

## NEWS RELEASE

July 25, 2005

Contact: Bryan Schrepel 913-758-6165

E-mail: [SchrepelB@stmary.edu](mailto:SchrepelB@stmary.edu)



## University of Saint Mary Announces New OutFront Director

### *Jewel Russell Takes Over for Verla James*

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The University of Saint Mary announces a fresh, but familiar direction for one of its most important community programs. Jewel Russell officially took over as director of the OutFront Adult Education Program July 1. Her history with the program however, dates back to the 1980s. Former OutFront director Verla James retired following OutFront's commencement. James is still active with OutFront, serving as chief GED examiner for the program.

While Russell has worked for OutFront as GED examiner and computer technology instructor since 1999, her experience with OutFront runs much deeper. Her father, Merrill Shepard, taught GED preparation and basic reading courses to adults with OutFront from 1985 – 1995.

“His love for education passed down through me and I was delighted at the opportunity to teach at OutFront like he did,” Russell said.

Family nostalgia is great, but Russell concedes there is serious work to be done. She stated that 13 percent of Leavenworth County residents do not have high school credentials. That's why she says OutFront is so important for the community.

“The need in our community is great,” Russell said. “Without OutFront, 165 adults in our county would not have improved either their English speaking skills, earned a GED, found a new job or made an educational gain in writing, reading or math last year alone. Obviously, OutFront is of the utmost importance to the community.”

Those interested in adult basic education should contact the center the week of August 29 to sign up for orientation or GED practice tests. For learners who attended last year, classes resume at 8:30 a.m. or 5:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 29. Orientation for ESL (English as a second language) students begins Sept. 6. Orientation for new ABE (Adult Basic Education) learners will begin on Sept. 12.

Call 913-682-5857 or visit the OutFront office at 111 Delaware Street, Suite A, downtown Leavenworth.

The University of Saint Mary OutFront Adult Education Program is designed to assist adult learners reach their education goals. OutFront offers GED preparation classes and Workplace Essential Skills (WES) classes for career advancement. Check out the OutFront website at <http://outfront.stmary.edu>.

###