



Winter 2016



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myPLACEsm Receives \$10,000 Grant from Lincoln Financial Foundation

The Mayor's Commission on Literacy received a \$10,000 grant from the [Lincoln Financial Foundation](#) in support of The Commission's path-breaking adult education program called

myPLACEsm which stands for Philadelphia Literacy and Adult Career Education, leverages the power of technology to accelerate adult learning in a centralized, citywide system. The Commission established three **myPLACEsm** campuses which offer registration, assessment, enrollment, and case management support for adult job seekers. Thirty literacy organizations have partnered with The Commission to deliver face-to-face classes in Adult Basic Education (ABE), English as a Second Language (ESL), and GED® preparation. >>[Read more.](#)



Recent Events

THE MAYOR'S
COMMISSION ON  LITERACYSM
Because Adult Learning Works

**GED® INSTRUCTORS
BOOTCAMP**

GED® Instructors Bootcamp: Resources

On Friday, December 4, 2015, The Mayor's Commission on Literacy hosted its first GED® Instructors Bootcamp, led by [GED® Testing Services'](#) Brian Smith.

Instructors of GED® learned effective strategies to improve their learners' performance on the GED® test. The one day workshop covered topics that included: high impact indicators across the four content areas, scoring on extended responses, and making math thinking processes visible.

Click [here](#) for a complete list of resources and materials that were shared at the workshop.



The Big Picture: Why Does Adult Education Matter?

How does adult education integrate with other systems across the City of Philadelphia that also serve adult learners? This was the focus of the Philadelphia Adult Literacy Alliance's quarterly meeting on Thursday, December 17th, themed "The Big Picture: Why Does Adult Education Matter?" >> [Read more.](#)



Literacy Journey (By Sonia Lewis)

On #GivingTuesday, December 1, 2015, The Mayor's Commission on Literacy hosted a Barnes and Noble Bookfair fundraiser that featured poetry and spoken word by adult learners, MCOL volunteers, and staff. The Bookfair brought attention to the issue of adult literacy in Philadelphia and kicked off the Shop for a Cause partnership with Barnes and Noble. >> [Read more.](#)

Development Opportunities

Take advantage of The Commission's upcoming volunteer trainings designed to help you or your volunteers maximize time and effort as an adult literacy tutor.

Basic Tutor Training (Section 16E)

January 27, 2016 | 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Facilitator: Jill Gates-Smith

Basic Tutor Training provides volunteers with a foundation for tutoring adult literacy learners. Participants will learn how to use learner-centered tutoring techniques, assess learners, set learner goals, create lesson plans, write progress notes, and provide both face-to-face and online instruction.

REGISTER

Online ESL Tutor Training (Section: 16E.01)

February 7, 2016 - February 21, 2016

Facilitator: Sara Reckhan

English as a Second Language (ESL) Tutor Training provides tutor trainees with the tools, skills, and resources to support adult English language learners. Building on the basic principles of adult teaching and learning introduced in the Mayor's Commission on Literacy's Basic Tutor Training, ESL Tutor Training adds theory and techniques specific to tutoring learners whose first language is not English, and whose level of literacy in their native language ranges from non-literate to highly advanced. Basic Tutor Training is a prerequisite to participating in this training.

REGISTER

New Online Certificate in Adult Basic Education



PennState
World Campus

The **Goodling Institute for Research in Family Literacy** at Penn State has launched a new **online certificate** for professionals working with adults or out-of-school youth who struggle with reading, writing, numeracy, and/or English language proficiency. Penn State is one of the first universities to offer an online certificate in Adult Basic Education (ABE).

The 12-credit post-baccalaureate certificate will help professionals gain high-quality, research-based knowledge about ABE, especially literacy and numeracy instruction. This research-to-practice certificate can enhance the work of educators, social workers, counselors, professional development specialists, administrators, literacy volunteers, and others who work in community-based organizations, libraries, community colleges, K-12 and alternative schools, and government agencies, among others.

Key features:

- Offered online through the nationally recognized World Campus.
- Three required courses and one elective.
- The elective allows students to tailor the program to their interests, including ESL, program planning and administration, distance education, adult learning, or educational technology.
- Act 48-approved provider for Pennsylvania educators; it may count toward professional development hours.

To learn more about applying for the certificate, contact World Campus admissions at 800-252-3592.

For information about the certificate, contact Beth Grinder at elg6@psu.edu or 717-432-3498 or click [here](#).

MCOL In the News



Philadelphia mom hopes online literacy program leads to better future 1:52

Al Jazeera America Puts the Spotlight on the Literacy Crisis in Philly

In part two of their 'America Left Behind' series, Al Jazeera explores the

vicious cycle of poverty and lack of education.

*At the end of this year the Millennium Development Goals, targets set by the United Nations in 2000 for developing countries, will expire. In this project, we examine how some communities in the United States measure up against those goals. We have applied each one to the U.S. by looking at an indicator used to measure a country's development success and interpreting it for a community in America. The eight goals are: **eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**, achieve universal primary education, **promote gender equality and empower women**, **reduce child mortality**, **improve maternal health**, **combat HIV/AIDS and other diseases**, **ensure environmental sustainability**, and develop a global partnership for development. An indicator of the second goal is the literacy rate of 15-to-24-year-olds. In this piece, we look at how lacking basic literacy affects adults in Philadelphia.>>[Read more.](#)*

Community Resources & Opportunities



THE MOTH wants to hear your story of Philadelphia!

The Moth Community Program works to uncover the stories of often-overlooked populations, through storytelling workshops and performances in the U.S. and selected cities worldwide.

The free workshop, "Reinvention: Stories of Philadelphia," will help you develop and tell your story - a true story about a time when you reinvented, remade or revived yourself personally or professionally.

The workshop will be held Saturday, Feb. 27, and Sunday, Feb. 28, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. Stories will be presented at a special show on Feb. 28, immediately following the final workshop.

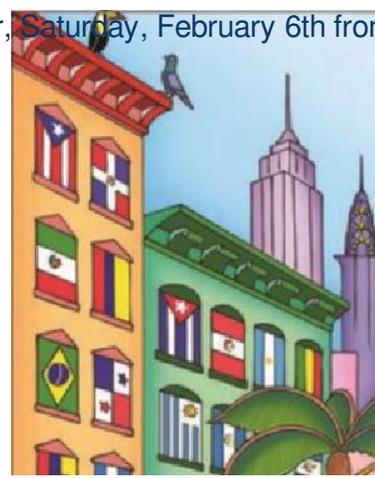
Anyone with a story about personal or professional reinvention is eligible to apply for this free workshop. Applications are due by 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 5. [Click here for more information and to apply.](#)

If you have any questions, please contact larry@themoth.org.

This year's Latino College Day is just around the corner, Saturday, February 6th from 12-3 pm..

Councilwoman, Maria D. Quiñones-Sánchez, will be the special guest to provide welcoming remarks for an event filled with information for Latino students and their families on how they can get the best education in the most affordable way.

For details and to save your space, click [here](#), or call the Admission Information Center at 215.751.8010



2016 Welcoming Center For New Pennsylvanians

Free Legal Clinic for Immigrants



*Connecting immigrants, employers,
and communities*

On the second Tuesday of each month the Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians hosts a free legal clinic for immigrants. At these clinics immigrants, family members, or employers meet individually with an attorney to discuss their legal questions. Would you like to receive more information about this program to share with your colleagues or clients? Sign up [here](#) to receive a monthly announcement.

Join the Alliance

The Philadelphia Adult Literacy Alliance brings together over 250 active members from the adult education community.

The mission of the Philadelphia Adult Literacy Alliance is to support the delivery of quality services to Philadelphia's adult learners by offering professional development, encouraging collaboration, and sharing information.



Why join the Alliance?

- Represent your organization and learners
- Stay updated on adult literacy and workforce trends, standards, and public policies
- Grow in your profession and take advantage of leadership opportunities

- Tap into new resources to enhance the quality of adult education programs
- Network and meet interesting people committed to improving adult literacy city-wide

Become a member today, it's free and simple!

Help Learners Get the Skills They Need

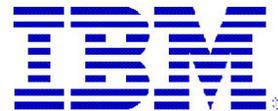
myPLACEsm, ***myPLACE Onlinesm***, and our other offerings are expanding to meet the extensive needs of Philadelphia's job-seekers.

We need your support.

Give to the Mayor's Commission on Literacy. Together, we can help Philadelphia's adults improve their literacy skills so they can participate in the workforce, support their families, and contribute to the local economy.

Invest in Adult Education

Partners & Funders



Share Your Story



Sharing your story about your personal experience as an adult learner, volunteer, or educator is a great way to encourage others to return to learning or give back to their community.

Share inspirational content with the Commission such as testimonials, messages, or poetry. [Submit online.](#)