Adult Learning Center News

Transforming lives through education

Director's Message

Donors: Our Silent Partners
Over the years, nearly 600 individuals and organizations have made donations to Dover Adult Learning Center. Our donors are former Board members, teachers, students, friends and neighbors who value the power of education.

Without the support of each of you, we would not be able to help our students overcome barriers to success. Childcare, scholarships and the counselor's emergency fund all rely on your donations to exist.

Most of our donors give between $25 and $50, and many have been giving for many years. Those gifts over time add up to great impact.

Your donations are as important to our students’ success as tables and whiteboards, books and computers. You are the silent beating heart behind all we do. Thank you.

Adult Educators Learn Together
This past weekend, dozens of adult educators from around New Hampshire gave up their Saturday to deepen and sharpen their teaching skills. The annual adult education conference focused on four building blocks of adult education:

- Essential Components of Reading
- Digital Literacy
- Employability & Occupational Skills
- College & Career Readiness

Most of the strands were led by DALC staff members, and all featured presentations by our staff.

Tiffany Brand, Technology Integrator facilitated the Digital Literacy strand, introducing teachers and administrators to technology to build community and connect students in learning. Both Lien Harris, DALC ESL teacher and Coordinator and I also presented in this strand.

Bridget Barker, DALC’s new Adult Learning Services Coordinator, shared her knowledge about how to build career awareness and occupational skills into lesson plans to help students become employable.

Denise Reddington, longtime DALC Academic Skills teacher, shared her experience with the STAR reading program aimed at advancing the reading skills of intermediate level learners.

Kim Hanson, DALC Math Specialist, presented in the College & Career Readiness strand, which provides aligned instruction to help teachers identify learning needs and set goals.

In all, 16 people from DALC participated, including two volunteer tutors!

We are incredibly fortunate to have such a skilled and talented teaching team willing to grow as a community of learners. They truly exemplify lifelong learning!

Being a Friend Means:
- Students realize their dreams
- Children receive care
- Books/materials are plentiful
- Non-readers have a tutor
- Inmates develop job skills
- Immigrants learn English
- Teen dropouts have a second chance

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In Our Own Words

I Wish
by Steve S.

I wish I could think right
For my mind is a swirl
With thoughts of the future
But stuck in the past
I wish I could act different
But I’m not sure how
Lived a life of confusion

It can’t possibly last
I wish for a calm existence
Where my mind is relaxed
A body without pain
No past creeping up
To snatch the future away
Just to stand on the shores
With the ebb and flow
A life full of calm
And just take it slow.

In Our Own Words... is a collection of original writings. In poetry, personal reflection and artwork, students reveal their diversity, as well as their commonality as learners.
The Dover Adult Learning Center welcomes two new members to the Board of Directors, Ann Taylor of Dover and Shawn Mahoney of Somersworth.

Taylor has been a business teacher at Exeter High School and in her role there she managed a department budget, developed curriculum, created three new courses, and served as peer mentor to new teachers. Prior to Exeter, she was the diversified occupations director/business teacher at Dover High School where she counseled students on course choices, job search skills and served as a career planning and placement liaison for students at risk. She also fostered relationships with the business community, serving as a member of the chamber of commerce education committee.

Taylor has 14 years of teaching experience at the high school level and ten years of teaching experience at the two-year college level, and served as a department chair. She holds a Master of Education Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Notre Dame College - Manchester, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management from Franklin Pierce College – Rindge.

Mahoney has worked for TD Bank since 2011 at various Seacoast branches. He is currently assistant store manager at the TD Bank Rochester, where he manages overall daily store operations including implementing policies and objectives, developing schedules, and other tasks.

Moe and Benlyne have become good friends as classmates in their Level 11 ESL class. Moe came to the US almost five years ago from Myanmar. Benlyne, from Haiti, has been here almost three years.

At first the two women had to work hard to understand each other’s limited English, but sitting next to each other during class helped. Soon Moe took a selfie of the two of them and shared it with her family in Myanmar.

Moe says, “She is my first friend here. No secrets. She talks about her family. I can share about my family.”

Benlyne says about Moe, “She believes in me. She’s the only one that knows my story. She even said she can find me a boyfriend!”

Benlyne is ecstatic that finally she has received the necessary work authorization papers to allow her to get a job. She left Haiti fearing for her life, and she continues to worry about her father and two younger brothers back home.

Moe’s ambition is to improve her English in order to help her son and daughter next year in kindergarten and Head Start. Also, she and her husband aspire to open a small restaurant, and with that goal in mind, they are moving to Windsor, CT.

Moe and Benlyne will definitely miss each other, but they plan to stay connected through social media, using their two common languages---English and Friendship.

From left: Moe and Benlyne are fast friends.

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Located in the McConnell Community Center, Dover Adult Learning Center of Strafford County helps adults in the Strafford County area enhance their life 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.