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**MOUNT ROGERS**  
**Regional Adult Education Program**  
**www.mrraep.com 800-322-7748**



**Please Note the April GED testing dates**

**Bristol Public Library**

**April**

**5 Fri**

**20 Sat**

**30 Tues**

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**Galax/Crossroad**

**April**

**6 Sat**

**15 Mon**

**25 Thurs**

**Student Shout Out!**

**Rachel Moser**



Instructor Sue Dickens told us about “a wonderful example of an adult education student” that came to her class for the first time in early 2023. This student, Rachel Moser, was quick to want to share her story with us and it was evident how important Sue’s role was in her journey.

Rachel had been putting off getting her GED for some time. When 2023 started, she decided to “give it a try”. She said she is so glad that she did and feels that having Sue beside her was a “Godsend”! Rachel finished her GED in April and the NCRC in July of that year! She said that Sue was always there to give a gentle nudge that kept her pushing through. Rachel worked 2 jobs while pursuing these educational goals. With the support of her children and Sue, she felt she could do it, no matter what. Sue told her it was just like “*The Little Engine That Could*”

Rachel said that Sue introduced her to the People Inc. program that helps her learn budgeting and managing finances, prepare for interviews, and other soft skills.

Getting her GED and NCRC credentials through MRRAP gave Rachel the confidence to pursue Pharmacy Tech Certification at WCC this fall.

When asked what she would like others who need to get their GED to know she said, “Go for it! It is so worth it and don’t ever give up. Education is so



# Staff Spotlight!

## Krystal Landeros



**We are so excited to feature our talented staff! Our first staff member to bask in the spotlight is English as a Second Language (ESL) instructor, Krystal Landeros.**

**Krystal wanted to make a difference in the lives of adults who wanted to learn English and better their lives in the United States and has worked in Adult Ed on and off for 15 years. She believes ESL classes are for anyone who wants to not only learn English or improve speaking skills, but also for those searching for a community of encouragers and a family of friends to support one another.**

**Seeing students make connections, form friendships, and make progress with English skills motivates her to continue teaching. When asked what her biggest accomplishment with her time in adult education, she said “Witnessing students who are now able to communicate with their children's teachers, obtain great jobs, and feel confident just warms my heart!”**

**Donna Musick, who works with Krystal, says that she “goes above and beyond to help her students. She meets their needs in the classroom and outside of the classroom. She is truly dedicated to the success of her students.”**

visiting the beach with her entire extended family when she is not working.

Krystal wanted to be a writer since she first read the *Little House on the Prairie* series by Laura Ingalls Wilder. Publishing a children's book has always been on her bucket list and so she decided to make it happen. She said in the interview: "The one thing I urge anyone with aspirations to do, just jump in with both feet, don't wait on someone else to make your personal wishes come true. Take the chance and do what you can to fulfill your own hopes and dreams." After a year of collaborating with her stepdaughter in Mexico on the illustrations, she published her first book "The Boy With the Blue Guitar". If you would like to check it out it is available on Amazon and B&N. How cool is that!?

Krystal says, "I don't write or illustrate to appeal to the masses. I write and illustrate to preserve my own imagination and tales for my family and friends. My work is truly a work of heart and I have made the choice to be vulnerable and put it out there. If others happen to enjoy the stories, well that is all the better. I just hope others might find the inspiration to courageously step toward their own bucket list dreams as well."

## *FROM THE DESK OF..*

**SHANNON MUTTER**

**PROGRAM MANAGER**

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**Who is glad that Spring has sprung? I know that I am! Sunshine, green grass, and flowers all are such a welcome sight! Of course, with those things, it means things like mowing the grass, allergies, and that never-ending to do list you have been putting off due to the cold weather. I guess it is all how you look at it! Hopefully, you are choosing to stay positive and enjoy this wonderful season!**

**Like the Earth has its seasons, so do we at MRRAEP. Thankfully, with wonderful employees like you, this season is going pretty smooth. I want to thank you so much for being diligent and efficient about getting your paperwork in on time and keeping it up to date. Your efforts have made our job much easier in the office as we get ready for the new data system training! We are all hopeful about how the new system is going to make our jobs more streamlined so that we can focus on helping our students reach their educational and career goals.**



**April Reminders:**

- Keep filling in your attendance sheets and sending in aspds through dropbox.
- Keep encouraging students to get enough hours to posttest before the end of June. The contest is going great! We are seeing posttest scores and GAINS in MSG! Thank you!
- Take a look at your GED students and see how we can help them reach graduation before the end of June. We have Math tutors available, so please let us know if you have students who need this service. We are still in the middle of the GED Ready campaign, so make sure you are requesting GED ready vouchers as soon as students become eligible.
- If you have not already completed the end of year survey that I emailed out, please do so asap. We need to get the summer schedule out as soon as we can to all of our partners and students. Here is the link- let me know if you have trouble accessing the survey.

[END OF YEAR SURVEY](#)

**IMPORTANT NOTICES:**

**I am headed out of town from April 5-15 and will have limited access to email and text messages.** I will do my best to reply to any requests during this time, but if for some reason you need immediate assistance please email Brenda, Cindy or Kayla.

**Brenda, Shannon, and Kayla will be out of the office from April 16-18** for the data system training. Cindy will be in the office during these three days.

**The office will be closed on Friday, April 19 th.**

**Brenda Otey**

**Financial Manager**





**Shannon, Kayla, and I will be in Richmond April 16 th – April 19 th for training on the new data system. Cindy will be in the office those three days.**

**Locked out of your SSWS Dropbox or need your password reset? Good news, Kayla can now assist you with these needs.**

**Having somewhere to go is home – having someone to love is family. Having both is a blessing.**

**~ Unknown**

## **Kayla Hagy**

**Data Specialist**

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**Happy April**

**\*Here are your friendly monthly data reminders\***

**The data system is officially being migrated to the new system, so it is closed until after our training in April. Luckily for you all nothing changes on your end.**

**All March attendance and ASPD's for any student on your attendance that hasn't been submitted are still due by Friday April 5th.**

**You're still able to send ASPD's through dropbox as well.  
So don't worry none of that has changed.**

**I also wanted to add:**

**We've had SO many gains this month!**

*Candace had a student get a gain!*

*Debbie Roark had two students get a gain, one went from a level 3 to a level 5!!*

*Donna Sizemore had a student get a gain!*

*Kaitlyn had a student get a gain!*

*Sue Dickens had three students get a gain!*

*Mattie had a student get a gain & and GED completer!*

*Tamara had a GED Completer!*

**We've also had at least 10 students pass a GED test this month!**

**None of this would be possible without you all.**

**Thank you for all you do. I appreciate you all SO much!**

Hello  
*April*  
be blessed



**LORRAINE HEDGEPEETH**

**CINDY CAMPBELL**

**INSTRUCTIONAL SPECIALISTS**



[The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Adult Basic Skills Education](#)  
Great article to read.



[Chat GPT](#)  
Using it to create Lesson Plans.

# Artificial Intelligence

Are you familiar with Chat GPT. It is a the new wave of technology to assist even in education. ChatGPT is primarily used for natural language understanding and generation, making it valuable for tasks like content creation, chatbot development, language translation, and more. It can be used for a variety of tasks, and largely depends on how each user chooses to use it.

**Observations are coming up for the spring. Watch your email to confirm your date and time. College and career readiness pointers will also be sent to everyone. Please save these behind tab 7 in your electronic handbook.**

**GED has revamped some of its resources for teachers. Please take a look.**

[https://www.ged.com/educators-admins/teaching/teaching\\_resources/](https://www.ged.com/educators-admins/teaching/teaching_resources/)

**Hannah Ingram**

**Career Pathways Coordinator / IET Programming**

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VHCC is connecting community, students, & employers together

# Get HIRED!

Healthcare • Manufacturing • Logistics • Human Services  
Criminal Justice • Technology • Agriculture • Skilled Trades

**April 24, 2024 | 9am to 1pm**

Event located at Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center

### Career Seekers Giveaway!

All job seekers who attend will have a chance at winning a year of Black Card membership to Planet Fitness or a \$500 virtual gift card to Target!

Employers and Job Seekers,  
register at  
[vhccgethiredcareerfair.paperform.co](https://vhccgethiredcareerfair.paperform.co)

Details and instructions will  
be emailed upon registration.



Questions? Email [kviers@vhcc.edu](mailto:kviers@vhcc.edu) or call (276) 739-2445.



NEW RIVER | MOUNT ROGERS REGION





I'm happy to say my high school French classes somehow helped (as long as no one spoke too fast)! But it's always beautiful coming home to springtime in Appalachia...



# April

## 11th Shannon Mutter

Our mailing address is:  
1 PARTNERSHIP CIRCLE  
ABINGDON, VA 24210

