



Adult Learning Center News

Summer 2017

Volume XIV, Issue 3



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

Director's Message - Congratulations Class of 2017

Deanna Strand

*"Dare to live the life you have dreamed for yourself.
Go forward and make your dreams come true. . .
Unless you try to do something beyond what you have
already mastered, you will never grow..
~ Ralph Waldo Emerson*

On Thursday, June 22, surrounded by family and friends, members of the class of 2017 were recognized for their determination, hard work and accomplishment.

This year, 140 students earned their high school credential. Each one of them made it to one of life's major



milestones. The path may have been long and winding; there were probably a few stumbles and some very steep climbs. Undoubtedly, there were moments when they felt lost or frightened and thought they'd never get to the end. And yet they did. After all the triumphs and struggles, they reached their goal! Each one should



feel extremely proud.

Our featured speaker this year was actually a mother and son duo. Both having earned their high school equivalency, Candace and Kestrel Cole-McCrea exemplify the resilience and determination it takes to achieve your goals, and to do it against great odds. The pair made a deep connection to our



graduating students.

Dover Mayor Karen Weston and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Elaine Arbour offered congratulations and words of wisdom, as did State Senator David Watters, who led the class in

chant of D-A-L-C!

From the Helen Phipps/Debbie Tasker, Betsy Hackett and Minnett Induisi scholarships, along with the Dover Rotary scholarships, \$4,500 was awarded. Empire Beauty School presented a \$1,000 scholarship. And, in an emotional moment, the family of Andrew Aimesbury awarded a \$2,000 scholarship to a recent graduate.

Be a part of our success:

- ◆ Serve on a committee
- ◆ Become a volunteer tutor
- ◆ 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

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In Their Own Words...**Another Road by Wayne Shannon**

When will you start again?
 Future is not built on the past;
 If so, how could anything last?
 Not to say that what is, isn't.
 We let the poison take control;
 Doesn't have to remain that way.
 Just write it off as yesterday.
 Time to travel another road.
 Thought I could bring you along;
 Now, just another sad song.
 To live in the past any longer
 Would not make us any stronger.

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.

2017 Friends of the Center**Founder's Circle (\$500+)**

Patrick & Karen Duffy
 First Parish Church
 Art & Debbie Tasker
 Peggy Kieschnick & Philip Hatcher
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 Jim Verschuere & Carlo Nittoli
 John & Julia VerPloeg
 David Watters

Helen Phipps Heritage Society:

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Center Stars - Charlene, Sapta and Claudio

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A few years ago **Charlene Paul** made a decision to get out of the house more and to do something for herself. That was when she came to classes here at Dover Adult Learning Center to earn her high school equivalency certificate. She has made a strong connection with



her teachers --first Kim, then Jill, and now Courtney. They have helped her pass the math and science tests; her

hardest, still to come, will be writing the essay, she thinks.

Outside of school, Charlene works at Walmart as a Floor Associate. Much better than work is the time she spends with her six-month old grand-daughter, Sistine, who is already learning to crawl and to play patty-cake.

Charlene left school in the 10th grade when she felt that she was not getting the help she needed from her teachers. Now, close to 50 years old, Charlene is determined to get a better education, mostly for the feeling of self-satisfaction, and maybe to open a door to new opportunities. She does not regret her decision to "get out of the house more."

Sapta Ariani wears a big smile when she talks about Carol Birch's Level 2 Evening ESL Class.

Sapta enjoys the fun she has with her classmates roleplaying different characters like doctors and patients.

After a hard day of work as a machine operator at a leather company, Sapta is glad that learning English is fun. Once a week, Sapta continues learning English with her tutor, Robin Berry. Sapta says, "I learn not just English, but life, like if I have something wrong at the bank, she can tell me."



Sapta came to the United States 16 years ago from Indonesia, where she worked in the tourism business, often scheduling itineraries for foreigners. She thinks she has adapted well to life in America, and she especially enjoys travelling to different states. In December, she took a bus to New York City to visit friends, then on to Atlanta for sightseeing, and then a flight back home to Dover.

Claudio Rodriques took the reading test on the HiSET five times--and failed it five times. He had no trouble with the other four subjects, passing each of them on the first attempt, even though

Portuguese, not English, is his first language.

All along, Claudio had a very good reason to pass the HiSET. He had a job offer at Concord Prison waiting for him --as soon as he had proof of his high school credentials. Ironically, he had already earned his high school diploma many years ago in his native country, Brazil. However, when he sent back home for a copy of his diploma, the school had no records.

So, Claudio asked Dover Adult Learning Center for help. After his day shift as a custodian at Dover High School, he met with a tutor two or three times a week for three months. He did all the practice tests in all the books available. He studied evenings and weekends. And he even read a short novel in English, of course.

In passing the test this past May, Claudio showed that his hard work paid off. He scored a 12 when all he needed to pass was an 8. He says, "I had to learn to read the questions very carefully.

Questions can be tricky. And I learned to understand more of what I read." Soon Claudio may be starting a new job. He says, "I put a lot of energy into this goal. I just kept saying, never give up."



Staff focus

At the end of each school year, the staff of Dover Adult Learning Center gathers to celebrate and reflect. At a local restaurant, we share appetizers and conversation while we take a moment to acknowledge our dedicated professional educators. Significant milestones this year include Minnett Induisi (pictured) who has been helping students succeed at DALC for more than 35 years. The clock she holds was inscribed with a quote from a 1985 Foster's Daily Democrat article featuring her class and includes a photo of Minnett from the same year.

Pam Shore, ABE teacher and Career Pathways Advisor was recognized for 15 years of service; Lien Harris, ESL teacher and Paula Dubois, ABE teacher each completed 10 years with DALC.





Dover Adult Learning Ctr.
61 Locust Street, Dover, NH 03820

Contact us at:
dalc@doveradultlearning.org
www.doveradultlearning.org
603-742-1030

Address



Reds Race: A Big Success

Congratulations to our students, staff, board and volunteers ...Team DALC did it!

Thank you also to our sponsors! We raised \$10,000 in one of the biggest events ever. More than 1,200 people took part, with 851 advance registrations and about 300 on the day of the race.



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.

