New Programming! Integrated Education and Training

Dover Adult Learning Center recently instituted a new program model which combines academic skills and job preparation. The goal of Integrated Education and Training Programs (IETs) is to build bridges between adult students and career pathways that address current workforce shortages.

For example, “Communication for Health Careers” targets students who have trained as a nurse in another country or are curious about a career in health care. They learn English language skills while exploring various jobs and training opportunities in healthcare.

Potential carpenters, plumbers and HVAC installers can learn and review math skills related to the construction and technical trades in “Construction Math Skills.”

The “Exploring Coding and IT Careers” explores algorithms, coding structures, and web pages and apps with HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. Students also have the bonus of meeting with developers in the industry and learning about career opportunities.

And finally, for those who know what job they want to pursue and are ready to apply, “Job Search and Interviewing Skills” helps improve communication and computer skills while learning how to look for a job and do well in interviews.

We are very excited to offer these unique classes to our students!

We Shall Overcome

At break time, the classes, all levels, from many countries and speaking multiple languages, gathered in the hallway. Led by a handful of teachers and staff, they came together to sing “We Shall Overcome.”

The group discussed how the song was sung on marches during the Civil Rights movement and how marches and rallies are part of our most precious right as Americans. And then something magical happened: the whole group linked arms and walked up and down the hallway singing this powerful anthem.

The goosebumps really appeared when two students stepped up and sang the song in their native languages, Nepali and Bengali. Who knew this American spiritual had become an anthem for rights and freedom around the world!

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In Our Own Words

Learning English
By Ruth Li

When I first immigrated to the United States, I could not speak English, I didn’t understand the English signs on the street, and I could only read numbers. Whenever I saw English, I felt scared. Whenever I listened to someone speak English, I felt scared.

Since I have been coming to school at DALC, I have been so excited. I have learned a lot of English. I have met many friends from different countries. The school’s teachers are very friendly, nice, patient and caring. I am happy in school. I have studied English for a long time now. I can basically communicate with the teacher, but my English is not yet able to fully meet the needs of everyday life, so I will continue to study English. I think learning English is the best thing for my future.

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.

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  Laurie Stevens

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  Louise McConne
Center Stars - US Citizenship Class

Throughout the year, we honor individual students or volunteers as our “Center Stars,” to recognize them for their hard work, dedication and perseverance.

Here, we’d like to celebrate the students in Carol Birch’s US Citizenship class. These students are working hard in Carol’s class, learning US history, government, and the responsibilities and opportunities of life in a democracy. In addition, they will need to demonstrate basic English reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills in order to pass a written test and an interview before they can finally take the Oath of Allegiance and officially be citizens of the United States of America.

We wish them the very best in their journey to citizenship!

Bridget Barker: Adult Learning Services Coordinator

Bridget Barker is our new Adult Learner Services Coordinator, ably stepping into the shoes of Debbie Liskow who retired in June after nearly 25 years at DALC.

Bridget has extensive teaching and tutoring experience, including adult education, special education, and middle school, and in a variety of settings, from private middle school to correctional institutions.

Her background makes her a perfect fit for this diverse community-based adult education program, which encompasses everything from recruiting, training, and matching tutors with students, to leading the Friday ESL discussion group, to reaching out to local non-profit organizations and assessing how DALC can help with their adult education needs.

Running the tutor program and hearing back from both tutors and students is incredibly rewarding. Here is what one of our tutors recently said:

“Jing and I were the perfect match (I hope she would concur). She is a voracious learner and ideal student - reading every sign as we walk, remembering what I tell her about grammar and pronunciation … She’s got a huge range of interests so that the hours fly by. It must be added that she has taught me a great deal about Chinese history, culture, and politics. Jing recently visited her doctor whom she had not seen for a year. Apparently the doctor was amazed by the improvement in her English in a year’s time. The doctor told her, ‘Your English is fantastic.’ Needless to say, we were both pleased.” ---- Bill B. (volunteer tutor)

You can learn all about being a volunteer tutor at the orientation on Wednesday, February 13, 2019, from 6-8 PM. Contact Bridget Barker for more information or to reserve your spot: 742-1030 Ext. 17 or b.barker@doveradultlearning.org.

Be a part of DALC

♦ Become a volunteer tutor
♦ Serve on a committee
♦ Join our Board of Directors
♦ Take an enrichment class
♦ Teach an enrichment class
♦ Become a Friend of the Center by making a donation
♦ Include DALC in your estate planning and become a member of the Helen Phipps Heritage Society
♦ Become a corporate or event sponsor
doveradultlearning.org/support
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.