

# **BASIC's READING ACADEMY IS GROWING!**

Joann C. Stang, Learning Academy Director

BASIC (Basic Assistance for Students in the Community), the non-profit organization supporting educational pursuits of all Borrego's residents, announced that its summer Reading Academy has gotten a new name – Learning Academy. Academy administrator and headmaster Curt Yaws said that the summer curriculum has gone beyond reading to include an English Language Learners program and, new for the summer of 2018, a math class. The format of the Academy program will not be changing – just the name: *Learning Academy, transforming lives.*

*Learning Academy* begins its third year on July 19<sup>th</sup>. The Academy is designed to provide a “boost” to invited students to set them on a path to high school graduation and life success. Classes will again be held at the UCI Steele-Burnand Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center for four continuous weeks, providing over 100 hours of focused fun instruction. From 7:30 am till 2:00 pm each day the students will work in small groups and large groups; use computer assistance and printed books; sometimes play games to learn; sometimes write and speak to learn. Teachers and teaching aides work with students in small groups using best practices to guide student development. All barriers to attending are removed: students are transported to school and served hot nutritious breakfasts and lunches every day. Learning Academy students participate in a unique learning program that does not replicate the traditional school setting.

This summer, one Learning Academy class will help 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students move toward reading at grade level. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading proficiency is the critical time when students transition from “learning to read” to “reading to learn” for the rest of their school years.

A second class will assist English language learners in the middle and high school grades to develop English language proficiency. Practice speaking, vocabulary building and English grammar are essential foundations for success in an English language school system.

The new class this summer will assist middle school learners move toward math proficiency. Students who leave 8<sup>th</sup> grade not knowing how to compute with fractions enter high school as remedial math students, and rarely catch up. Mastery of school skills at 8<sup>th</sup> grade is an important determinant of life-long wages.

Learning Academy is producing outstanding results for Borrego's students. The potential impact is considerable: on the student who can now read and use the English language more effectively and on his or her family who now has a child with the tools necessary to graduate from high school and be successful in life.

BASIC invites your partnership in support of the students in our Community. Learning Academy costs \$3,000 per student; a large investment but one that is being made at proven critical junctures in a student's development. And the results are outstanding. Come join us!

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