



# National Institute for Literacy

## Literacy Information and Communication System (*LINCS*)

June 2010

### *LINCS* Resource Collections



#### Basic Skills



#### Program Management



#### Workforce Competitiveness

### Welcome to *LINCS* Resource Collection News!

Each month, we will feature one of the three *LINCS* Resource Collections—Basic Skills, Program Management, and Workforce Competitiveness—and introduce research-based resources that you can use in your adult and family literacy programs and classrooms. This edition features the [Program Management Collection](#), which covers the topics of Assessment, Learning Disabilities, and Program Improvement.

**Save the date** for an upcoming guest discussion on the [Professional Development Discussion List—Using Social Media in Teaching and Professional Development](#)—July 12–August 6, 2010. Technology has changed what it means for learning communities to “be together.” Digital tools are now an important part of teaching, learning, and professional development. But how do you keep pace with it all? Join Nell Eckersley, Jackie Taylor, and other guests, to explore popular social media tools available to you and how they may be used in teaching and professional development. Then sign up for a small group to learn how to use the social media tool of your choice. Learn alongside others and share ideas for teaching and learning. Small groups then share back what they learned with the [Technology](#) and [Professional Development](#) Lists.

### What’s New in the Program Management Resource Collection?

[Guidance and Career Counselors’ Toolkit: Advising High School Students with Disabilities on Postsecondary Options](#) is a toolkit intended to help guidance and career counselors to better assist high school students with disabilities to transition into postsecondary education and employment. Adults with learning disabilities and their supporters will also find the information and resources valuable in planning for entering postsecondary education and for career preparation.

[One Step Forward Initiative - Guide to Adult Education for Work: Transforming Adult Education to Build a Skilled Workforce](#) is a guide (based on background and research from the One Step Forward Initiative) that informs practitioners, policymakers, and employers about strategies and practices that transform their adult education programs into effective programs that transition low-skilled adults to work and postsecondary programs.

## LINCS Regional Resource Centers

### Region 1

Kaye Beall  
Boston, MA  
kaye\_beall@  
worlded.org

Tim Ponder  
Kent, OH  
tponder@  
literacy.kent.edu

### Region 2

Beth Ponder  
Knoxville, TN  
baponder@  
utk.edu

### Region 3

Paul Heavenridge  
Oakland, CA  
pheaven@  
literacyworks.org

The authors approach, “adult education for work,” describes how a career pathways system could be structured by focusing on program quality elements in seven areas: Program Design, Curriculum and Instruction, Assessment and Credentialing, High-Quality Teaching, Support and Follow-Up Services that Encourage Access and Retention, Connections to the Business Community, and Monitoring and Accountability Systems. Also included in the *Guide* are benchmarks of promising practices and a self-assessment tool that program administrators can use to evaluate their program and plan strategically for needed change.

[Some Consequences of Writing Assessment](#) is an article that reviews research on ways that writing assessments in the United States have affected the way writing is taught. The author focuses on writing assessments given at the end of high school, but the points she makes are applicable to the adult literacy classroom. Tests may be high stakes for teachers and administrators but not for students. High stakes writing tests may be multiple choice, essay, or a combination of the two. High stakes writing tests usually have an impact, or “backwash” on writing curriculum and instruction. The kind of “backwash” depends on the kind of assessment.

### How can I learn more about the Program Management Resource Collection?

Visit the Program Management Collection at [http://www.nifl.gov/lincs/resource-collections/RC\\_planning.html](http://www.nifl.gov/lincs/resource-collections/RC_planning.html) for additional resources. Contact the Program Management 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. Assessment—Marie Cora, [marie.cora@hotspurpartners.com](mailto:marie.cora@hotspurpartners.com); Learning Disabilities—Aaron Kohring, [akohring@utk.edu](mailto:akohring@utk.edu); Program Improvement—Gail Cope, [gcope@utk.edu](mailto:gcope@utk.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](#).