



News to Use

SPECIAL PARTNERSHIP ISSUE

May 2018

Local program helps retrain miners for in-demand careers

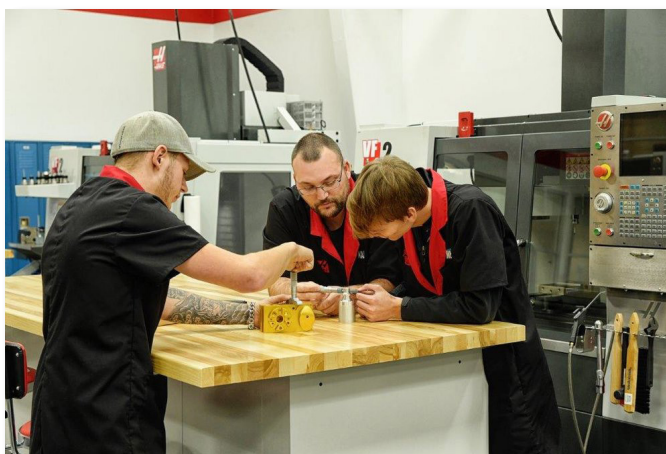
"I was trying to figure out what we could do with our really talented workforce," says Kathy Walker, founder and director of the HAAS eKentucky Advanced Manufacturing Institute (eKAMI) in Paintsville, KY. The development of the HAAS Technical Education Center (HTEC) is the product of a collaborative effort among many stakeholders with a common passion and goal to retrain the region's exceptionally skilled workforce, many of whom were miners, for new careers in the Advanced Manufacturing industry.

"This was really driven by the lack of opportunity here in Eastern Kentucky," Kathy, a 30-year resident of Eastern Kentucky says. "What differentiates this area is we have an exceptionally large population of people skilled at working with their hands; this is just what we do. It's a skill set that's in the DNA of people here. All we've done is tapped into that skill set and put some training and education on top of that, and they've become the rock stars of the machining world."

For the first 16-week training course offered via HAAS eKAMI, 12 of the 13 individuals who began the course completed it – and have since been hired. Something that Kathy learned through this first session was that, while these individuals had no difficulty with the technical skills of the course, some of their academic skills were rusty. "The more wild cards we can throw out with preparation, the better," Kathy says.

To address this, Kathy initiated a partnership with Dr. Jay Morgan, president of Morehead State University (MSU), and Reecie Stagnolia, vice president of KYAE Skills U, who then

contacted Dr. Dan Connell, vice president of adult education and college access at MSU. Eva Henderson, former program director of Skills U programs at MSU, and Opal Fannin, instructor, were then brought in to help in the development of the collaboration.



"The partnership benefitted eKAMI in that their participants would be better prepared for the math and science components of the machinist program," Opal says. "(Our programs) benefitted by having students enrolled in their individual programs that could earn the KCRC, NCRC and KESC certificates, as well as show improvement on the post-TABE test at the end of the course. Participants who continue with the eKAMI Institute can earn several certificates related to manufacturing and machining."

Kathy says that, due to the immense success and good word being spread about the first cohort, employers are already lining up to hire the 11 individuals in the second cohort, who are only in their fourth week of study. And, she says about the students, who range in age from 20 to 56, "They love it! It's exciting – it's cutting-edge technology."

Opal says, about their experience, "I feel we learned what worked and what didn't and can adjust the Integrated Education and Training project, when offered again, either with eKAMI or with other collaborating partners. It was a good opportunity for adult education to reach out in the workforce community and help individuals be better prepared for employment."

To learn more about the opportunities offered through eKAMI (and to watch some related, inspirational videos), go to: www.ekami.com.

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Kentucky Adult Education Skills U is a unit of the Council on Postsecondary Education.

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Local program sees “phenomenal results” with new partnership

By Mary Newton, program director

In January, Jessamine County Adult Education Skills U began partnering with ResCare's Youth Program. This project offers outstanding support for our 18-24-year-old students by paying for their GED® test, awarding them a \$250 bonus for earning a GED® diploma, and, most importantly, helping them navigate the enrollment process for postsecondary training or transitioning to the workforce by providing up to 320 hours of paid work experience. We wanted to make sure, with our students' crazy schedules, that they wouldn't miss an opportunity to connect with the Youth Talent Development Specialist, Justin Holbrook, so we arranged for him to have an office in our Learning Center. We wanted Justin to be here at a time when he could interact with as many students as



Paige Killian and Joann Conkwright

possible so we chose Tuesdays when we offer a full day of GED® testing.

The results have been phenomenal. In the three short months that he's been with us, which included 10 snow days and spring break, Justin has already helped two recent grads enroll in short-term healthcare certification programs, enrolled one grad in college, and placed two current students in a work experience program while they contin-

ue to pursue their GED® credentials. One of those students gaining paid work experience is Paige Killian, 21, who is now working in our office 23 hours a week. Paige helps greet new students, schedules assessments, and assists with filing and mailers. We really love having Paige around to help us and we've seen her confidence grow already in the few weeks since she started. A naturally shy young woman, Paige once had to work up the nerve to make retention calls, but she just recently asked me if she could speak at graduation. What a difference! (Note: Paige earned her GED® diploma on April 17!)

I can't say enough about how happy we are to be partnering with ResCare. Justin is truly like a member of our staff, and he's making great connections with our students to help them go “beyond the GED®”!

Skills U Lesson Bank spotlights two contributors

By Leta Ann Martin

Morehead State University Adult Education Academy

We are proud to introduce you to two of our regular KYAE Skills U Lesson Bank contributors, Beth Rudd and Susie Roberts. Beth and Susie create CCR Standards-based lesson plans that are relevant to adult learners. The biographies below highlight these skilled lesson creators.

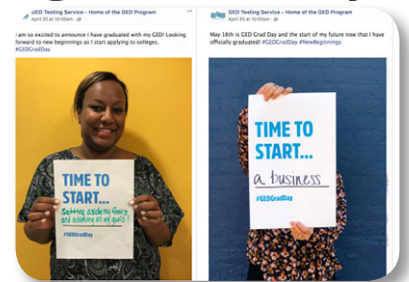


Bethany 'Beth' VanHoose Rudd is a National Board Certified Teacher and a regular contributor to the Kentucky Adult Education Skills U Lesson Bank. A Paintsville native, Beth taught high school English at Johnson Central and Montgomery County High Schools before deciding to stay home with her young children. Beth says that, “I like writing lessons because, although I am not teaching, I am still impacting student learning.” Beth especially enjoys creating writing lessons that help students go through each step of the writing process.



Susan 'Susie' Roberts of SCR Consulting is a trainer, teacher, author, and lifelong learner with more than a decade of adult education instructional leadership and curriculum experience. Susie, who resides in Carrollton, works with programs across the country to help make standards-based, contextualized instruction a seamless and, most importantly, fun process. While she is often seen talking to large audiences, her favorite part of her work is helping make teachers' jobs easier. Learn more about her at www.scr.academy.

National GED® grad day being celebrated May 16



From GED Testing Service®:

Thanks to guidance, preparation and encouragement from adult educators like you, even more students are receiving their GED®. Show them how proud you are of this life-changing achievement. Let's celebrate together!

Join us for GED® Grad Day on Facebook on Wednesday, May 16th. Spread the word to test-takers to be part of the fun and for recent grads to participate by sharing their excitement for what will come next in life.

We invite you to encourage grads to fill out a “Time to Start” card that can be printed from our [toolkit](#) and then take pictures of them holding up the card to post on Facebook using the #GEDGradDay.

We look forward to seeing your posts! [RSVP for the virtual celebration](#) on Facebook today!

Spotlight on Partnerships

Local programs share how partnerships work for them

We asked local programs to share information about great partnerships they have – and the response was excellent! Below, you will see all the responses we received. We hope that you will get some new ideas about how your program may develop partnerships in your own community.

If you have a great partnership you'd like to share, contact Missy Brownson Ross at missy.ross@ky.gov or 502-892-3014.

Counties: Breathitt and Perry

Submitted by Charlene Fugate

Partner: TRIO Program, Commonwealth Education Opportunity Center (CEOC)

How the partnership began: The CEOC program has provided college access counseling to adult education students in Perry and Breathitt Counties since 2010. What started as a CEOC Counselor presenting college information workshops to groups of adult education students has grown into a valuable partnership and service to our programs and GED® students.

What the partnership provides: The CEOC Counselor meets individually with GED® students after they have passed the GED Ready® test to assist them with: paying for 1/2 of the GED test fees; applying for federal and state financial aid; applying for college scholarships; completing admissions applications for any higher education institution; and completing a course in financial literacy.

How the partnership benefits program and/or partner: This partnership provides instructors and staff with someone they can refer students to when their next step, beyond the GED®, is higher education. Our Career Navigator also collaborates with the CEOC Counselor to help students align their educational goals with tangible employment opportunities in our region. In turn, the CEOC program benefits from our partnership with the referrals and access we provide their counselor to our students.

Comments: This partnership has been successful due to on-going communication and the collaborative efforts of both partners at all levels.

“**Andrea’s Mission for Men and Women is a great place that involves all aspects of recovery including education. We are excited to partner with them and help their students gain access to all their educational needs, including GED®, postsecondary and job placement services.**” - Vonda Jennings, Butler County

“

I invited Kentucky Career Center staff to attend the local interagency council meeting and a result was being able to initiate the partnership between these two agencies.” - Mary Skipper, Estill County

County: Hardin

Submitted by Diane Kelley

Partner: United Way of Central Kentucky (UWCK)

How the partnership began: It began through a United Way of Central Kentucky grant process. We are completing our second year and have applied for a third year.

What the partnership provides: UWCK provides funding (\$15,000 in FY18) for our program to hire a Success Coach to help struggling students reduce barriers and provide one-on-one academic tutoring.

How the partnership benefits program and/or partner:

- Our program benefits as students are provided an additional resource to help them successfully navigate through the GED® program. It provides those students who specifically need specialized attention the targeted instruction, that extra boost, to help them achieve their goals.
- By helping more GED®-seeking students attain diplomas, United Way of Central Kentucky is providing more community residents with the opportunity for financial stability through higher income potential.

Comments: As a grant awardee, we are asked to speak with companies during the annual campaigns. This is a GREAT opportunity for Skills U to put our story out there to the people! Additionally, UWCK initiated a Kentucky Serves website which helps advertise volunteer needs within the community. Through this effort, Hardin County Skills U has gained two long-term tutors who provide about six hours a week of free tutoring (one in the morning and one in the evening).

Spotlight on Partnerships, continued

County: Hopkins

Submitted by Angela Carter

Partner: City of Nortonville Library and Media Center

How the partnership began: The partnership began with the mayor, CT Sturt, and a Skills U at ACE2 instructor, who is also a community member and city councilman. The city and Skills U at ACE2 wanted to provide a way for community members to be more successful with literacy, postsecondary attainment, and employment.

What the partnership provides: The city of Nortonville provides free and dedicated classroom space for Skills U at ACE2 to deliver adult education classes two nights each week. The city provides free internet, use of computer lab and library resources for our students, both during class times and for distance learning outside of class time.

How the partnership benefits program and/or partner:

- Offering services through the Nortonville Library Media Center allows Skills U at ACE2 to provide free services to members at a satellite location on the south end of Hopkins County. Many of the students that attend class at our Nortonville site have a transportation barrier and live outside of the public transportation boundaries, this allows them to attend in person classes consistently.
- Nortonville has a goal to provide many adult services for community members (basic computer skills, job skills, GED® services, college prep and enrollment info, résumé writing, DUI classes, and other counseling classes. This partnership allows the city to bring educational services to the community.

County: Johnson

Submitted by Stephanie Bunyard

Partner: Paintsville Rotary Club

How the partnership began: We began the partnership by seeking financial assistance for students taking the GED® test.

What the partnership provides: The partnership provides financial assistance with paying for the cost of GED® tests that have been scheduled through the testing center.

How the partnership benefits program and/or partner: A partnership with the Paintsville Rotary Club has been very beneficial for the Johnson County Adult Education Skills U program with assisting individuals who would not have been able to take either test without their assistance. The Paintsville Rotary Club has been very helpful in giving our students in need a way of accomplishing their goals.

County: Lawrence

Submitted by James Ellis

Partner: Northeast Community Action Agency

How the partnership began: Through the local Interagency Council

What the partnership provides: Mutual referrals plus we provide testing as necessary for Northeast and they provide job preparation and placement assistance for our students.

How the partnership benefits program and/or partner: It helps us get our students job opportunities and enhances their soft skills.

Comments: Northeast is vital to Lawrence County Adult Learning Center's continued success.

County: Madison

Submitted by Aileen Perkins

Partner: Liberty Place Recovery Center for Women

How the partnership began: Our partnership began as a joint effort to help the residents of Liberty Place better themselves by earning their GED® diploma, KESC and NCRC so that upon exit from the program they will be better able to attain a job or enter into a training program.

What the partnership provides: Madison County Adult Education provides GED® classes, NCRC certification, and Life Skills classes to the women at Liberty Place. This allows the women of Liberty Place to obtain both knowledge and skills that are essential in the workplace and prepares them for higher education.

How the partnership benefits program and/or partner:

- The Skills U program benefits greatly from this partnership. We generate a high enrollment and consistent attendance (which leads to staying on track with completion of academic gains), as well as attainment of GED® diplomas and other certificates. Many of these women have gone on to higher-paying jobs once they exit the program, and we even have had several who have entered into postsecondary education.
- This partnership is a wonderful opportunity for Liberty Place. The majority of the women there have very little work experience. There are quite a few that have minimal education. This partnership allows the residents to work on furthering their education, while working on maintaining their sobriety. This allows them to be better equipped to fully integrate into productive members of society. All of this takes place in one facility, so they are getting everything they need to better themselves, their families, and their community.

Spotlight on Partnerships, continued

County: Magoffin

Submitted by Vickie Howard

Partner(s): Big Sandy Community and Technical College, Magoffin County Career and Technical Career School (MCCTS), Job Corps, Salyersville Health Care

How the partnership began: Due to local CNA job opportunities, we partnered with our local high school career and tech center and BSCTC to offer a CNA class. We are a rural community and wanted to bring the program to our community. The Magoffin County Learning Center discussed the need with the MCCTS and reached out to BSCTC.

What the partnership provides: Opportunities for students as well as providing trained CNA staff for the local nursing home.

How the partnership benefits program and/or partner:

- Motivates students to earn GED® diplomas and CNA certifications simultaneously and generates more GED® attainment for our program.
- Provides more college students for BSCTC.
- Provides networking opportunities for MCCTS and allows them to be a part of opportunities that help our community members.

Comments: We started with 15 GED®-seeking candidates; 12 of our students finished the class, with 10 students earning CNA certification or a GED® diploma. Four students have completed their GED® and CNA state requirements. All but one have passed three-quarters of the GED® test and are studying math so they can work on CNA requirements. We are currently working on a similar welding opportunity and partnering with a local business to offer on-the-job training.

County: Shelby

Submitted by Cristina Marsh

Partner: AWAKE Ministries

How the partnership began: During a meeting in August with the AWAKE program director, we presented our programs and how we can help the clients and residents that AWAKE Ministry is serving. Most of the students recruited are recovering from addiction. Part of those students are residents at the facility. The rest of the students are community residents.

What the partnership provides:

- Space for our program to teach classes on site 2x per week
- Students (can be program residents, or community members.)
- Retention of students. All participants are mandated to attend GED® or Work Ready classes as part of their plan.

How the partnership benefits program and/or partner:

It helps us promote our services within the community, provides recruitment of students, and assists in retention. Most of the participants are court mandated as well, so it helps Probation and Parole, as well as judicial and drug court programs.

Comments: This has been a very successful program in the community. By partnering we have avoided duplication of services. Program clients have to receive an educational component, so Skills U is a natural fit.

County: McCreary

Submitted by Martha Ball

Partner(s): WIOA Partners – Office for Vocational Rehabilitation and Kentucky Career Center

How the partnership began: This partnership began in an effort to provide Kentuckians with adult education to help prepare them with career and college readiness skills, along with workforce preparation skills and training.

What the partnership provides: This partnership provides participants the opportunity to move from adult education to earning their high school equivalency diplomas and transition to postsecondary education and training and/or living wage jobs. WIOA reinforces the partnerships and strategies necessary to provide job seekers and workers with the high-quality career services, education and training, and supportive services they need to get good jobs and stay employed.

How the partnership benefits program and/or partner(s): Our WIOA partners refer students to Adult Education for assessment testing. Our Adult Education program offers these participants tutoring, GED® attainment, adult education classes, and opportunities for work ready certifications, such as the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) and the Kentucky Essential Skills Certificate (KESC). Together, the services provided serve to reach beyond the GED® diploma into preparing students for college and the training needed to secure employment.



Spotlight on Partnerships, continued

County: Union

Submitted by Melissa Thomas

Partner: Union County Farm Bureau and Insurance Services

How the partnership began: The partnership began when a board member overheard my budget inquiries to State Representative Suzanne Miles. The next week, Ben Dossett and Mark Powell contacted me about the possibility of helping qualified students pay for the GED® test.

What the partnership provides: Union County Farm Bureau provides GED® scholarships to any individuals that are fully enrolled and have passed all of the GED Ready® tests.

How the partnership benefits program and/or partner(s): Since Union County Farm Bureau began its generous partnership, Union County has met all state goals for GED® and Academic Performance. Union County Farm Bureau has a strong desire to help strengthen their community that they serve. Mark Powell and I feel that providing individuals the means to get their diplomas will help them become good citizens and provide for their families.

Comments: Most students who need a GED® diploma need it to be able to qualify for a decent job. Most do not have the \$120 that is required to take the test because of economic challenges.

County: Pendleton

Submitted by JoEllen Mitchell

Partner: Pendleton County Judge Executive and Fiscal Court

How the partnership began: For the last 20 years, our adult education program has always communicated regularly with the Judge Executive and Fiscal Court to keep them informed of program successes and challenges.

What the partnership provides: The AE Director has been included with business and industry visits for the last 12+ years and is able to learn the needs of the businesses and share AE services. The fiscal court has continued to provide financial assistance for the adult education program, which for the last several years has provided assistance with the cost of GED® vouchers and transportation costs in transporting students to test centers. This helps to remove any barriers for the students to complete their GED® testing.

How the partnership benefits program and/or partner: As mentioned above, the business and industry visits and the financial assistance help both the fiscal court and students.

Comments: This has been a tremendous asset to the program and community.



Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much. - Helen Keller

If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself. - Henry Ford

Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean. - Ryunosuke Satoro

No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it. - H.E. Luccock



..... Student Spotlight: Esther Kirk, Martin County

Martin County GED® graduate Esther Kirk, 71, left school after eighth grade. Because of this, Esther says, “I always felt beneath everyone else.” Esther, who got married at age 14 and had her first child at age 16, raised her own three kids, as well as her younger sister, whom Esther took on when her mother died. Additionally, Esther says that she took care of many of the children in her family, too – watching as many as 10 kids in her house at a time.

“I never went to prom, never went to high school, never really had a childhood,” Esther says. When her husband died 12 years ago, Esther began doing volunteer work and eventually got a paying job through the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) at the Big Sandy Area Community Action Program. Through her work in the SCSEP, she learned about

her local Skills U program, where she studied for two-and-a-half years before earning her GED® diploma, learning things she never imagined she would.

She says, “Back 50 years ago, I just heard the name ‘algebra’ – now I can do it!” About her experience with the Skills U staff, she says, “They were great! It was like family.” Esther says, “When Donnie (an instructor) came in and said I *passed* the (GED®) test, I nearly *passed* out!” Now, Esther, who will begin taking college classes soon, says, “I feel like I hold my head higher than anyone. If it rains, I’ll drown!”

Esther, who now works helping kids through the Sheldon Clark High School resource center, has these words of wisdom about earning a GED® diploma: “It’s never too late – NEVER too late – and it’ll make you feel great.”



Student success stories run every Monday on [Facebook](#). Submit your own via our [submission templates](#)!