



National Institute for Literacy

Literacy Information and Communication System (*LINCS*)

February 2010

LINCS Resource Collections



Basic Skills



Program Management



Workforce Competitiveness

Welcome to *LINCS* Resource Collection News!

In this edition, we feature the [Workforce Competitiveness Collection](#), which covers Workforce Education, English Language Acquisition, and Technology. Each month, Collections News features one of the three *LINCS* Resource Collections – Basic Skills, Program Management, and Workforce Competitiveness – and introduces research-based resources that you can use in your adult basic education and family literacy programs and classrooms.

What's New in the Workforce Competitiveness Resource Collection?

Many adult learners have employment goals, from preparing to enter the workforce to improving skills that can lead to a better job. Resources in the Workforce Competitiveness Collection – research-based products and materials, and research papers – can help you expand and improve work-based basic skills classes offered to adults. Discussion lists also are available, providing a forum through which you can ask questions and share ideas with colleagues across the country. For free subscriptions to the Workforce Competitiveness, Technology and Distance Learning, and Adult English Language Acquisition discussion lists, go to <http://www.nifl.gov/lincs/discussions/discussions.html>.

Additional workforce education resources, organized by career clusters or occupational categories, can be found in the newly launched [Career Pathways Instructional Materials Library](#). Professionals in state adult education departments shared these examples as online materials that their teachers use in the classroom to build basic skills and prepare adults for success at work. Most of these materials are not reviewed by the Collection's external content experts; an asterisk marks those that have been externally reviewed and are also available in the Resource Collection.

The new Career Pathways Instructional Materials Library includes, for example, Virginia Adult Learning Center's [Building Basics: ESOL Toolkit for General Construction, Landscaping, Painting, and Plumbing](#). This instructional package covers four topics; each contains four or five lessons and includes activities designed for different proficiency levels. Each lesson also provides a facilitator guide and materials, and student handouts.

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While this resource has not been externally reviewed, the [Embedded Learning Portal](#) has been externally reviewed and is included in the Workforce Education Collection. The United Kingdom Department for Education and Schools developed this resource that includes various work-related basic skills curricula embedded in the context of jobs in specific industry clusters.

It is often difficult for teachers to integrate technology into their classes. [Under Construction: Building Web Sites as a Project-Based Learning Activity for ABE/ESOL Classes: Tips for Teachers](#) offers some simple, user-friendly guidance on using project based instruction and technology to build a Web site with students. You might consider having students in a work preparation class develop a Web site that includes information on work skills. A project such as this would include content of interest to adult learners and help them build communication, math, and problem- solving skills.

How can I learn more about the Workforce Competitiveness Resource Collection?

Visit the [Workforce Competitiveness Collection](#) for additional resources. Contact the Workforce Competitiveness Collection content experts for additional information and to learn more about the resources, technical assistance, and professional development opportunities that are available at no cost: Workforce Education – Wendy McDowell, wlm12@psu.edu and Priscilla Carman, psc3@psu.edu; English Language Acquisition – Blaire Willson Toso, bwt121@psu.edu; and Technology – Tim Ponder, tponder@literacy.kent.edu.

What is LINCS?

LINCS is a service of the National Institute for Literacy, providing online information and communication networks for adult and family literacy practitioners. LINCS' offerings include Discussion Lists, Regional Resource Centers, the Collections, and training opportunities. Learn more about LINCS on the Web site <http://www.nifl.gov/lincs>.

What will I find in the New LINCS Resource Collections?

The three *new* [LINCS Resource Collections](#), expanded this year, are comprised of items that have completed a rigorous internal and external review. Use these resources directly in the classroom or to guide development of customized programs and classes. You can find more information about the new Resource Collections on the Institute's [Web site](#).