



## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- September AWEstar Lindsay Laney
- AWEstar Tutor Kaye Porter
- New AWE Web Site & Blog
- Leadership Institute

## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

AWE Steering Committee,  
Fri. September 16th,  
2011 in the Cellar,  
9-10:30.

New Teaching & Learning Blog  
Launched, facilitated by  
Twyla Olsen.



AUGUST 2011

Check out the [ESL Newsletter](#) filled with great information, events, classes offered, featured students and instructors.

GPS Tool s #1 "Father Time" & Tool #2 "Is Anybody There?"

Check out the [GPS site](#) for more information!

# Academic Wellness Educators

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## September AWEstar Lindsay Laney

Lindsay Laney, a northern-California native, has lived in Sonora for 6 years and is in her second semester teaching English at Columbia College. Lindsay also has the pleasure of teaching at Merced College. There she is able to teach a variety of students in English as a Second Language, and she is an instructor and coordinator for the Merced College English Language Institute.

In that capacity, she works with students from all over the world who are studying in the United States. Before the world of teaching English opened up for Lindsay, she taught outdoor education for Stanislaus County Office of Education, Clovis Unified School District, and Nature Bridge, formerly known as the Yosemite National Insti-

tutes in Yosemite National Park. Her love of teaching prompted a change in subjects but not a change in teaching philosophy.

At Columbia College, Lindsay has been lucky enough to get involved with the First Semester Experience pro-



gram teaching English and was immediately hooked on academic wellness for her students.

The AWE program has not

only supported her as an instructor, but it has supported her students in a way that few programs can. She is a strong proponent of student wellness in all capacities. First Semester Experience provides an instant community for students that can support them throughout their college career. She has witnessed the "success stories" of students who have overcome their obstacles and persevered in ways they thought impossible.

In addition, working closely with other faculty has created a community for her that she has not had at other colleges. Lindsay is also the new adjunct academic senate representative, so she is diving head first into Columbia College!

## AWEstar Tutor's Corner with Kaye Porter

My name is F Kaye Porter. I am a volunteer tutor. I tutor Physics, Calculus, Algebra and Restaurant Math at the Academic Achievement Center (I take my payment in cookies!). Before retiring, I was a Physicist/Engineer, having worked in Civilian Nuclear Power, experimental physics, and electrical engineering. Except for the time I spent as a Nuclear engineer, I was always involved with detector systems – from

gamma rays to radio frequencies.

Retirement was boring, so I looked for some way to use my education and help the community in which I lived. After trying a few things, I discovered that community colleges rarely have physics tutors, so now I do that! I feel this is a win-win situation; I get to use my education while doing something I enjoy and the students get help.

The scariest and most important thing I have ever done was to attend MIT. I was from the deep South (Alabama, Tennessee) which had extremely poor school systems. I had been told endlessly that girls couldn't do math/science. Thankfully, I didn't let anyone deter me – I am very stubborn. MIT is a very difficult and intense school - being a woman just made it harder, but not impossible. I graduated with a



Kaye Porter  
AAC Tutor

*“Excellence is  
not a skill.  
It is an  
attitude.”*

*Ralph Marston*



Leadership Institute at High Sierra

## AWEstar Tutor's Corner Continued

BS in Physics and then sent on to the University of Washington for an MS in Physics.

Since I was around colleges and am always interested in learning, I take an occasional course. My favorite course has been a class on California Geology. The class included field trips, from which I found that I learned more by actually seeing geology, rather than just reading or taking courses. I have been going on geology field trips ever since.

I am proud of my children

and their children. I am a very involved grandmother and visit my grandchildren often. I think the best thing I did in my life was raise my children to become responsible adults and caring parents.

Columbia College does an excellent job of teaching students the skills they need to go on to further study or a career. The ability to organize thoughts and put them on paper, to read critically and integrate that knowledge into a coherent summary, discussion or paper – these

are skills necessary for advancement. Knowing when one has reached the limits of what one knows is very important and critical thinking helps to know where this limit is. In this time of budget difficulties, Columbia needs to keep to its standards, so our students will continue to learn the tools they need to excel.

## \*\*New\*\* AWE Site & T&L Blog

AWE is proud to announce the new, improved and **“JAKED”** AWE Web site (that means Jake Beck, our Online Services Developer redesigned the site) & the Teaching and Learning Blog Site addition, **“The Path Less Taken.”**

The long awaited blog site is up and running, please join us in this dialogue at AWE site to discuss best practices in teaching and learning modalities! The site will be moderated and new questions added for discussion.

If you have any ideas or topics you would like to

see on the site, please email *Twyla Olsen, Coordinator Teaching and Learning FIG*.

To get to the new Blog site go to the Columbia College home page, About Us, AWE and it's labeled **Teachin' and Learnin' Blog**.

## Leadership Institute at High Sierra

On September 10th & 11th under the AWE umbrella, Alicia Kolstad, Ida Ponder and Doralyn Folletti, members of the Student Focus FIG, sponsored a leadership institute at Baker Station/High Sierra Institute. Twenty-four students traveled to the High Sierra Institute for a two day leadership think tank.

Students learned about leadership styles, attributes, systems and opportunities at Columbia College. They developed a plan for a leadership project. Over the course of the semester students will work on these projects and on December 9th, at 3:30pm in Redbud 2 they will present the results.

Some of the projects include an AAC Tutor Club, Computer Scholarships, CEO Club, Increase Participation in the Veteran's Club, Text Book Co-op and a Free Meal Program.