

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Committee Chair of the Education Committee! Well, the holidays are over and our youth are back at school. We had a white Christmas this year, the first in several years. It was beautiful!

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department has developed a new Job Club strategy which was implemented in January. Job Club focuses on helping Indians with disabilities to gain the soft skills they need to successfully enter the workforce. Soft skills include resume writing, application processes and paperwork, interviewing skills, how to get along with supervisors and co-workers, proper hygiene, attendance expectations such as getting to work on time and staying the entire shift, etc.

Voc Rehab has also implemented a new transition strategy for the program. The strategy markets the services of the Department to high school Indian students with disabilities within the program service area so that the Department can work with those students to help them transition from high school to post secondary education and training or to the workforce. This program is much needed within the Chickasaw Nation and we have high hopes for success!

The Division of Education Services at Large Department reports that 224 students are participating in the Chickasaw Nation Reading Program. The Early Childhood program has 256 children enrolled for 2009/10 school year.

The Adult Learning Program tested 136 participants. Of those, 28 tested below 6th grade level, 19 tested at 6th through 8th grade level, and 89 tested at Fast Track Level (9th grade plus). Four students received their GED certificates.

I would love to hear from you. Please contact me through my email address mary.green@chickasaw.net or through the address and telephone number listed elsewhere in this and every issue of the Chickasaw Times and on the Chickasaw Nation web site. My articles are

also located on the web site. Until next time, I wish God's blessings on all of our people. Thank you.