
Reaching Out to Educate

By Kevin Devlin

The staff at the Notre Dame Education Center (NDEC) wants everyone in South Boston to know that they ever-ready to serve the South Boston community by providing "goal-driven education for adults and youth." The Center, which was founded in 1992 by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, and who have taught in South Boston since 1860, is now located at 200 Old Colony Avenue. And next May will celebrate its 25th anniversary in South Boston.

The NDEC provides Adult Basic Education (ABE) and preparation for the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) which has replaced the former GED program. The NDEC provides four levels of instruction in reading, writing, math, social studies, science, and computer skills. The NDEC provides English for Speakers of Languages (ESOL) from basic to intermediate instruction to adults from more than thirty countries. Many of these students graduate to ABE and



Pictured in their offices at the Notre Dame Education Center (from left) is Paula Jurigian, program director, and Anna Fernandez-Buehrens, assistant program director.

HiSET. The NDEC also has a High School Diploma Program (HSDP) and the aforementioned HiSET, as well as the Postsecondary Preparation (HPP) for youth aged 16 through 24. Those enrolled in the HPP meet at the Joseph M. Tierney Learning Center.

The NDEC's mission is to "provide students with the employability and career-spe-

cific training that will enable them to succeed" in life. These employment-related services include career assessments and counseling, job-search assistance, industry-specific panels, mock interviews, and internship opportunities.

"We want to help students achieve their goals," said NDEC Program Director, Paula Jurigian. "Help them to

achieve their academic goals in attaining their high school credentials. Help them to the next step for success in obtaining a job or going on to college or other training programs."

Overall, the NDEC provides classes for over 400 students annually.

"We serve the community and are here for everyone," said NDEC Assistant Program Director, Anna Fernandez-Buehrens. "We want to get the word out. Want people in South Boston to know we are still here at our new address and that the classes are free."

New classes will begin in September. The classes can be taken part-time in the mornings or evenings. For additional information about these programs, please call 617-268-1912. The NDEC also welcomes volunteers to assist in academic support, tutoring, fundraising and community outreach, mentoring and professional development, IT support, and event planning. For more information, please visit www.ndecshoston.org or volunteering@ndecshoston.org.