



**February 24, 2014**

### **Literacy Council at MSCC Sets Tutor Training for March 1**

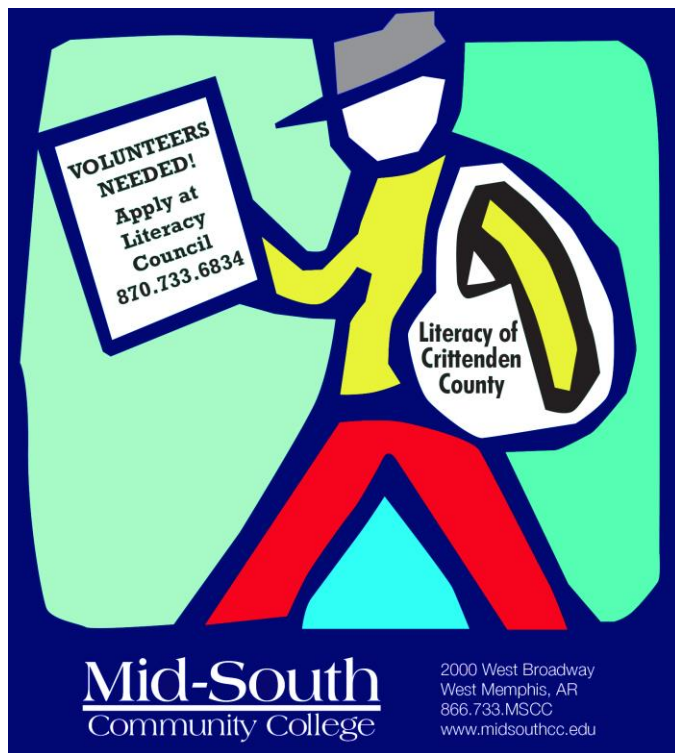
The Literacy Council of Crittenden County at Mid-South Community College will provide a free Tutor Training Workshop on Saturday, March 1, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The workshop will be held at the West Memphis First Assembly of God Fellowship Hall, 513 North Missouri Street.

Preregistration is required by 2 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 28, to ensure materials and lunch are available for all participants. Aspiring tutors may call Literacy Coordinator Jacki Murase, at (870) 733-6834, or email her at [jlmurase@midsouthcc.edu](mailto:jlmurase@midsouthcc.edu).

As many as one in three Crittenden County residents is considered functionally illiterate, which indicates reading skills at or below the fourth-grade level.

For the functionally illiterate, everyday tasks, such as filling out a job application, paying bills, and reading the directions on a medicine bottle, are difficult, if not impossible.

Such skills deficits make earning a living wage beyond reach, so the effects of illiteracy are devastating on not only the local economy, but also on the way of life of many area residents.



The Literacy Council's mission is to facilitate the teaching of the functionally illiterate of Crittenden County. The Council's specific goal is to teach adults what they want to learn, like how to read the Bible or driver's license manual, how to help their children with homework, or how to improve basic math and writing skills.

Prospective tutors must have a high school diploma (or equivalent) and must be 18 years of age or older. Good reading skills are also important. Previous teaching experience, while helpful, is not necessary. The March 1 training will cover the basics of tutoring adult learners as well as how to plan and prepare lessons.

The Literacy Council meets with students and tutors to determine the best possible matches to facilitate the teaching/learning process. Tutors meet with their students every week for a minimum of two hours, usually on a one-to-one basis.

For more information on becoming involved with the Literacy Council of Crittenden County, visit the office in the Arkansas Workforce Center on MSCC's North Campus, 2000 West Broadway in West Memphis, or contact Murase.