



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### THE MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON LITERACY ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Philadelphia, PA (April 21, 2016)** – The [Mayor's Commission on Literacy](#) (the Commission) today announced that Diane C. Inverso will serve as Executive Director of the Commission. With over 25 years of experience working for the Commission, Ms. Inverso is an adult education expert on matters related to workforce education, family literacy, TANF literacy services, adult program development, and professional development. Ms. Inverso has focused the work of the Commission on adult work-readiness for the City's large, under-educated population through increasing the quality and access to adult education and ESL programs.

In 2014, Ms. Inverso was instrumental in creating the Commission's *myPLACE*<sup>SM</sup> program, a system of more than 30 adult education providers that coordinate and deliver Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language, Adult Secondary Education preparation, digital skills training, and career preparation to nearly 5,000 adults each year.

"Diane has spent the greater part of two decades working tirelessly on behalf of Philadelphia's adult learners. Her commitment and field expertise helped her to create *myPLACE*<sup>SM</sup>, the City's first formal system for adult education that has already served 10,000 adults since its inception in 2014," said Mayor Kenney in a statement. "In her new role as Executive Director, I am confident that she will continue to develop innovative solutions to improve the basic literacy and work-readiness of our diverse workforce."

Ms. Inverso oversees the Commission's work with a variety of City departments, adult education groups, community organizations, religious leaders, and adult learners to support and expand literacy services and education opportunities for adults. The Commission recommends policies, programs, and services to ensure that adults are provided literacy services so they are better prepared to perform in a competitive workforce.



Throughout her career, Ms. Inverso coordinated more than 30 conferences for adult education and workforce development professionals. Most notably, the Commission on Adult Basic Education's (COABE) National Conference in 2007, the Pennsylvania Association for Adult Continuing Education (PAACE) Conference in 2009, and the Commission's annual Technology and Adult Education Conference.

Ms. Inverso is a member of the Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board, Project U-Turn, and past-president of PAACE. She was appointed by Governor Rendell to serve on the Pennsylvania Adult Basic and Literacy Education Interagency Coordinating Council in 2010. She has been acknowledged for her commitment to the field with the *Excellence in Adult Literacy Award* in 2008, the *Adult Basic Education Administrator of the Year Award* in 2010, and *Outstanding Adult Educator Award for Pennsylvania* in 2012. She has presented at numerous national, state, and local conferences and has published articles in *The Pennsylvania ABE Staff Handbook, 1998*; *Fieldnotes for ABE Administrators, 2003*; and *ABLE in Context, 2010*. Ms. Inverso holds both a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in Education from Temple University.

### **About The Mayor's Commission on Literacy**

The Mayor's Commission on Literacy has worked to equip all adults in Philadelphia with the education they need for work, family, and civic engagement since 1983. The Commission is charged to work on behalf of over 80 literacy and workforce development programs to help the estimated 550,000 adults in the city complete adult secondary education, qualify for family-sustaining jobs and post-secondary training and education. [www.philaliteracy.org](http://www.philaliteracy.org)

In addition to the *myPLACE*<sup>SM</sup> program, the ongoing work of the Commission includes projects supporting professional development for adult practitioners; recruitment and training of volunteer tutors and mentors; oversight of 50 free public KEYSLOT<sup>TM</sup> computing labs; and the development of partnerships to leverage resources benefiting adult literacy and workforce systems. The Commission also provides leadership of the Philadelphia Adult Literacy Alliance, a membership of adult literacy professionals, organizations, and advocates.

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