



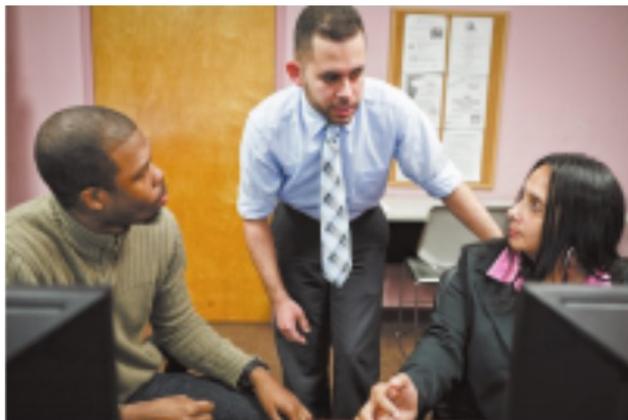
Adult Learning Center Initiative for SW

Southwest Globe Times | Ted Behr | March 3, 2017

Exciting “myPLACESM” program to start at Southwest CDC

Long underserved -passed in terms opportunities for adult education, Southwest Philadelphia has exciting news from the City of Philadelphia’s Office of Adult Education (OAE). That office, until last September known as the Mayor’s Commission on Literacy, has announced that it will set up a new “campus” of its myPLACESM program for city adult learners at Southwest Community Development Corp (Southwest CDC), 6328 Paschall Avenue.

The new center will include reading, writing and math classes for any resident who aspires to improve their opportunities employment, promotion, family interaction and service to the community. For those who did not have the chance to finish high school, GED courses will be available. For residents for whom English is a second language, the present ESL program at Southwest CDC will be continued.



Two adult learners receives individual coaching at one of the city’s Adult Education myPLACESM “Campuses” operated by the Mayor’s Office of Adult Education. A new myPLACESM campus is being set up for Southwest residents at Southwest CDC on Paschall Ave. with a variety of math, reading and writing classes, GED and ESL courses.

According to Marjorie L. Morris, Director, Communications and Development for the OAE, its mission is to equip all adults in Philadelphia with the education they need for work, family, and civic engagement since 1983.

OAE was charged to work on behalf of over 80 literacy and workforce development programs to help the estimated 550,000 adults in the city functioning below basic adult education levels to quality for family-sustaining jobs and post-secondary training and education.

Since the launch of the myPLACESM adult education system in January 2014, the Office of Adult Education (OAE) has served 12,527 adult learners in Philadelphia through December 2016. Of these, some 1,464 learners reside in the Second Councilmanic District, a clear indication of unmet opportunities in all of Southwest.

“I think it is really important to have an adult learning opportunity facility right here in Southwest,” added Donna Henry, Executive Director of Southwest CDC. “It will give residents to develop the skills they need for to obtain employment and or earn promotions and get better-paying jobs.”

Southwest CDC already has an active Full Employment Services Job Center on the premises. The lab is well equipped with computers with WiFi connection to the internet and access and assistance to contact myPLACESM, JobGateway, and CareerLink) services. One-on-one job counseling, resume and cover letter creation, and interview preparation are available from two experienced and motivated job coordinators, Selia Darlene Bervine, Community Workforce Navigator 215-729-0729 or seliadar-lene@southwestcdc.org and Cynthia Ryant, Employment Specialist (215-729-4546 or cynthia@southwestcdc.org. The two facilitators are available 9:00 am - 4:00 daily. Walk-ins are welcome, computer use is free, and appointments can be made at 215-729-0800.

Ms. Bervine and Ryant also conduct an Employment Boot Camp, the next session of which begins April 24. The Globe Times will update the creation of the myPLACESM center at Southwest CDC on a regular basis, but in the interim, more information can be obtained by contacting Vanessa Wallace, Adult Education Services Coordinator at myPLACESM at vanessa.wallace@phila.gov or 215.686.5254. ■