

Adult Education Students Give Advice

As a student attending the adult education, I have a few hints of advice for new students. My first tip is that it is always best to come to class prepared. It's always a rough day when you come into class with no paper, pencil, or maybe even your cup of coffee. These things can lead to your entire day just falling apart, but if you get your cup of coffee, study for that test, and bring that extra pencil and paper, things might just seem a little brighter. Then you have the attitude. If you're not willing to learn, then you're not going to learn. You're here for one reason, and you know what that reason is. So, wake up, breathe in that morning air, and say to yourself, "I'm ready to learn." Then go for it!

Lastly, smile. That's it. Just smile. It makes you happy; it makes your teachers happy and maybe even one of your classmates. So, come to class prepared, have a positive attitude, and smile. These are the things you need for adult education.

Sierra Jarrett, Student

Some advice I would give to a new or prospective student or Adult Education teacher would be to stay calm. Starting at a new school, for whatever reason it might be, and having a new student can be scary. I believe that if you stay calm and flow with the water everything will go smoothly. Just come in here and be yourself. Don't be frightened to show who you are. We are all here to help you, teachers and students. It is your education and dream that you are here to follow, not anyone else's. Teachers, when new students come in all you can do is

be patient and let them settle. In due time, they will be up and ready to face this world, and you will know that you are one of the many who helped them get back on their feet. This would be my advice that I would give to a new or prospective student or Adult Education teacher.

Cassandra Kocab, Student



Students Cassy Kocab and Sierra Jarrett give advice to students and staff.

Here's some advice for new or prospective students and or Adult Ed teachers alike. The majority of these appeal to both sides. You just keep an open mind and be willing to learn. If YOU don't want to do it, plain and simple. You have to want it. Also, be patient. If you get irritated at any point in time, just take a break. The teachers

have things to do too; you're not their only priority. And lastly, use your time wisely. Why even be here if you're not going to put forth the effort? Don't waste yours or anyone else's time. Get the most out of this experience as possible; otherwise, you'll regret it.

Zach Bradley, Student

At first, school may seem overwhelming. If your heart is in it, it will be a breeze. To make this school thing work, you have to communicate with your superiors. The counselors and teachers are very understanding and supporting. You are here to learn at your own pace and time. You make your school schedule work around your schedule. For whatever reason that you come back to school, stick to it. You will feel good about yourself, and you will have a better life. Learning is so much fun.

Olivia Garcia, Student

To Advise and...

Advice for Students and Staff

I would recommend adult education to people interested in expanding their knowledge. At first, I was skeptical of adult education because it's free education. I thought it would be a program that someone just threw together. I was surprised to find out the teachers are here for you and take one-on-one time to answer questions. I feel confident when going to school that I will achieve my goals. I like that the classes are self-paced, so there is less pressure. Also the classes are flexible, so I can work part time to help pay bills. This program is for everyone of any age; therefore, I would only say beneficial things about adult education to others.

Katy Miller, Student

To begin with, education is always important. No matter what age you are, you are always capable of learning something new. Returning to school is an excellent choice. Whether you are going back to get your GED or exploring a new career, there are many options available. As a matter of fact, Adult Education, is a great place to start. They are willing to work with you and your schedule. It may take some getting used to, but once you get back into a routine, it will get easier. The teachers are very helpful, and you can go at your own pace. Personally, I'm happy I made the decision to better myself and continue my education. If I can do it, you can too!

Brandi Sanchez, Student

The advice that I can give to a new or prospective students is this. First, you have to ask yourself, "Do I want to improve my skills and why?" For me, I want to be a more academically educated person, so I will be more confident in the work world. That will give me more choices in life. Second, if you enroll with Lincoln Center it is very important to be committed and punctual. Some advice that I can give to the teachers are when giving a spelling test to a student, it would be much better if it was more private than open to the classroom. It can be embarrassing to students because we may feel inadequate. I know that I do. But overall, the teachers are great, helpful, and understanding. I know for me this has been a good decision, and in the long run, it's going to benefit myself and help other students too.

Tina Anderson, Student

After being out of school for more than thirty some years, it has been a struggle. Trying to remember things takes a lot longer than it used to. I use index cards to help me study. I have to have it quiet in order to maintain a good study habit.

I just keep thinking of the end results and keep my goals in sight. My eight-year-old grandson told his classmates that he had a cool nana because even being old, I can still study with him and pass my tests.

Tracy Reeves, Student

This is my first time taking the opportunity to transition to further education. I am finding out that the Lincoln Adult Education Center has a lot of opportunities for all kinds of people to succeed in life. I have learned a lot in the short time I have been here. The teachers I have met are dedicated, and I can see they put their heart in what they do. I encourage others to look into what the Lincoln Adult Education Center offers.

Tina Hoiness, Student

Since I myself was both a new and returning student to the Adult Education program, I can understand how a new student might feel. With the pressure of trying to make a good first impression, meeting new people, and doing whatever else comes along with it, it can be hard to return to school. Some advice I'd give to a new or returning student is to feel confident about yourself, believe you can do it, and also know that the teachers know what they're doing. As for the teachers, try to establish a productive, healthy, happy relationship with your students. You can handle the rest.

Carlos Close, Student

As an Adult Education Student you have to stay focused. Attending the educational programs offered by the Lincoln Center is a privilege and all should keep that in mind. The primary purpose of the programs and adult education is just that – education. Applying themselves to the best of their ability and gaining skills and knowledge that will potentially aid them in their future for either more education such as college or employment should be the goal for students. Therefore, I would advise all students to keep their focus on the primary, education, and not the secondary, social.

Faith Rae, Student

The advice I would give to anybody about Adult Ed would be the first day seems the shortest! Do not let people tell you it's more dramatic and harder than it is. I think GED classes are like anything else that has a goal. You have to try to always be here, be determined, pay attention, and get your work done. If you follow all that, your goal will eventually pan out!

Tevin Kukowski, Student

**The secret in education
lies in respecting the student.
Ralph Waldo Emerson**

to Learn

School: A Good Decision

I decided to return back to school because I need more help to learn more about English and math. The English and math right now are a bit new to me and before I came here, I never knew about cause and effects, simplifying, rulers, fractions, thermometer, writing, and the main idea.

It affects me big time. I am really happy to be here and to learn more. I enjoy meeting new people, and I'm glad to see the English and math teachers are safe and doing their job right.

Darin Standoverbull, Student

In my opinion, our educations are never finished so long as we live. Each and every day we learn something new, even when we don't realize it.

Theodore Roosevelt once said, "The more we know about the past, the better prepared we are for the future." I decided to take his advice on my education. It seems that every day I am challenged in a new way. So if I learn new things in school, I'll be more prepared for something just around the corner.

Through Adult Education, I hope to prepare for important things throughout my life like college, a job, and getting married. Perhaps someday I will be able to teach my children what I have learned in the past, so I can prepare them for the future.

Justin Nelson, Student

Returning to school wasn't really an option. In high school I felt it being forceful and wasn't really giving my best effort. As school dragged on, so did my schoolwork.

As I got older, I noticed it helped a lot more to have some kind of education. It especially was important if I wanted a good job. It's also important to have the GED or diploma if I ever want to start college.

Realizing the importance of school and how far a GED can get me really motivated me to return to school. Starting school again has really affected me in more positive way. I'm more focused and motivated on my work than I was in high school.

Arlen Plainfeather, Student

Technology: Good and Bad

Using technology as a source of communication has taken the human factor out of communications. Since the arrival of electronic mail and chat programs during the mid to late 1980's, these communications have become more popular. However that popularity has come at a cost, the loss of personal contact. Reliance on this technology can become a hindrance to those who know of nothing else. Learning to use other means of communication, such as written letters and reports, would be essential should the technology fail.

Steve Huber, Student

Today, technology affects everyone, including those who do not use it. For example, cell phones have saved lives. Without them, some people would never have been found after a crash or getting lost. Personally, I love the internet because I am able to keep in touch with many people all over the world without ever making a phone call. When my son was in Iraq, he was able to see his family while talking to them online. In many ways, telecommunications has changed our lives; however, we must remember we could lose technology at any time.

Diane Dopp, Student

I love using technology to communicate. I am on the computer or texting a lot of the time. My laptop that I got for my birthday is my favorite, though, by far. I have Google Chrome, one of the fastest Internet browsers, so I can do a lot of things at once. I can be on Facebook in one tab talking to my family down South, Myspace in another tab talking to my friends, and on Twitter in a third tab alerting my followers to what I am doing. However, if I want to talk to one of my friends and they are not on-line, I can always text them using my cellphone which is good because some of my friends still don't have the Internet.

Victoria Swearingin, Student

Welcome Christie Arnold!

Billings Adult Education is fortunate to have Billings Public Schools veteran teacher Christie Arnold join its staff. Christie has taught English/Communication Arts at Billings Senior High, the Freshman Academy, and Transitions. She also has shared her many talents with the Billings community by directing plays and musicals at Billings Senior High and performing at various venues. Playing golf and spending quality time with her husband are some of her favorite pastimes. And now she has one more item to add to her list of favorite things - being a part of the Adult Education program.



To Reflect and...

Positive Influences

I have always told stories about my friend Kris. The most important lesson from her, and it's one everyone needs to learn, is that a person will not feel like a nerd or unpopular as long as they have at least one good friend. Kris and I are as it is said "Partners in crime". We met the first day of fourth grade and know every secret that each has. I know she will never tell, and she knows the same about me. We have lived states apart several times, and no matter when we answer the phone, it's like the conversation picks up right where it left off. Our kids are similar in age. We gained weight together. We helped each other through the loss of parents and rotten divorces, but when we went to see "Mama Mia" together, one would have a hard time telling who was singing the loudest.

When my daughter sighs and says, "Where did you get that shirt?" I can confidently say, "Kris. She has one just like it." We fell in love with boys, giggled at the same jokes, and cried the same tears. If someone were to ask me if I have a sister, Kris would be the one I'd call. She is as close as a sister, and my three brothers could never fill her fuzzy slippers! Here's to you Kris; have a cup of coffee on me. I could really use a juicy story to make my day!

Angela Snyder, Student

The most important person in my life was my dad, Harry Littlebird. He was my best friend and always there for me. The one thing he wanted was for me to graduate from high school. He would stress the importance of getting that high school diploma, often reminding me that the diploma was my ticket to many opportunities such as going on to college, a trade school, or just to get off the reservation. I was moved around when I was a teenager and became rebellious. I dropped out of school when I was 16 years old and got my GED. Being my best friend that he was, he never made it known to me that I must have disappointed him tremendously. In my heart I know that he smiles down at me and is very proud of me still for returning to school. I think about him daily and miss him dearly.

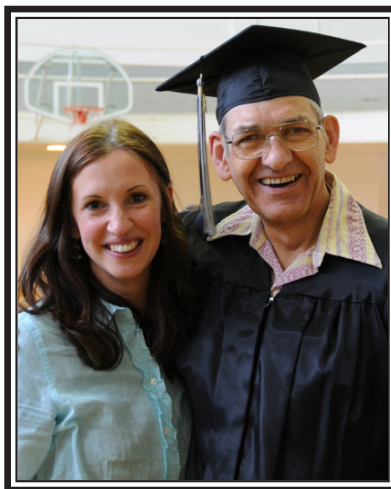
Theresa Littlebird, Student

My mom is the person who has had the most positive influence in my life. I get along with my mom, and we have a wonderful relationship. My mom is my best friend. I can talk to my mom about anything and she understands me totally.

She always has been helping throughout my life. Since I was a child, my mom took care of me at home and helped with my school issues. She taught me the importance of education and she gave me the inspiration to finish a career.

She always is able to listen to me when I have problems. I have learned from my mother to be a patient person, responsible and thankful with God. My mom taught me important lessons which guide my life in a better way.

Lilliana Chaves, Student



My sister Cindy has been through a lot in her life. She has learned to be a strong and determined person. She tells me that you can do things that you never thought you could if you just try. I give up before I get started. I have been through a long messy divorce after 27 years, so I don't have a very positive outlook on life. She has pushed me to think more positively and to go on and get my GED. She wants the best for me. She wants me to be happy. At 52 years old I want to figure out what I want to be when I grow up. I've raised four kids, and they all went on to be happy adults. So now it's my turn.

Susan Juelg, Student

There was a time, roughly three years ago, that I hated myself and who I had become. I came to the point that I wanted to take my own life, and that's where my brother came in. His name is Josh. He is twenty-four, with downs syndrome, and is mentally five or six. If anything were to happen to me, he wouldn't understand why I was gone. He loves not only me, but everyone around him, unconditionally. Not

many of us experience that kind of love, and even fewer love others as we should. Josh has taught me and everyone around me the value of life by showing us how to love. I only wish that I can someday share this wonderful gift he has given me. That gift is honestly what has kept me alive, which is why Josh is the most important person in my life.

Jazzmin Rollins, Student

My mother is a wonderful influence on me. She has always cared, loved, and aided me through the years. I appreciate all she has done for me.

When I'm troubled, she comforts me and helps me with my problems. When I do something good, she tells me how proud she is of me. If I do something wrong, she talks it out with me and makes sure I don't make the same mistakes again.

When I started the GED program, my mother couldn't find my paperwork. She felt terrible after trying so hard to find it. We decided after she calmed down to just fill out new paperwork. Getting my GED was so important to her.

Mom used to make me soup when I was sick. One day, I had fallen down the stairs and had been wounded on my forehead. When she saw that, she took good care of me and my wound until it was a healthy scab. This year, I had to go to the hospital due to my kidney being full of staff infection. I was there for two and a half weeks, and so was my mother. She stayed with me every night until I could go home. Mom also helped me walk when I was too weak from lying in the hospital bed for so long.

I love my mother with all my heart. She has loved, cared, and aided me through my years, and I now know how to do the same when I have my own children. I hope to be just as good of a mother as my own is.

Samantha Rowe, Student

to Influence

Positive Influences

Kayla has inspired me from the first time she spoke to me. Both of us spent hours together just talking till two in the morning. Kayla had school five hours later but didn't seem to care. She made me realize that being awake and enjoying life is better than sleeping your life away. All I used to do was sleep all the time, but now I do better with my time because of her.

Kayla worked two jobs and also went to Cosmetology school. I don't know very many eighteen year olds that are so busy, they have no time in their day for much of anything. I didn't even know that was possible. I have been working since I was seventeen but nothing like what she has done to prepare for her future. Her mother pushes education on her. Success is her only option, and I have never been influenced like that.

I started thinking about my future because she would talk to me about it, asking me what I want to do with the rest of my life because I never really cared much. I started to go to school, and I also enjoy life more, work hard, and plan on being a physical therapist. Kayla has been a big inspiration in my life.

Toni Wheeler, Student

The one person who has had the most positive influence on me in my life is Meribel Villafranca. Over the course a year, she helped me to find the courage to process family and abuse issues from my childhood, while always reminding me to be honest

and accountable. During this entire process, I was dealing with alcohol and drug addiction; hence, I was less than perfect. She never thought less of me or passed judgement on me, which I will be forever grateful for.

Thanks to her I've made real progress. I've known joy and peace of mind for the first time in 39 years. I've been sober for the first time in my life, and I'm preparing for college.

Karen Damron, Student

My husband has helped me with many things. I had gotten into some trouble in 2001. I had re-met my husband upon my release from prison in 2003. I was going through some very difficult times, and with his help I was able to stay clean. He also brought me back to my faith. Due to a previous marriage, which I must say was horrible, I had learned (or so I thought) that all men were like my ex-husband. Boy, was I WRONG! My current husband taught me how to trust, communicate, and love again. Before my husband, I trusted no one, loved very few, and didn't talk to anyone I didn't know. Recently, I was diagnosed with Lupus, and once again I was shown that unconditional love and support. Of all the men I have dated in the past, my husband has been the most supportive, while others would have walked out.

Kerry Huber, Student



Apple Cobbler

Warm apple cobbler
Sits cooling on the counter
Made fresh from the tree

Tim Kiser, COT Student

Octoberfest

Halloween scarecrows
Glistening spiderwebs in the moonlight
Pumpkins on hay bales

Heather Perez, COT Student

Autumn Football

Football nights
The wildness of the season
Faces autumn coldness

Wence Antonio, COT Student

Thanksgiving Feast

Family can't be beat
Turkey, mashed potatoes, sweet!
Yummy food I like to eat

Jessica Green, COT Student

Autumn Turns

Leaves fade in color
Gliding and swirling they fall
The season turns cold and soon snow falls

Alexa Hould, COT Student

Snow

Shiny snow falling
Above Heaven's crystal skies
Gazing fine like you

Tyler Neafus, COT Student

Autumn Leaves

Bounty of colors
Gliding, swirling in rhythm
Settling in repose

Liz Wynegar, COT Instructor

Autumn Winds

Blowing always
Bringing in the winter snows
Chilly and crisp

Darryl Azure, COT Student

Caramel Apples

Sticky green apple
Goey, gloppy, clingy teeth
What a tasty treat

Diana Langve, COT Student

Autumn

Autumn equinox
Not shortest or longest day
Just right length of day

Kathie Daviau, COT Instructor

Autumn

Golden autumn leaves
Picking pinecones among wood
Little voices of joy

Carmen Estrada, COT Student

Autumn's Drink

Apple cider boiling
The aroma consumes our home
Falls delightful treat

Katie Vogl, COT Student

To Search and...

Autumn Landscape

Autumn winds blowing
Falling leaves crisp and crunchy
Blanket of colors

Amber Baker, COT Student

Halloween

Cobwebs and colors
Bring the perfect Halloween
With pumpkins and sweets

Kayla Saunders, COT Student

Make Believe

October Halloween
Pumpkins and spiderwebs
Scarecrows and costumes

Brian Bentley, COT Student

Hunting in Autumn

Trick-or-treat tonight
Going on a midnight stroll
Cool nights on the rise

Adrian Demontiney, COT Student



Autumn

A time for harvest
Trees, leaves transforming color
Enjoying turkey

Steve Diaz, COT Student

Spider's Web

Little black spider
Working so hard on your web
On a cold fall day

Talitha GoesAhead, COT Student

Autumn Chill

Falling leaves, cool chill
With crisp leaves and snow to follow
Starts the October season

Ceaira Henrichs, COT Student

Autumn

Brown falling acorns
Crispy, crunchy tumbling leaves
Autumn approaching

Haylee Ryan, COT Student

FREE Job Search Strategy Class: Friday Mornings in Room 114

All Adult Education students can now attend **free** two-hour discussion sessions where we will explore successful strategies and answer questions about cover letters, resumes, job applications, and interview questions on **Friday mornings in Room 114**. Handouts for these classes provide sample documents as well as remind you of job search strategy. You can begin work on your cover letter, resume, job application, and interview questions during class with the opportunity to return to Room 114 for additional assistance at your convenience. Mark your calendar and bring your flash drive to save your work. No need to sign up or register. Join us when your schedule allows! We look forward to seeing you in class!

November 4, 2011	8:00 to 10:00 am	Job Application
November 18, 2011	10:00 to noon	Interview Questions
December 9, 2011	8:00 to 10:00 am	Resume
January 6, 2012	8:00 to 10:00 am	Cover Letter
January 13, 2012	10:00 to noon	Job Application
January 20, 2012	10:00 to noon	Interview Questions
February 3, 2012	8:00 to 10:00 am	Resume
February 24, 2012	10:00 to noon	Cover Letter
March 9, 2012	8:00 to 10:00 am	Job Application
March 23, 2012	10:00 to noon	Interview Questions
April 13, 2012	8:00 to 10:00 am	Resume
April 27, 2012	10:00 to noon	Cover Letter
May 18, 2012	8:00 to 10:00 am	Job Application
June 1, 2012	10:00 to noon	Interview Questions

to Advance



Welcome

Welcome to Adult Education. We are your transition to further education, vocational training, better jobs, and personal growth. Adult Education has a very different educational approach than what you experienced in high school. This time, it's about your determining your own direction by personal goal setting. It's about:

- designing an individualized program knowing your goals
- determining what skills are needed for you to get to your goals
- finding out what your present academic skills are
- plugging the holes or skills gaps
- working with you to advance your progress and growth for goal attainment.

Risk and Investment

If you are looking for a get-ahead, a breakthrough, doing something different, trying a new career, getting ready for further schooling or skills training, it always involves taking a risk to try. It always means making a personal time investment. Being able to commit enough time to classes is extremely important for learner success.

Billings Adult Education is more than just GED's. We can help you earn a GED. Our students earn more than 150 GED's per year. We have been doing that for more than 35 years. We also do preparation for technical training, vocational schools, and college. Our Career Advancement Programs have emphases in both medical careers and business-technology applications. We help with looking for new job opportunities or more success on your current job. We are adult learner friendly for cost and scheduling to get you skills training of value. Adult Education is a foundation support for adults going to the next level of better employment opportunities.

Other Services as Opportunity

- Help with college applications and financial aid, Room 106 Michele Gasek, Educational Opportunities Center (EOC) counselor.
- Personal Employment Planning (PEP) students can set goals and develop or enhance real employability skills in resume completion, completion of job applications, how to write a letter of inquiry about employment, interview skills, and more. See counselors Char Hurd & Jim Frickle Room 108, Michelle Gasek Room 106, Suzette Fox Room 114, Career Advancement Room 107.
- Workforce Readiness Certification is done with the ACT WorkKeys testing on-site as part of Adult Education. This workplace readiness credential is valued by employers. It could be your "edge" in gaining employment. Adult Education teachers do a great job of preparing students to pass the ACT WorkKeys and it's all free.
- Introductory Computer technology skills training is free through enrollment in Adult Basic Literacy Education classes. Check with counselors for eligibility.

Beginning of a Brighter Future

Your success is our success. Billings Adult Education is all about helping you find opportunities and taking advantage of them. We are glad to be working with you. Use us as a better transition to your future.

Woody Jensen, Director

Student of the Week

Congratulations to the following students:

Annie Chief All Over	Nicholas Hagel
Bobbi Grinsteiner	Christina Chen
Evelyn Hammond	Tevin Kukowski

Expressions' articles have been proofread, not edited.

Calendar

November 23 - 27	No school
December 7	<i>Expressions</i> Deadline
December 23 - January 1	No school



Your Future?
What's Next?



Adult Education Center
Billings Public Schools
415 North 30th Street
Billings, MT 59101-1298

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #88
Billings, MT

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Adult Education Center Newsletter

Expressions

October/November 2011 Volume XXII Number 1