



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arab American and Chaldean Council (ACC)

Office of the President - Haifa Fakhouri, Ph.D.

JET Contractor Partners with Literacy Program

Detroit, MI - March 4, 2010 On March 9th, the American Arab and Chaldean Council's (ACC) JET (Jobs, Education and Training) Program will partner with the Detroit Public Library (main branch) in a much-needed math and literacy tutorial project. This cutting-edge collaboration is aimed to improve basic literacy and math skills for welfare recipients who have scored low on mandatory TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) testing. Statistically, welfare recipients with low education skills stay on welfare the longest while those with stronger education skills quickly become more self-sufficient.

"ACC is ecstatic about this tutorial partnership with the Detroit Public Library particularly since it is a proven fact that basic literacy and education skills can be the key to long-term self-sufficiency for welfare recipients," remarked Dr. Haifa Fakhouri, ACC's President and CEO.

Since 1994, ACC has provided jobs, education and training opportunities for welfare recipients via city-funded contracts working directly with State of Michigan welfare clients. The TABE test is a mandatory program requirement assessing clients' reading and math levels for the purpose of placing them in training that would lead to employment opportunities and job marketability.

ACC's JET clients read, on an average, at the sixth grade level with math computation and applied math averaging 4th to 5th grade levels based on TABE test results, creating a despairing barrier. It is our belief that once test scores are improved, options of higher training levels will become available, as well as a boost in self-confidence and esteem for clients. Hopefully, higher TABE test scores will also further encourage and motivate clients to reach for higher levels of education, if only to obtain their GED or high school diploma. Almost 50 percent of adults on welfare do not have a high school diploma or GED.

"The ability to read and write impacts a persons quality of life in so many ways," said Juliet Machie, Detroit Public Library's Deputy Director. *"This partnership with ACC has potential to transform the lives of the program participants and the DPL is very excited about it."*

Tutorial classes will kickoff on Tuesday, March 9th at the Detroit Public Library on Woodward Avenue in Detroit and continue every Tuesday thereafter, from 10:30 to 11:30 A.M. (Math), and 11:30 to 12:30 P.M. (Reading/Reading Comprehension).

"This collaboration brings about a new day for clients by preparing them for the impending job market that will reopen its doors and expect to find retooled employees with improved reading and math skills," said Susan Taylor, Detroit Public Library Literacy/Reading Specialist and project coordinator.

This project involves city, state, a local non-profit business and volunteers - a win-win

collaboration for all.

Media is invited to join ACC on Tuesday, March 9th for our kick-off literacy collaboration at the Detroit Public Library (main branch) starting at 10:30 A.M.

For additional information, contact Crystal Mayo (313) 369-4700.

Submitted by: Crystal Mayo, ACC Detroit JET Program

Arab American and Chaldean Council (ACC)

ACC is the premier non-profit human service organization providing services to the Middle Eastern and mainstream communities in Southeast Michigan. Furthermore, ACC provides better opportunities to enable newcomers to adjust to their new environment. As a bridge of understanding, ACC maximizes the skills, resources and expertise of the community to:

Build cooperation and understanding

Raise the level of individuals' well-being

Increase cross-cultural understanding through education

Deliver human services, counseling and opportunities

Gear community members towards achievement

Empower through employment training and placement

Website: <http://www.myacc.org>

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