACCM Adult Education Advisory Board met Thursday, March 29, 2012, at 12 p.m. at the Community Education Center in downtown Morrilton.

The board members enjoyed a boxed lunch provided by the UACCM Plaza, with a special thanks to Ms. Diana Arn for funding the luncheon.

The board consists of 15 individuals from the Morrilton community. Each member has been selected due to his or her distinctive leadership abilities within the community.

Kim Darling, Genita Whiting, Debbie Maxwell, and Amanda Atkinson were excited to socialize with the committee members and to reveal the renovated Community Education Center, as many of the members have never visited the Adult Education Center.

During the informatory presentation concerning Arkansas’ Adult Education Programs, the board members were especially concerned about the changes that adult education will undergo in the near future and how students will afford the new GED® test.

Each member was provided with a packet consisting of a Department of Career Education news release, UACCM AE newsletters, and UACCM AE brochures.

The UACCM Adult Education faculty and staff are very pleased with the outcome of the meeting. We appreciate the concern and willingness to provide guidance that each member offered.

Since the meeting, the Adult Education Program has already worked with individuals who have been referred by board members.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2012, at 12 p.m. We hope to keep affiliation with members of the board throughout the year.

SUCCESS STORIES

“The UACCM Adult Education Program helped me achieve my first educational goal so that I can fulfill my dream.

I chose UACCM Adult Education because they held many positive aspects. The Adult Education instructors were very helpful and encouraging during my learning experience. They are very good at explaining operations, helping students study for the GED, and making sure every student was included in activities. The UACCM Adult Education Program was helpful to me because I could study at my own pace.

UACCM helped me diagnose my weaknesses. I even increased my score level in all content areas to obtain the GED scholarship.

Now that I have my GED, I will be able to work toward my future goals. I can now participate in ‘Exotic Animal Internships.’ I plan to enroll in college at UACCM in the fall of 2012. After completion of my associate’s degree, my goal is to attend ATU for pre-veterinarian courses, after which I can enter vet school to become a veterinarian/zoologist.

UACCM Adult Education is an excellent program, and I am thrilled to have completed my GED with them.”

—Cindy Michele Perrault
Professional Development
The UACCM Adult Education faculty and staff participated in an informal regional AE professional development conference at Ferncliff on February 16. The group enjoyed games, lunch, and lectures.

Upcoming Events
Spring has Sprung!

APRIL
◊ 9 & 10 .............. GED Exams
◊ 10.................. Employee Banquet
◊ 16 & 18 .......... Inclusion Insights
◊ 17.................. Distance Learning Training
◊ 25.................. Administrative Professionals’ Day
◊ 30............... Lunch Byte

MAY
◊ 1............... Retirement Reception
◊ 11............... CPI Info Session, Mat Herrman
◊ 12............... College Commencement
◊ 14 & 15 .......... GED Exams

JUNE
◊ 4 & 5 .......... GED Exams
◊ 26............... GED Graduation, 6 p.m.

For success, attitude is equally important as ability.