

# English learners challenge each other



Videographer Alexandra (Ali) Pinschmidt with ESOL students Hadis (Hoda) Hosseinpour, Qiong Ying Li, and Heba Mikhaeil



Videographer Alexandra (Ali) Pinschmidt films ESOL teacher Diane Worth, with ESOL students Ramón de los Santos and Latifah Saibou looking on.

LUDLOW — “Coming to America” was the lesson topic, and the students of English for Speakers of Other Languages wrote and posed questions to one another about their experiences. However, this was no ordinary ESOL class. The nine students and their teachers had gathered at Holyoke Community College’s Ludlow Area Adult Learning Center on Friday, Nov. 9 to be stars. Part of an effort to capture instructional best practices in ESOL, they spent a full day being videoed as they went through this and many other lessons, with a camera lens sometimes just inches away.

The lessons were geared to demonstrate how teachers should communicate with their students, such as by speaking slowly and clearly, using vocabulary and language structures geared to the students’ level, providing visuals gestures, and other sup-

ports, and having the students do most of the talking. Equally emphasized was the importance of correcting errors judiciously, and to do so via different methods and at different times - including giving the students opportunities to self-correct. (Who among us would like to have every other word of the language we’re learning corrected? At what point would we stop talking and even drop out of class?)

Funded and produced by the Massachusetts adult education professional development system (SABES) ESOL Curriculum and Instruction Professional Development Center, the resulting videos will be available on the SABES website (sabes.org) as well as in SABES ESOL PD courses. Courses are open to any adult education teacher; however, priority is given to teachers from Massachusetts-funded programs.

See the website or contact Dori Mc-

Cormack for more information about SABES ESOL PD at [dmccormack@QCC.mass.edu](mailto:dmccormack@QCC.mass.edu). To enroll in free En-

glish for Speakers of Other Languages at Ludlow Area Adult Learning Center, call the school at 413-583-0320.



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