Dropped out as adolescents

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By Nancy Lewis

Reading skills are required to perform even the simplest everyday tasks.
And most job applications are written on a seventh- or eighth-grade level, according to Jeanette Barras, executive director of VITA (Volunteer Instructors Teaching Adults).

Since September is National Literacy Month, attention is focused toward organizations such as VITA that provide training to help adults learn how to read or how to read better. According to a recent flyer distributed by The Advertiser, Louisana leads the nation in the percentage of illiterate and functionally illiterate adults.

Boudreaux likes to write stories and has just written and published two booklets. One is entitled "A New Beginning With VITA," and the other is "Accepting The Challenge." He has just finished reading Robinson Crusoe with his tutor, and he is starting on the "Readers Digest." Boudreaux states much of what he accomplishes is because of his family. He says, "My parents showed us a lot of love. I have an older sister, and she's the apple of my eye. She taught me a lot about life. I really love my sister, and I never tell her."

Morgan is no stranger to difficult times. He was expelled from school in the ninth grade, because he was an alcoholic and a drug addict. "I was on the streets doing a lot of dope," he says. "It didn't take me long to realize that this life wasn't what I wanted," says Morgan. "This education thing came back up, I thought, maybe education. I should try this."

Morgan is to take the ACT and enter U.S. Philosophically, he adds, "It was something deep down within me that just made me want to do it."

Morgan says the most important thing in his life is to stay sober. He says that in order for him to stay sober he needs to go out and help others stay sober and to tell them his story. His ultimate goal is to become a counselor and to work at a treatment center.

A more immediate goal for Morgan is to take the ACT and enter U.S. Morgan says he is working at a treatment center.

Moses Morgan spent many hours working on the VITA computer in order to receive a General Equivalency Diploma.