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JUNE 26 Street Department’s Future Track interns graduate during a celebration at City Hall in partnership with the Office of Adult Education.

JUNE 30 Office of Adult Education unveils the new City of Philadelphia ESL Class Map as a closing ceremony to Immigrant Heritage Month in partnership with Office of Immigrant Affairs.

JULY 4 Office of Adult Education celebrates Independence Day at Wawa Welcome to America in partnership with Adult Literacy XPRIZE.

JULY 5 Office of Adult Education celebrates the completion of the 6th cohort of Digital Skills & Bicycle Thrills at Finish Line Celebration. Participants took 237 rides during the course.

JULY 6 Office of Adult Education joins City Council to celebrate inaugural Kevin Hart Day.
Cross-Departmental collaboration increasingly vital to digital inclusion
Zach Quaintance | May 31, 2017

As life increasingly migrates into the digital realm, more agencies within municipal government are finding that digital inclusion — the effort to provide all residents with equal access to technology, as well as the related skills to benefit — is vital to the well-being of the public. >>> Read More
**INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY**

September 8, 2017

This year marks the 52nd International Literacy Day, which shines a spotlight on global literacy needs, literacy for everyone, everywhere.

Hosting an International Literacy Day for adults? Fill out the form below to share your event with our community.

Looking to partner with the Office of Adult Education? Indicate on the following form if you’d like OAE to attend or promote your event, please email Chelsea Reed at Chelsea.Reed@Phila.gov.

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**ADULT LITERACY XPRIZE PHILADELPHIA KICKOFF**

July 25, 2017 | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
City Hall, Courtyard

For more information visit our website at www.philaliteracy.org.

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**ADULT ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE ROUND TABLE #3**

September 19, 2017 | 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Municipal Services Building, 16th Floor Room E
Instructor | Naomie Nyanungo

Join us for the third installment of Adult English as a Second Language (ESL) Round Table. Come network with other adult education providers and help to formulate a plan for improving ESL services for adults in Philadelphia. The meeting is open to administrators, teachers and tutors of ESL programs.

>>> Register Now

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**MENTORING THROUGH READING**

September 9, 2017 | TBD
Instructor | Lynette Hazelton

Learn useful tips on how tutors can use books as a tool not only to improve academic skills and role modeling how an expert reader tackles reading but to support and mentor the learner on the issues that come up on the reading like time management, critical thinking, problem-solving, etc.

>>> Register Now

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**TUTOR INSTITUTE**

October 14, 2017 | 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
District 1199C Training & Upgrading Fund
100 S. Broad Street | 10th Floor

>>> Register Now
On June 28, 2017, the Office of Adult Education celebrated the 3rd Annual Citywide Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma (CSSD) Graduation for Philadelphia residents who received their high school equivalency. The annual graduation is hosted in partnership with local adult education programs and sponsored by Comcast and iHeartMEDIA. Over 150 graduates and their families attended and enjoyed remarks from Michael Banks, President and CEO of the African-American Chamber of Commerce and Dr. Wil Del Pilar, Deputy Secretary of Postsecondary Education of the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

>>>Read More

Make sure to check out photos from the 2017 CSSD Graduation Ceremony!
In 2014 Jessica Gorski relocated to Philadelphia. The Pittsburgh native was working as an attorney for an insurance company, but felt like something was missing. She longed for a way to give back. Believing that there are few things more valuable than receiving a quality education, Jessica decided she would find a volunteer opportunity within education in the city of brotherly love.

While searching the web, she came across the Mayor’s Commission on Literacy, now the Office of Adult Education (OAE). The Office of Adult Education offers a free volunteer training program to prepare perspective volunteers to work with adults who are looking to improve their skills.

Adult literacy, a silent issue in Philadelphia, affects over 550,000 adults and their families. These adults need to develop their workforce literacy skills to compete in our knowledge based economy, complete secondary education, obtain family sustaining wages or prepare to participate in post-secondary programs. With a third of the City’s population in need and a history of under-funding, adult education programs rely heavily on dedicated volunteers. After completing the Office of Adult Education’s Basic Tutor Training course, Jessica was matched to one of OAE’s largest partners, District 1199C Training and Upgrading Fund (District 1199C). District 1199C, located in the heart of Center City provides services to over 550 adults each year Jessica found herself tutoring adults in math.

“There’s a long-standing joke that lawyers cannot do math. I didn’t pick math, math picked me. I was honestly a little intimidated when I was asked to tutor the math subject area, reading would have been much more in my comfort zone,” Jessica explains.

Volunteers are never asked to tutor in a subject that’s uncomfortable for them. However, with such a great need for volunteer tutors and very few of them, many find themselves teaching in subjects they would not have considered themselves experts.

“Tutoring is an opportunity to discover new talents or ones that have been hidden,” explains Catalina Gonzalez, OAE’s Volunteer Programs Manager. “We often see people that feel they are not good at a topic, especially math and science because that’s what they were told in school and they go through life thinking this.”

With support from the Office of Adult Education and District 1199C, Jessica began tutoring pre-algebra. “Initially, the hardest thing about tutoring was learning how to teach concepts rather than just being able to do them,” Jessica explains. >>>> Keep Reading
Become an Adult Education Volunteer, Tutor Now!

Volunteers play an important role in providing educational services to adult learners. Your volunteer contribution supports the Office of Adult Education mission to ensure that all Philadelphians have access to high-quality education leading to personal and career advancement, and increased economic and social opportunity.

If you are 18 years of age or older with at least a High School or Equivalency Diploma, we invite you to consider becoming a volunteer tutor. The first step to becoming an Adult Education Tutor is to attend one of the FREE tutor trainings offered by the Office of Adult Education. The training is open to everyone - no teaching experience required!

Adult Literacy XPRIZE Volunteers

Become an Adult Literacy XPRIZE Volunteer! See below for dates and times of volunteer trainings.

Monday, July 24, 2017 | 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 25, 2017 | 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday, July 26, 2017 | 11:00 a.m., 4:30 p.m., and 4:30 p.m.
Friday, July 28, 2017 | 8:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 9:00 a.m.

Visit the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey for a calendar of volunteer opportunities, locations, training, and to create a volunteer login to sign-up today.

Upcoming Trainings

**ONLINE Tutor Now, Fundamentals of Adult Learning**
Session 1:
August 13, 2017 - September 3, 2017

Session 2:
September 10, 2017 - October 1, 2017

Fundamentals of Adult Learning provides tutors with a foundation of how to tutor adult learners.

>>> Register Now

**Tutor Now, Tech Skills**
August 27, 2017 - September 13, 2017

Tech Skills Training will equip you with tools, skills, and resources to support adults who wish to increase their technology skills.

>>> Register Now

**SAVE THE DATE! Tutor Institute**
October 14, 2017 | 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
The Tutor Institute will provide tutors and mentors with tools and strategies to help them be more effective in their work. Attendees of the institute will gain confidence, engage in meaningful conversations, make connections and ignite their creativity.

>>> Register Now

For more information on volunteering, contact Catalina Gonzalez at Catalina.Gonzalez@phila.gov
Tutor Now, Tech Skills
It is no surprise that Philadelphia is slowly developing a large technology community with annual events like Philly Tech Week, tech start-ups and companies planting their headquarters in the City of Philadelphia, and our Mayor pledging allegiance to growing Philly’s tech community by attending South by Southwest. But what about those who are left behind in rapid technology advancements? Philadelphia has a significant digital divide within its communities. The Office of Adult Education is seeking to bridge that gap with its brand new Tutor Now, Technology Skills Training, scheduled to launch August 2017. This innovative volunteer opportunity will allow Philadelphians to share their knowledge of technology with adults looking to learn 21st century skills.

We take for granted our knowledge of computers or navigating our way through a Microsoft Excel sheet but for many in Philadelphia, technology is a stranger--something that isn’t a “given.” Tech Tutors will have the opportunity to teach adult learners on a one-on-one basis how to navigate technology at one of one of the City’s KEYSPOT open access computing labs or adult education programs throughout Philadelphia. The new volunteer training rolls out with a two-week course, that will be offered completely online starting August 27, 2017. Come have an impact on Philadelphia’s growing tech community! Call the Office of Adult Education at 215-686-5250 for more information or visit our registration page to sign up!

Interested in enrolling in computer classes & career readiness workshops?
Need to boost your computer or job skills? Visit a KEYSPOT computer lab below to improve your computer and job skills!

- Center for Literacy
  399 Market St., Suite 201 | (215) 474-1235

- Congreso de Latinos Unidos
  2800 American St. | (215) 763-8879

- Lutheran Settlement House
  1340 Frankford Avenue | (215) 426-8610 ext. 1292

- People’s Emergency Center - Families First
  3939 Warren St., 2nd Fl. | (267) 777-5846

- Philadelphia FIGHT - AIDS Library
  1233 Locust St., 2nd Fl. | 215-985-4851

- Philadelphia Unemployment Project
  112 N. Broad St., 11th Fl. | (215) 557-0822
Digital Skills, Bicycle Thrills Roundup

The Digital Skills, Bicycle Thrills (DSBT) team has had a busy, successful year so far! Fifteen students graduated from our AIDS Library, Philly FIGHT KEYSPOT cohort on Thursday, May 18th and our second Spring cohort kicked off two weeks later at PEC – Families First in West Philadelphia. During the course, participants were challenged with DSBT activities including signing up for Indego, navigating the City on a group bike ride to Drexel Park, and submitting online bicycle safety assignments on our Learning Management System, Canvas. On Wednesday, July 5th, ten participants graduated with a certificate of completion and a six month Indego pass extension.

The Office of Adult Education is thrilled to announce our last cohort of the year starts August 1 at Asociación Puertorriqueños en Marcha in North Philadelphia!

APM is a Latino-based health, human services, community and economic development non-profit organization that joined the KEYSPOT Network in June 2017. This upcoming DSBT cohort will have enhanced support for those who English is not their first language through APM’s Community Connectors, ambassadors who serve as liaisons for the residents APM serves. Enrollment is open now - call 844-446-3346 to register for our Orientation on Tuesday, August 1st!

Are you...
- 18 or older?
- Interested in improving your computer skills?
- New to Indego bike share?

Sign up for a FREE, four-week digital skills class!
- 2 hours per week
- Join in one group ride
- Gain confidence biking in the city
- Learn digital skills like navigating the web and using Microsoft Word

To sign up, call 1-844-446-3346 and ask to join Digital Skills and Bicycle Thrills.
Philadelphia Adult Literacy Alliance closes out 2016/2017 year

The Philadelphia Adult Literacy Alliance convened for the last quarterly meeting of the fiscal year 2017 on May 24, 2017. The meeting explored opportunities for adult education in the Rebuild Philadelphia Initiative.

In the spirit of integrating adult education into Rebuild, the Alliance welcomed Deputy Director of Workforce Diversity and Inclusion, Mary Stitt and Deputy Director of Community Engagement and Communication, David Gould from the Rebuild Initiative to present on opportunities for Alliance member to get involved.

“What if we could transform our community assets by accelerating investment and engaging communities?” asked Gould. Rebuilding Community Infrastructure (Rebuild) Philadelphia, a $500 million program seeks to revitalize neighborhood parks, recreation centers, playgrounds, and libraries across the city. The Initiative is centered around physical improvements to assets, workforce diversity and inclusion, and community engagement.

Physical improvement will address decade old infrastructure and maintenance issues effecting the quality of city assets. Rebuild seeks to make these improves with a diverse and inclusive workforce by opening construction and apprenticeship programs to women, minorities and disabled populations.

A major issue facing this inclusion is making sure applicants have the prerequisite skills needed to begin a new career. “What can we do to engage the community, get people ready for the jobs we need and support them in obtaining these jobs?” Stitt asked the Alliance.

For adult educators and providers this issue of preparing adults for family sustaining jobs is nothing new. The Alliance has spent last year, meeting with New York Coalition for Adult Literacy, Adult Literacy XPRIZE and apprenticeship programs to identify strategies for moving adult education forward in Philadelphia.

Enrollment is now open for FY 2018

Join or renew your membership to the Philadelphia Adult Literacy Alliance. The Alliance, convened by the Office of Adult Education, is the foremost professional membership for Adult Educators and providers in the City of Philadelphia. Yearly free membership is available to individuals from non-profit, government, or for-profit organizations, located or carrying out the majority of their work in the City of Philadelphia

SAVE THE DATE! Philadelphia Adult Literacy Alliance
Quarterly Meeting #1
September 27, 2017 | 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Municipal Services Building | 16th Floor
Room Y

@PhilaLiteracy

You can be part of a solution to improve lives in Philadelphia.

The City of Philadelphia, its residents, corporations and non-profits are working together to support a new, innovative adult education program.

Learn how you can get involved: Adult Literacy XPRIZE Kick-Off Event

Tuesday, July 25th
12 noon
City Hall Courtyard

LOS ANGELES (July 18, 2017) — XPRIZE, the global leader in designing and operating world-changing incentive competitions, today announced eight semi-finalist teams are advancing in the $7M Barbara Bush Foundation Adult Literacy XPRIZE presented by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, a global competition challenging teams to develop mobile applications for existing smart devices that result in the greatest increase in literacy skills among participating adult learners. Further, XPRIZE announced official partnerships with three major U.S. metropolitan areas – Los Angeles, Dallas and Philadelphia – to support the competition’s next field testing phase. These partnerships encompass a powerful consortium of city mayors, community-based organizations and public education institutions including the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), City of Philadelphia’s Office of Adult Education (OAE) and the Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD).

“With the announcement of these semi-finalist teams, we are one step closer to transforming the lives of 36 million adults with low literacy skills in the U.S. by putting today’s cutting-edge learning tools directly in the hands of those who need them most,” said Shlomy Kattan, the senior director of the Adult Literacy XPRIZE.

>>> Read More
Announcements

**International Literacy Day**
Let the Office of Adult Education know if you plan to host an event for International Literacy Day in September. We would love to promote your event in our E-Zine. Email Communications Manager, Chelsea Reed by August 8, 2017 at Chelsea.Reed@Phila.gov.

**Enroll Now in PHLpreK**
PHLpreK is now enrolling for the 2017-18 academic year. PHLpreK is the City of Philadelphia’s FREE quality pre-K program with over 85 locations across the city. Classes begin in September, so don’t delay! To sign up, go to phlprek.org to find a program near you, or call 844-PHL-PREK (844-745-7735) to speak with a trained professional who will help you find a program that’s right for your family.

>>> Enroll today

**Join the Mayor’s Office of Education for a professional mixer for Early Childhood Education professionals**

![Early Childhood Education Professionals Mixer](image)

**Educate and Elevate National Public Awareness Campaign**

**New Fact Sheet**
Filed with quotable resources, our new fact sheet demonstrates to policy makers why adult education is an Investment in America’s future and makes the case for support.

>>> Read more

**ESL Information Night at Community College of Philadelphia’s Northeast Regional Center**
Learn about options for English as a Second Language courses at the Community College of Philadelphia, including the ESL institute and ESL college credit courses.

>>> Register

**How Community Schools Plan to Build Up Neighborhoods**
An initiative funded by the Philadelphia Beverage Tax, the City’s community schools initiative focuses on meeting local students’ and families’ needs in neighborhood hubs: schools.

>>> Read about the Plan

**#TakeActionPhilly Workshops**
City officials and the Philadelphia Bar Association are currently working together to provide free legal assistance to individuals and families seeking U.S. citizenship.

>>> Read more

**Rebuild Philadelphia Initiative**
Vendors and contractors! Interested in working on the Rebuild Philadelphia Initiative?

>>> Sign up for updates
To be considered for the next E-Zine, please submit information by August 6th to Chelsea Reed at Chelsea.Reed@Phila.gov.

Facebook.com/PhilaLiteracy

Twitter.com/PhilaLiteracy

www.philaliteracy.org