The Erlinda’s Wish Program

The Erlinda’s Wish Program began in the Fall of 2012. Housekeeping staff member Erlinda Castillo was interested in developing her computer and English Language skills, and the Office of Teacher Education Services and the Facilities Housekeeping and Special Events Department teamed up to design a course to meet the needs of the staff.

COEHD Office of Teacher Education Services’ Associate Dean of Teacher Education Dr. Blanche DesJean-Perrotta, Student Teaching Director Janet Scott, and Senior Program Coordinator Ilina Colemere helped organize the program with the approval and support of the Associate VP of Facilities, Dave Riker and the Housekeeping and Events Management staff.

Initially, there were four, one-hour long classes on Wednesdays throughout the fall and spring semester. Two of the classes were held in the afternoon and two in the evening. The participants had the opportunity to improve their computer skills as well as improve their English or Spanish language skills.

The initial objectives of the program included the following:

1. Basic computer skills
   - Turn on/off the computer; log on to the computer using username/password

2. Basic English Language Skills
     a. Describing People
     b. Life Events
     c. Interrogative sentences ~ what is his occupation? What is her occupation? Declarative sentences ~ He is a…., She is a…; Workplace proper names matching workplace with occupation; Phonemic awareness activity – counting the syllables in the words; Terms for describing people (Modeling, interacting)

3. Teacher created materials with an emphasis on computer terms and labels
   Beginning in the Fall 2013, there were four, one-hour long classes on Wednesdays throughout the fall. An additional class was added during the spring 2014 semester.

The objectives for the 2013/2014 semesters included the following:

1. Intermediate computer skills
   - Above computer adding advanced email tools and features, creating Word documents using full menu of insert tools, Internet search using browser, using jump drive to save images, documents

2. Basic English Language Skills
   - Materials:
     Teacher created materials with an emphasis on basic conversational vocabulary, phrases, sentences, job specific terms, response sentences to
commonly asked job related questions- Where is the Business Building…Where is the Library…, May I enter the office?

Purchased Ingles Sin Barreras - On-line registration for access to Daily vocabulary word, sentence, story Unit 1 Basic daily vocabulary
The Ingles Sin Barreras was released for class use in late March. The mastery of each unit of study is dependent on the learner; however, a month and a half to two months per unit of study is a generally accepted timeline.

Computer skill assessments were conducted Spring 2013 and again in the Fall 2013.

ESL assessments were conducted Spring 2014 with the initial use of the Ingles Sin Barreras Program.

Units of study for future computer classes and which still occur to this date include:

- Maintenance of basic computer skills
- Use of Microsoft Office Suite of Tools

Units of study for future ESL classes:

- Everyday language related to time, events, locations, health, work, transportation, and academics