



Adult Learning Center News

Fall 2015

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Giving adults in Strafford County a second chance, a fresh start or a new opportunity.

Director's Message

Deanna Strand

Changes at the Federal Level Will Reshape Workforce Development in New Hampshire

To help address the growing US labor shortfall, federal lawmakers recently updated existing legislation with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

In Strafford County, adult education programs are funded through Title II of WIOA and are provided by Dover Adult Learning Center (DALC). WIOA will require a high level of collaboration and partnership with other workforce agencies, higher education and employers.

There is a very strong focus in the legislation on preparing people for family-sustaining careers in high-demand occupations in their community. People who are undereducated, underemployed, have disabilities or are unemployed, all are considered critical to building the workforce.

Emphasizing training that leads to industry recognized post-secondary credentials, WIOA aims to help employers find workers with the necessary skills. WIOA is asking for

significant involvement by businesses to help define a system customized to our community. Programs and pathways must lead to existing jobs in the growing businesses in our community. The bottom line: create pathways to available jobs.

Great Bay Community College (GBCC) is a critical partner. GBCC has vocational training programs, connections to businesses and offers industry-recognized credentials. DALC and GBCC have created the College Success Partnership in which adults prepare academically to enter vocational training at the college, such as the Advanced Manufacturing Certificate Program and degree programs, such as nursing or other health programs. Adult students take adult education classes on the GBCC campus while they also take college classes. The classes are affordable and the students receive a high level of support. Co-location, affordability and support make it possible for a person to start college even while brushing up on essential skills. Students don't have to wait until they are "ready" to start college.

Exciting future opportunities exist under WIOA. Academic skills at DALC could be tailored to the student's vocational program, students could be co-enrolled in Adult Ed and at the college, or a student might even receive instruction from both a college

vocational instructor and an adult educator in the same classroom.

Another group supported by WIOA is immigrants who come with professional training and degrees. This group enters the workforce pre-trained, but may need language skills in order to utilize their skills in the USA, or they may need assistance translating or certifying their credentials. Here, we might create an ESOL class for health care workers to help them learn the English used in medical professions while assisting them in getting credentialed. This way they can use their skills and get on a pathway to a viable career.

Of course, DALC will continue to teach English, basic academic skills and high school completion courses, but we also need to make sure that those skills can lead to jobs that are rewarding and family-sustaining.

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In Their Own Words...**Hurt Ankle - by Amanda Snell**

On March 16th, 2015, I hurt my ankle. I fell on some ice and I had to go to the hospital. The doctor said I had a hairline fracture. They put my foot in a cast. I had to wear a cast for five to six weeks. I had to use crutches. I did not like having my foot in a cast and using crutches. It kept me from being able to walk to town and go to my mom's. My cast was pink. I had to keep my foot up when I was sitting down and when I was sleeping. Now since April 29th, 2015, I have an air cast and a walking boot. So now I can walk to my mom's and I can walk to town. I can't wait to be able to wear flip flops so I don't have to wear sneakers all the time. I love being able to walk to town or to my mom's or wherever I want to go.

In Our Own Words... is a collection of original writings. In poetry, personal reflection and artwork, they reveal the diversity, as well as their commonality, of our learners.



"My daughter" by Nicole Valdez

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Donations Received

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Center Stars - Nataya

It seems that Nataya flashes her beautiful smile a million times a day, brightening up everyone around her. She is returning for her second year here at Dover Adult Learning Center. She came from Thailand just over a year ago to live in Dover with her American husband.

About Dover, Nataya says she was so glad when people were nice to her in the grocery store and many other places. People's friendliness made her adjustment to the US a lot easier. She is also glad that her teen-age daughter, who came to Dover with her, has been happy and successful at Dover High School.

Nataya had only six years of schooling in her small village in Thailand. Her parents wanted her, the fifth of six children, to stay home to help on their farm. At age 14, Nataya talked her parents into letting her go to school to become a beautician. She was working in a salon before she was 16. By age 19, after further beautician training in Bangkok, Nataya went to a city near her village and opened her own business. By age 25, she owned the building her business was in.

By most people's standards, Nataya has been successful, but she says, "I feel sad . . . the degree I do not have." Her father saw how hard Nataya worked. He told Nataya how proud he was of her. He said that some people finish college and have a bad life. He said that she may not have the school "paper," but he would give her a "paper" for her life story. Nataya remembers and smiles.

After a summer visit to her homeland, Nataya is glad to be back studying her English at Dover Adult Learning Center. She knows that her teacher Carol Birch will help her with pronunciation and vocabulary. And Nataya will keep sharing her million dollar smile with students and staff, alike.



Meet our new board members



Christine Albert

The DALC Board of Directors welcomes three new members: Rosemary Zurawel, Christine Albert and Christopher Burns.

Rosemary Zurawel is retired. From 1997 to 2013, she was a Middle School Director, Curriculum Coordinator and Teacher at Berwick Academy, South Berwick, Maine. She holds a Ph. D. from the University of New Hampshire in Curriculum and Instruction, two Masters degrees from the University of Rhode Island, in Reading/Education and French Studies, and a Bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts in French/Education.

Christine Albert also hails from the University of New Hampshire, with a Master of Social Work degree, and she holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Gordon College. She is a licensed independent clinical social worker and the Program Director at the Dover Children's Home, Dover.

Attorney Christopher Burns is the Managing Director of the Parenting Support Center, Portsmouth. Chris was admitted to the State and Federal Bars of New Hampshire in 2002. He is a graduate of Loyola University School of Law, New Orleans, Louisiana having earned a Juris Doctor in Common Law and holds Certificates in Civil and International Law; a Bachelor of Arts from UNH in Political Science and International Relations with a Russian Language Minor and a Certificate of Advanced Russian Language and Literature from Moscow Energy Institute, Moscow, Russia.



Dover

ADULT LEARNING CENTER

Strafford County

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603-742-1030

What's happening at DALC?

Keep in touch between our print newsletters by signing up for our emails at

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- ◆ Serve on a committee
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- ◆ Join our Board of Directors
- ◆ Take an enrichment class
- ◆ Teach an enrichment class
- ◆ Become a Friend of the Center by making a donation
- ◆ Include us in your estate planning
- ◆ Mentor an adult student
- ◆ Become a corporate or event sponsor

Located in the McConnell Community Center, Dover Adult Learning Center of Strafford County helps adults in the Strafford County area enhance their life-coping skills and improve their lives through basic education, job training, high school completion and enrichment classes. We help our students become more effective lifelong learners, family members, workers and citizens.