

DURANGO ADULT  
EDUCATION  
CENTER

*A caring learning community*  
701 Camino del Rio, Ste. 301  
Durango, CO 81301

Return Service Requested

## Upcoming Events

**November 11:**  
*3rd Annual Literacy Luncheon*

**December 16:**  
*GED Graduation*  
Durango Public Library  
6 - 7 pm

**January 27, 2016:**  
*Spellebration - Snowdown Spelling Showdown*  
Henry Strater Theatre  
5:30 - 7:30 pm

## Our Mission

The mission of the Durango Adult Education Center, a caring learning community, is to fill educational gaps by equipping adults, children and families with the skills and knowledge necessary for 21st century careers, post-secondary education, and social and economic mobility.

## Why I Volunteer

My name is Erin Brach and I have been volunteering at the Center for 2 years. We moved from Rochester, MN to Durango because my husband got a job here. When we moved here I was interested in getting involved in the community. After learning about the program and how important it is, I am glad that I can contribute to such a major milestone for these students.



I tutor GED students in math. I am an engineer by degree and have always enjoyed math, so tutoring in math is a natural fit for me. I try to relate the learning topics to real-world applications. I do this by asking the students questions about where they've seen a problem like that and also share my experiences where I have applied the topic. For example, my student asked me what a scalar factor was and we talked about maps having a scale on them to measure distance.

Everyone is so friendly and the Center is such a welcoming place to be. I appreciate the dedication from both the students and staff. I enjoy the positive impact I can make with the students in such a short period of time. I think that it is very special every time I work with a student and I see them really "get it" and solidify their understanding on the topic. It makes me smile to see the glitter of excitement in their face and eyes.

*Erin Brach, Volunteer*

# Declaration

Fall 2015 Newsletter of the Durango Adult Education Center



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*A caring learning community*



2014 GED graduate Crystal Willmett stopped by on her first day of classes at PCC in August



Students in class this fall

## Meeting a Regional Need - Serving Southwest CO

Program Expansion

The Durango Adult Education Center is always striving to fulfill the adult education needs in our community, and we are once again looking to expand our service territory beyond Durango and La Plata County. While the Center has always served adult learners from throughout La Plata County at its Durango site, outlying communities recognize the value of bringing adult education closer to their adult learners. Partner agencies in Bayfield and Ignacio would welcome us providing GED services in the Ignacio region to serve those rural areas. Easy access to adult education programs will make a difference in GED completion and basic literacy progress.

A few years ago, we expanded ESL programs into Silverton and have helped more than a dozen folks improve their English language skills. With that success, we are being pulled westward into Montezuma County where the community has been without ESL services. In this agriculturally-rich region, the need for ESL has grown.

"It makes good sense to replicate a highly-effective program throughout the region rather than having several small programs," states Libby Baumchen, ESL Coordinator. "Overhead can be reduced and more resources funneled into programs." While we'd like to get started tomorrow, excellent programming takes thorough preparation and we hope to have a small program in place by early 2016 in both communities.

As we look to the future and consider expanding our center's horizons, we do so with deep regard and respect for the stamina and persistence of adult learners. We know all adults crave meaning in their lives and want to achieve new goals, and with your help, we'll be able to help our learners stretch their horizons, too.

### Test Your Knowledge: GED Sample Test Question

Solve:  $-11 < -3x + 4 \leq 10$

- A.  $-2 \leq x < 5$
- B.  $-2 < x \leq 5$
- C.  $5 \leq x < -2$
- D.  $5 < x \leq -2$



## Director's Note

Bouquets of sharpened pencils, hearty snacks, and eager teachers greeted the throngs of adult learners enrolling in classes at the Durango Adult Education Center this fall! Our reputation as an effective and welcoming program continues to draw learners of all ages and backgrounds to our center.

The energy level of both our adult learners and teachers is exceptionally high this fall. Learners in accelerated classes are surpassing our expectations, and BOOST, our career transition service program, is firmly in place. I can't express enough how amazed I am by the care and commitment that each of our staff provides to our learners every day.

This is evident from one of our summer school students who said, "THE TEACHER HAD LOTS OF PATIENCE AND WAS EXCELLENT." We are truly gratified to be transforming the lives of so many adults and their families.

Want to be more involved? Attend our Literacy Luncheon, attend our December graduation, volunteer your time, or make a donation today! Thank you for being part of a community that truly makes a difference in people's lives.

With appreciation,  
*Teresa Malone, Executive Director*

Updated logo coming soon...



Durango Adult Education Center

*A Caring Learning Community*

## Board of Directors

**Lon Erwin, President**  
Nonprofit Professional

**Sandra Berman-La France, VP**  
Curriculum & Professional Development Consultant

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Retired Professor & 2011 Citizen of the Year

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Brookie Architecture & Mayor, City of Durango

**Jim Clay**  
Retired Professor

**Tim Guill**  
Attorney-at-law

**Trisha Hayes**  
Retired Realtor

**Bruce LeClaire**  
CEO for the Boys & Girls Club of the S. Ute Indian Tribe

**Terry Swan**  
Retired Colonel & Professor  
2014 Volunteer of the Year

## Why I Serve

My name is Bruce LeClaire and I am a member of the South Dakota Rosebud Sioux Tribe. My family moved to Durango during my junior year and after graduating, I served in the U.S. Army as a combat engineer. Then I attended Fort Lewis College and met my wife, a member of the Navajo Nation. We raised four children, all of whom graduated from Durango High School. Two of our children graduated from FLC and another will graduate from Colorado State University in December.



For 15 years, I worked with Native American students who were court ordered to a Residential Behavioral Treatment Program. I also worked as the Title VII program coordinator for Durango from 2008-2013 and served as Chair of the Minority Student Achievement Oversight Committee, working to ensure the district addressed the minority student achievement gap. Currently, I am the CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

I serve on the board because I believe in the importance of education and understand that not all students will succeed in the public school system. The DAEC provides these students with an alternative pathway to success. The DAEC provides a proven success record and offers an educational safety net for students who didn't thrive in the traditional system.

## Program Updates

### Intensive GED Preparation

After watching students struggle with the new, more rigorous 2014 GED exams, we modified our programming to help more learners succeed. Our new tactic is to help students master one or two of the GED subjects, pass those GED subject exams, and move on to the final two subjects. We made this programmatic shift incrementally, beginning last summer with a month-long science course. Ten students enrolled in the four hour daily course which incorporated hands-on activities, labs, practice tests, and self-study. Students were provided with a hearty lunch and onsite childcare so they could focus on their studies.

We are proud to announce that we had a 100% passing rate with each of the eight test takers passing the GED science exam. Students reported liking the new format: "I REALLY LIKE THIS APPROACH AND REALLY RECOMMEND IT!" "I WAS TIRED OF PUTTING OFF THE GED AND THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO FINISH FAST."



Students in fall intensive class

### English as a Second Language

Our ESL program continues to bring diversity to our corner of the globe with students enrolled from Guinea, Nepal, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Columbia, and Guatemala this fall. In addition to our amazing teachers, we are fortunate to have dedicated volunteers to help learners with a variety of English language skills from pronunciation to basic literacy.

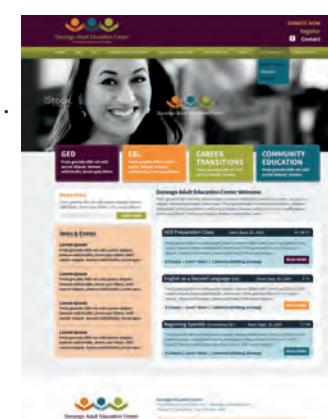
### Enterprise Zone Tax Credits Changing

We couldn't provide any of our services without the support of our community and you! Each donation you make is an investment in a real person who is seeking to improve their literacy skills and their lives. In addition to getting a federal tax credit for your donation, we have been able to offer a 25% Colorado Enterprise Zone tax credit for your gifts of \$250 or greater.

Unfortunately, as of January 1, 2016, our center will no longer be eligible for the Enterprise Zone program. The state has redrawn the boundaries and most of the City of Durango has been removed. We ask that if you are considering a donation to the Center, please take advantage of this tax credit and make your donation by December 31.

### New Website Coming Soon

As we gear up for program expansion, we are ensuring that our web presence is updated and readily accessible. Look for our updated website incorporating our new logo in late November at: [www.durangoadulted.org](http://www.durangoadulted.org)



### GED Test Answer: A

$$-11 < -3x + 4 \leq 10$$

$$-15 < -3x \leq 6$$

$$5 > x \geq -2$$

$$-2 \leq x < 5$$

Subtract 4

Divide -3 and flip the inequality symbols

Rewrite so inequality symbols match the answer choices

### Shopping Helps!

Use your shopping dollars to help change lives by supporting education. Designate the Durango Adult Education Center as a recipient of the following companies' giving programs:

