EOC Community Partner Spotlight

Goodwill Industries of Arkansas is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. They help people with disabilities and other disadvantages reach their highest potential through training, education and employment services. "Donate, Shop, Change a Life!" is more than just a tagline - it’s how they have been operating for over 85 years. Their programs and services offer a hand up, not a hand out. Sometimes that hand up is resume development or job placement assistance. Other times, the hand up comes in the form of education or training programs. The number of transformed lives is more than just glowing statistics; they are actual stories of people who turned their lives around and discovered their potential. When you support Goodwill by donating to or shopping at stores in your neighborhood, you support their mission and make a lasting impact in your community by changing lives.

Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy (WAGE)

Goodwill works in conjunction with Arkansas WAGE to offer a work-readiness program designed to ensure that unemployed and underemployed Arkansans have the skills necessary to be successful in the workplace. WAGE provides training and certification in employability, industrial and clerical skills. The training is free and open to the public.

WAGE Classes Include:
• GED Instruction
• Keyboarding
• Job Preparation
• Basic Computer Literacy

WAGE Certifications Include:
• Clerical
• Industrial
• Employability
• Career Readiness

EOC Saturday Hours

EOC will continue its extended business hours on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. starting October 10th.

You can schedule an appointment to see a counselor, set-up a tutoring appointment or come in and utilize the lab and other services available.

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Becoming Computer Literate

Are you the kind of person who has absolutely no idea how to use a computer? Someone who has never touched a computer before and just got here by luck? This article will help you become computer literate.

**Find a real person to help you; not just someone online**

Some good people to ask are your own kids. They know a lot about the computer, but they may be annoyed if you ask too much. Also, check out some books at the library about computers. There are a couple of good books out there.

**Learn the basic steps to get on the computer**

Learn how to turn the computer on, off, on standby if applicable, how to log off if using Windows XP, and how to put discs in the disc drive.

**Learn about the assorted programs and applications that you will be using**

Install them on the computer by placing the CD into the disc drive, and following the installation wizard that pops up on the screen. After installing, play around with the application. This will help you understand the program better.

**Learn a little about some of the chat jargon or chatspeak**

Some examples are "lol" (laugh out loud), and "btw" (by the way). You won't really need to worry about Elite speak, as it was mainly used by hackers and crackers in the 1990s. Now it is mainly used by "wannabe" hackers, so you are most likely safe. Check out the external links for more information. Also, remember that this will help you figure out what you children are saying online when they send you IMs, or instant messages.

**Set up an email account**

This is required to register with just about any website that allows posting messages (ie: forums, blogs, and sites with built-in chat rooms or IRC clients). Find a free email provider you like such as Google, Yahoo, Hotmail, or AOL. Sign up using their instructions.

**Learn a little about bad people online**

First, there are pedophiles which are a danger to your kids. There are also scams, viruses, cookie grabbers, and Trojan horses. See external links for more info. Also, always keep your computer up to date with security patches and other updates. Learn to recognize spam and forged emails some of which can look very real. Learn about money mule scams so that you do not fall for them.

Tips on Improving Reading Skills

“Today a Reader, Tomorrow a Leader”
Margaret Fuller

1. **Preview the text to get an overall idea of what it's about.** Read the chapter titles and section headings. Look over the photographs or illustrations and any sidenotes or special features in the margins.

2. **Focus your reading by deciding on a purpose.** Read the chapter titles and section headings.

3. **Keep track of what you read by taking notes.** There are a variety of ways to take notes. Some people prefer to jot down important ideas in a notebook. Others might create an outline.

4. **Mark the text in your book.** If you own the book and are comfortable with writing in it, use a highlighter to capture key ideas.

5. **Be certain you've understood what you've read by stopping after each chunk of text and summarize the main ideas.** If you're working in a study group, stop after each paragraph and have each person write a summary of the paragraph. Then compare summaries so no one misses any key points.

6. **Paraphrase bits of text, especially those that are difficult to understand.** When you paraphrase something, you essentially translate it into your own words.

7. **Stop and look up a word only if knowing the word is essential to understanding the text.** If the sentence still makes sense even if you do not know the word, skip it and keep on reading. If you're curious about the word, look it up later, but don't let it interfere with your reading.

8. **Ask questions about things you don’t understand.** One way to do this is to jot questions down on sticky notes and stick them in the margin of the text. Then look for the answers to the questions as you continue reading.

9. **Read critically, or question the text.** Look for the main points the author of the text is trying to make. Ask yourself if the main ideas of the text are supported with evidence and if the evidence is logical and reliable.

10. **Reread the text.** You don't have to reread the whole text, especially if it's very long, but you will benefit from re-reading sections that are either very complicated or that you had a lot of questions about.

Read more: [http://www.ehow.com/how_4472103_improve-college-reading-skills-10.html#ixzz124xPgxBA](http://www.ehow.com/how_4472103_improve-college-reading-skills-10.html#ixzz124xPgxBA)
Things to Do

TRIO Student Support Services Program

Student Support Services (SSS) seeks to motivate students toward the successful completion of their post-secondary education. The goal of the program is to increase participants’ college persistence, support them through graduation, and facilitate the transition from one level of higher education to the next. For more information about the University of Arkansas at Little Rock’s SSS program contact Crista Gray at 501.569.3052 and for more information about the Pulaski Technical College SSS/TRIO Scholars program contact Mary Kate Snow at 501.812-2721.

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