

# the S.I.N.E. Post

**S.I.N.E.**  
866.380.SINE (7463)  
www.SINEonline.com

## from the President/CEO



### Greetings!

Although the summer months mean a break from school for most, we at SINE are working this summer to continue our goal to ensure meaningful educational experiences for all.

This includes working to support strategic adult learning centers at the county levels. Our goal is to help the adult learning centers develop new learning opportunities of high

intensity and duration or enhancing existing programs available to adults in each of our counties.

The need for these adult learning centers is great since, according to a 2000 census, in the ten counties of southwest Indiana that SINE serves there are 53,378 individuals without a high school diploma or GED. Additionally, in 2008 there were fewer than 700 GEDs earned in those ten counties. That creates a huge backlog of individuals in need of basic instruction.

What does this mean for these individuals without GEDs? It can have significant financial implications. An individual with a high school diploma or GED will, on average, earn \$9,000 more per year than an individual without that credential. (Source: Baum, Sandy, and Kathleen Payea, Education Pays 2004: The Benefits of Higher Education for Individuals and Society, College Board, 2004). For southwest Indiana, if only 10% of those 53,378 individuals without a high school diploma or GED would make that move up, there would potentially be an additional \$48,033,000 in wages put into our economy every year!

On July 1, SINE assumed managerial responsibility of the North Spencer Alternative Education program (renamed Ace Academy) in Dale, Ind. to continue work to positively impact the educational lives of residents in Spencer and surrounding counties. We will work to secure more permanent funding for the program and to provide management services such as marketing, support of IT systems, and general oversight.

The mission of ACE Academy is to provide adults with life-changing educational experiences. To fulfill this mission, qualified staff members encourage students to achieve at the highest levels possible by maintaining a safe and positive study environment conducive to learning, giving

*(continued on page 3)*

## SINE partners to create 'ACE' learners in North Spencer

The North Spencer Alternative Education Center, one of the more successful facilities in the state for continuing education, is now under the management of SINE.

Despite the success of the Alternative Ed. Center, the North Spencer School Corporation made the agonizing decision to discontinue funding for the center and its programs due to the current uncertainty of K-12 funding. When the decision was announced at a recent school board meeting, Mary K. Cardinal made the proposal that SINE would assist in the management of the facility and help it secure the necessary funds to continue providing services to the public.

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The staff of ACE Academy (clockwise from upper left):  
Sindy Harris, Kevin Hunter, Luanna Wessel,  
Sr. Linda Bittner and Mary Balbach

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# education: power to change.

# SINE welcomes new Director of Development



Scott Kirsch

SINE is pleased to announce the recent hiring of Scott Kirsch as its new Director of Development.

Kirsch comes to SINE from JD Levy and Associates where he was a Special Projects Manager. JD Levy and Assoc. is a principle-centered consulting firm which focuses on assisting charitable non-profit clients to discover their true potential through a focus on understanding philanthropy and long-term organizational sustainability.

In his new role Kirsch will provide leadership, vision and strategic direction for the management, implementation and evaluation of all fund development programs for SINE. In addition Kirsch will coordinate these functions with the CEO, Board of Directors and volunteers and be responsible for donor development and all aspects of fundraising.

Throughout his career, Kirsch has analyzed clients' fundraising data and made recommendations for appropriate courses of action based upon the evaluation results. He has also evaluated fundraising plan components, including: annual giving; special events; the roles of

staff, board members, and volunteers; grantsmanship; and donor cultivation and stewardship practices.

Kirsch has also co-taught graduate-level fund development and grantsmanship courses and has written and evaluated multiple grant proposals for many mid-size nonprofit organizations. While at JD Levy and Associates, he also developed marketing and public relations strategies.

Kirsch earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Affairs from Indiana University (Bloomington) in December of 2002 and his Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management from Indiana University (Indianapolis) in May 2006. Recently, Kirsch completed his Masters of Arts degree in Philanthropic Studies and Nonprofit Management from Indiana University (Indianapolis).

"I am both excited and privileged to join SINE and serve as the Director of Development," says Kirsch. "I strongly believe in SINE's mission to advance education and provide lifelong learning opportunities, especially during these trying economic times, and I know many residents of Southwest Indiana do, too. I very much look forward to helping SINE build connections with the community and empower those who share our passion and would like to join our cause."

## "Project Citizen" inspiring students to help community



Project Citizen, a national campaign designed to raise awareness of community issues and

how students can have an impact, conducted its annual competition in April. SINE was fortunate enough to be asked to help judge the projects of local elementary and middle school students at the regional competition in Evansville.

Hosted by the Southern Indiana Career & Technology Center, this year's regional competition involved schools from multiple counties, including John H. Castle Elementary, North Posey Junior High, Washington Middle School, and Perry Heights Middle School. Six panels of three judges each critiqued the students' work, with the regional winner having the opportunity to compete at the state and (potentially) national level.

To be considered, each classroom must submit a visual display, written supplement, and oral presentation. Each of these three components must clearly identify the community issue the class has chosen to address, the alternative solutions, a detailed explanation of the most appropriate solution, and an action plan of how to

address the issue including any necessary legislation from the local, state, or national government.

Steven Stump, SINE's Director of Marketing/PR, served on one of the judging panels. "It is amazing to see what these students are able to create," he said. "We saw very creative responses to pollution, vandalism, disciplinary programs, and animal safety, among other topics. These children identified problems they saw in their own neighborhoods or schools and then proposed ways to address them beyond the school walls. It is very often difficult to put subject matter in a worldly context that students at this age will understand, but we saw excellent use of math, economics, public relations, advertising, social studies, and problem solving."

The Project Citizen program is administered with the assistance of a national network of state and congressional district coordinators in every state and is conducted with the assistance of the National Conference of State Legislatures. Project Citizen is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress. Additional funding at the state level is also provided by an increasing number of state legislatures. To find out more about Project Citizen, visit the Center for Civic Education's website at [www.civiced.org](http://www.civiced.org).

## Letter from the President/CEO... *(continued from page 1)*

effective individualized instruction to students, providing students timely feedback on their progress and affirming students for their accomplishments.

ACE Academy researches the latest technologies and instructional methodologies and implements best practices in the field of education. In conjunction with SINE's focus on professional development, the staff of ACE Academy participates in ongoing professional development in order to stay up to date on innovations that will improve its programs.

Students at the academy are valued individuals who set their own educational goals and work with the staff to achieve them. Believing that all students can learn and achieve, the program provides the opportunity for students to retain ownership over attainment of goals while providing the support services and structures they need to succeed.

In addition to helping students be successful in a classroom setting, the program also works with area businesses to emphasize the skills adults need to be successful in employment. The result is an adult population that will have a major impact on the ability to attract and retain high-skill, high-wage employers in southwest Indiana.

SINE realizes that teaching literacy skills is not a one-size-fits-all endeavor – each individual brings different learning styles and capabilities to the table. However, we must continue to work together to provide an efficient, effective, flexible delivery system that maximizes financial and human resources.

ACE Academy provides students with individualized instruction in Adult Secondary Credit, English as a Second Language, Adult Basic Education/General Education Development, and Special Interest Classes such as computers, conversational Spanish, etc. The instruction is delivered in an application-based, small-group, tutorial format that facilitates learners achieving their individual goals.

As always, SINE is determined that Indiana will have a future unrestrained by a lack of opportunity for the attainment of knowledge. Developing and supporting efforts that address adult learning are critical to making that vision a reality. We look forward to continuing these efforts at ACE Academy and others around our area.

Sincerely,

Mary K. Cardinal  
CEO/President

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## 'ACE' learners... *(continued from page 1)*

The Alternative Ed. Center will continue its regular operations under the direction of Kevin Hunter, but will be changing its name to ACE Academy, an acronym for "Adult Center for Education".

SINE proposed the concept of 'ACE Learning Center' to Kevin Hunter, with the rationale that the term 'ace' is usually applied to a top student or expert. Hunter added the word 'academy' to give it a stronger scholastic connotation. The decision to change the name was made to not only provide the center with some identity apart from the school corporation, but also as a small tribute to the history of the Dale Golden Aces. This is even more appropriate considering that ACE Academy is housed in the Dale Community Center which was formerly Dale High School.

SINE's role with ACE Academy will consist primarily of fund development and marketing efforts, as well as support for IT systems. Mary K. Cardinal felt that the center's past success makes it too important to the community and region to let it dissolve.

During the past school year, the North Spencer Alternative Education Center helped 46 students earn their GED or high school diploma, all of whom are now qualified for a much greater number of employment opportunities. The increase in education for these individuals has the potential to add hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to the local economy.

Moving forward, SINE will be working to help ACE Academy

maintain its level of operations and success. The initial step, according to Cardinal, was to secure the employment of each of the staff members.

"Clearly, the fact that this location has been so successful can be mostly attributed to the combined talents and efforts of this staff. We knew that in order to keep this institution moving forward, we had to retain as many of the current staff members as possible."

Having done so, SINE is now working to secure funds to keep the center operational. Through marketing efforts and outreach to the local community, as well as researching grants and other funding sources, SINE hopes to help ACE Academy acquire the financial resources necessary to allow Hunter and his staff to do what they do best - change lives.

According to Hunter, "It's exciting for us to finally realize that the services we provide to adult learners will continue. You just can't be involved in such a life changing opportunity for adults and not become emotionally connected. The work that we are doing is so important. The staff is looking forward to working under SINE's leadership as we move forward. Now, it is up to us to make the most of this opportunity and continue to work in cooperation with the local school corporations so that we may provide as much help as possible to those adults who look to better themselves and the lives of their children through education."

# Learning Exchange provides real-world experience

An ancient Chinese proverb says “Tell me and I’ll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I’ll understand.”

SINE’s Learning Exchange program is a project-based program designed to foster relationships between businesses, educators, and students. While demonstrating the applicability of education to the business world, youth are able to observe and participate in real-life workplace activities. This results in meaningful, long-lasting learning experiences for the students. This past school year, several Learning Exchange projects took place around SINE’s southwest Indiana region.

One such project was the Learning Exchange project between Perry Central High School students and Jasper Engines and Transmissions. The project, which gave students an engaging look at careers in engineering, educated students on how to put together a good job application and interview and gave them the knowledge they needed to go back to the classroom and work on their Project Lead the Way engineering projects.

“It was a great trip for the students,” says teacher Jody French. “Our Project Lead the Way Introduction to Engineering class has increased in size since we’ve been involved with SINE’s Learning Exchange.”

Another Learning Exchange project that took place this school year involved students from Central High School in Evansville and the Evansville Federal Credit Union. In this project, students learned the importance of information management.

“The purpose of this project was to have a hands-on approach to learning about marketing information management,” says teacher Sherry Dockery. “My business partner and I explained the purpose for marketing information management and shared examples of different types of research used in businesses. The students then had the opportunity to experience taking surveys and were shown how the marketing information was processed and utilized.

Every marketing student prepared both a taste test survey and a pencil/paper questionnaire. They reproduced the surveys and

**“We believe all people of southwest Indiana deserve the opportunity to participate fully in the economic, civic, and cultural life of the region. SINE provides leadership and services that focus on educational networks, literacy for all ages, professional development of educators, workforce advancement, and lifelong learning.”**

then chose a homeroom to administer the questionnaires. Once the surveys were conducted, the students analyzed their statistics and presented the findings to both the marketing classes and the homeroom from which the information was gathered.

“All in all, the marketing students and the student body of Central High School were impressed with their findings and enjoyed learning and sharing the significance of marketing research,” says Dockery.

In another Learning Exchange project, students from geography classes at Vincennes Rivet Middle/High School teamed up with employees from Core Minerals Operating Company to create maps using Smart Boards.

According to teacher Mary Traylor, the Advanced Placement Human Geography students met with representatives from Core Minerals to learn about oil drilling and making maps. The class was able to learn how materials are prepared for an oil prospectus, how oil is drilled, and much more about energy. The students then made a presentation at Core Minerals’ offices utilizing Smart Board technology. Next, the students brought back what they had experienced and began to prepare a presentation for other students at their school.

Traylor says the information shared with the students from Core Minerals was interesting and very useful. “I gained a knowledge of making maps which is useful in my classes and am impressed with SINE’s goal to educate students for the future,” she says.

Anyone interested in becoming involved in SINE’s Learning Exchange or for more information, visit [www.sineonline.com](http://www.sineonline.com) or call 866-380-7463.



## How to CONTACT US

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\*SINE employees' cell phones can also be accessed through the toll-free number.

# Many new workshops from SINE and CIE

Summer is a great time to take advantage of SINE's professional development opportunities for K-12 educators! In addition to enjoying some down time during their summer break, many teachers utilize this opportunity to further develop their professional knowledge.

The summer months offer teachers prime opportunity to truly enjoy and reap the benefits of the professional development experience. No lesson plans to prepare for substitutes or piles of paperwork to return to, summertime professional development

offers teachers a time to comfortably sit back, learn and grow. Additionally, teachers can use the time off to thoughtfully devise plans to implement the new strategies when they return to their classrooms in the fall.

Be sure to check out the upcoming professional development opportunities SINE has for area teachers from Consultants in Education and nationally-recognized speakers. For additional information or to register for a workshop, click on "Workshop Schedule" at [www.sineonline.com](http://www.sineonline.com) or call 866.380.7463.

## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

SINE is currently offering the following workshops for summer and fall semester 2009.

Please visit [SINEonline.com](http://SINEonline.com) for details and registration information.

### **Addressing the Core Standards for Math and English** (Grades 3-5)

Date: July 30

Trainer: Penny Anderson, M.Ed. (CIE)

Location: SINE Office (OCU Wilder Center)

Registration limited to 25

### **Centers in Action: Make Small Group Teaching a Reality** (Grades Pre-K - 3)

Date: August 28

Trainers: Tracy Wilson, M.Ed. (CIE)

Location: Oak Meadow C. Club (Evansville)

Registration limited to 60

### **The Simple 6: Level 1** (Grades K-6)

Date: September 15

Trainer: Kay Davidson

Location: Evansville Airport Marriott

Registration limited to 100

### **The Simple 6: Level 1** (Grades 7-12)

Date: September 16

Trainer: Kay Davidson

Location: Evansville Airport Marriott

Registration limited to 100

### **Multisensory Math Interventions (K-2)**

Date: September 29

Trainer: Robert Gossom, M.Ed. (CIE)

Location: Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano

(Evansville)

Registration limited to 40

### **Multisensory Reading Interventions (K-6)**

Date: September 30

Trainer: Robert Gossom, M.Ed. (CIE)

Location: Biaggi's (Evansville)

Registration limited to 40

### **Multisensory Math Interventions (3-6)**

Date: October 1

Trainer: Robert Gossom, M.Ed. (CIE)

Location: Biaggi's (Evansville)

Registration limited to 40

### **Bridging Two Worlds: Preparing Students for Workplace Writing** (Grades 7-12)

Date: October 5

Trainers: Fred Wolff & Lynna Garber Kalna

Location: Evansville Airport Marriott

Registration limited to 100

### **Challenging High Ability Students in the Regular Classroom**

Date: October 14

Trainer: Dr. Carolyn Coil

Location: Evansville Airport Marriott

Registration limited to 100

### **DIBELS: Interventions** (Grades K-1)

Date: October 20

Trainer: Amber Oakley, B.S. (CIE)

Location: Hillside UMC (Princeton)

Registration limited to 40

### **Supercharging Your School Improvement Planning with Data Dashboard**

Dates: October 28-29

Trainer: Dr. Steve Benjamin

Location: Indianapolis Power & Light Co.

(Petersburg)

Registration limited to 100

### **DIBELS: Interventions** (Grades 1-3)

Date: November 5

Trainer: Amber Oakley, B.S. (CIE)

Location: Ind. Power & Light (Petersburg)

Registration limited to 40

### **The Simple 6: Level 2 (15-Day Crunch)**

Date: December 8

Trainer: Kay Davidson

Location: Evansville Airport Marriott

Registration limited to 100

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# You and SINE

## Partners in a Stronger Future

SINE has had a very good beginning...but this is just the beginning. SINE has made a profound impact on the lives of countless individuals in southwest Indiana...not only through direct contact, such as the many training programs, but also through the impact that these trained professionals, successful students, and achieving adult learners will have on the lives of those around them.

Your generous contribution aids SINE in developing and sponsoring the much-needed programs that partner with education and businesses to improve our workforce, assisting us in underwriting costs for programs that aid our at-risk and underachieving youth, creating brighter opportunities for their future; helping us establish or enhance adult learning opportunities that include literacy services, basic computer training, ESL, GED or high school completion programs; and allowing us to increase the contributions that SINE makes to such programs as our classroom libraries. SINE is a non-profit, charitable organization.

Yes, I want to become a SINE partner. Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution that will enable SINE to develop and support much-needed programs in our communities. I understand that through my generous gift, I will contribute to the building of a better future for southwest Indiana.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization/School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and return this form with your check to:  
The Southwest Indiana Network for Education, 909 W. Morton Street, Oakland City, IN 47660.