



The Literacy Council  
of Lancaster-Lebanon

# The Literacy Line

Winter 2020

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**Literacy & Learning  
Success Centers**  
Lancaster | Lebanon

The Literacy & Learning Success Centers, a service of The Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon.



## Literacy, Success, and a Brand New Us

**-Cheryl Hiester, Executive Director**

### In 1985:

- Coca Cola introduces New Coke
- Music CD's are introduced
- Windows 1.0 is released
- Curly perms and shoulder pads are in style
- The Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon is formed

### In 2020:

- Does anyone remember New Coke?
- Streaming our music is the preferred method of listening
- Windows 10 it is
- You wouldn't want to be caught with a curly perm and wearing shoulder pads
- The Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon is looking ahead as we celebrate 35 years of service to Lancaster and Lebanon Counties.

As we move forward into 2020, you will see the evolution of our re-brand (see Ilsa's article below) and a new name for our newsletter, as we continue to celebrate success through stories. In this issue, you will read about Cathy and Jane's multi-cultural experiences. You will read Amanda's story about perseverance and success. You will read about what can happen when organizations come together in Steve and Brittany's stories of collaboration.

From all of us at The Literacy & Learning Success Centers, we wish you a happy and healthy 2020!

## We've Re-branded!

**-Ilsa Powell Diller, Outreach & Resource Coordinator**

Have you noticed our new look? In the past year, with a grant through the Lancaster County Community Foundation, The Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon has worked with Taylor Brand Group to refresh our look, message, and community presence. The public face of The Literacy Council is the centers in Lancaster and Lebanon counties where our students and staff gather. As such, you will now see the message: *The Literacy & Learning Success Centers, a Service of The Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon*. This change comes in time for our 35th anniversary, and also out of need to assure that our adult learners (and potential students) and community partners have a firm understanding of the programs and services we offer in both Lancaster and Lebanon counties. Look for our new logos on our social media pages, website, and mail correspondence. Our brand has changed, but the goals for our learners still remain: to gain the skills they need to be successful in supporting themselves, their families and contributing to their communities. Literacy is the foundation of learning, and learning is the key to success.

## Adeola's Journey to Success *-Amanda Ruth, Program Coordinator, Lebanon*

Adeola Ogunwusi first stepped into my life in 2016 through a Family Literacy Interactive Literacy Activity. As I was leading the group, Adeola expressed how excited she was to use the counter that we were making with her daughter. Adeola was going to help her practice her addition and multiplication facts. Her son, David, was too little to use the counter, but he would be able to benefit from what Adeola was learning too. Throughout the rest of the year Adeola worked hard at earning her High School Equivalency Diploma but hadn't quite finished by the end of the year. That wouldn't stop her though, she would be back.

The following year she worked with the Family Literacy program at Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13 (IU13) in a little bit of a different capacity. She still attended classes but because of her demanding work and home schedule she was able to use the KET program to keep up with her studies when she was unable to attend. With a school-aged child and one still at home, she worked the night shift and took care of the kids during the day while her husband was working on completing his schooling. Adeola was taking her High School Equivalency exams and passing them one by one with the help and encouragement of her family, co-workers, and teachers. At the end of the year she had taken, and passed, all her exams but still needed to improve her scores to earn the necessary points.

At the beginning of the summer, her husband encouraged her to reach out to her teachers again to see how they could help her reach her goal. Adeola knew that David, now starting kindergarten, was going to be headed to

school and she wanted to take advantage of the time that she would have to focus on her studies. The Literacy & Learning Success Center was there to help her to finish her High School Equivalency journey.

She needed to earn at least one more point on the HiSet exam and decided to try and retake her Social Studies and her Math tests. She first studied with a small tutor group that focused solely on math. As her skills and confidence grew, she decided to sign up for her tests. But she still needed a bit more work and joined an HSE class once David was in school and postponed her tests until November. She continued to work hard in class and once again took advantage of the supplemental online learning that The Literacy Council had to offer. She worked on Khan Academy to sharpen her skills in both social studies and math. When she had a break at work, she was able to take advantage of the online material and used every spare minute. One day after class she excitedly came into my office and told me a story of how she was able to help her daughter on her homework. She was so proud of herself and her daughter saw how much Adeola's hard work was paying off.

November came and Adeola re-took her tests and PASSED! Adeola exceeded her goal of earning just one extra point and brought her math test grade from an 8 to a 10. She is looking forward to continuing her education and is very thankful for all the help that the Literacy & Learning Success Center, IU13 Community Education, and her family gave her along the way.

## A Collaborative Effort: Adult Education at McCaskey East *-Brittany Foose, Student Services Coordinator*

Every Tuesday and Thursday night, adult students of all ages and backgrounds gather on the third floor of McCaskey East High School. Students have overcome physical and circumstantial barriers in order to attend these classes. Many of them have just spent a long day at work. Some students walk to class, while others drive close to an hour to attend the 2 ½ hour-long class. Each student is unique, but all students share a similar desire to better their lives through education.

For five hours a week, over 100 students attend one of seven different classes at the adult education class site at McCaskey East. The approximately 40 HSE students are split between two rotating High School Equivalency classes in which students learn reading language arts, math, social studies and science, while speakers of other languages are placed into five different English classes based on their English proficiency level. These classes are provided for

free for students in partnership with the Literacy & Learning Success Center, IU13 Community Education, and the School District of Lancaster.

The highest level ESL class is called Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education (IELCE). In the IELCE program, adult English Language Learners gain more knowledge about that the rights and responsibilities of living in the U.S. while working on the skills they need to move into a career. The program connects students to free training and other opportunities to achieve their goals. While language proficiencies and material comprehension vary, students are united in their goal toward further academic and professional success.

The Literacy & Learning Success Center is grateful to be working with both IU13 Community Education and SDoL to help address the educational needs and goals of the adult learners who attend classes at McCaskey East.

## Community Impact: One "Stick" at a Time

**-Steve Hess, Student Services Coordinator**



Yunaisi Garcia, Mirses Olano, and Maged Helmy were all formerly trained in the medical field in their home countries. Having arrived in the United States, these credentials are often not recognized and the need to start all over again is a reality they must face.

To that end, these three are currently enrolled in a short-term phlebotomy program held at Tec Centro, a provider of skills training for the underem-

ployed to gain economic self-sufficiency. This intensive program meets three nights a week and includes coursework, a two-week clinical practicum and culminates in a

certification exam.

Yunaisi and Mirses are being assisted through the Career Pathways for English Learners (CPEL) grant funded through the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).

Maged is being assisted through a grant the Literacy Success Centers was awarded by the Pennsylvania Medical Society. These grants aim to support



individuals to attain the knowledge and skills necessary to begin professional careers in the United States and allow them to be contributing members in their communities.

## The 2020 Census: Everybody Counts

**-Jenny Bair, Program Director**

Not only does 2020 mark a new decade, 2020 is also the year of the census.

The census is mandated by the Constitution and was first conducted in 1790. It is designed to count anyone living in the United States and its territories on April 1, 2020.

Data collected during the Census is used to determine the allocation of billions of dollars in federal funding to support essential services in our community. Funding goes to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads and even adult education agencies.

The findings are also used to determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as to draw congressional and state legislative districts.

That's why it is so important for EVERYONE to be counted.

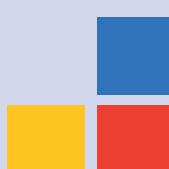
Residents who are foreign-born, low income, undocumented, renters, highly

mobile, lack access to the Internet, or who do not speak English fluently are at risk of not being counted. Many students who attend Literacy Council Success Center classes fall into these categories.

The Literacy & Learning Success Centers staff, teachers, and tutors can help students feel confident in responding to the invitation to participate.

- Assure students that information provided on the questionnaire is kept confidential and can be used only for statistical purposes. It's the law.
- Use the census as a civics lesson.
- Help students understand the questions.
- Assist students in accessing the questionnaire on computers that are available at the Success Centers

To learn more about the census or to access lesson plans for adult students please visit [census.gov](https://census.gov).



## A Holiday Celebration at the Ephrata Hub *-Jane Myers, Volunteer Services Coordinator*

On December 18th, I had the privilege of being a guest at an ESL holiday celebration at The Hub in Ephrata. Four students prepared a feast for their two instructors, the directors of the Ephrata Library, The Hub, and me. Two of the students had been trained chefs in the Ukraine, their native country. Viktor was the head chef on a train that traveled between the Ukraine and Moscow. The 18-car train carrying 250 people took three days to complete the journey. Working in a galley kitchen with one dishwasher, he prepared three meals a day. Meanwhile, his wife was working as a chef in a hospital where she oversaw a large staff in a large kitchen, charged with meeting the dietary needs of the individual patients. As she told me: no salt, no sugar, no flour, no dairy, no taste!

The other students, one from Colombia and one from Mexico, although not professionally trained, were equally

competent in the kitchen. We feasted on a medley of dishes from Ukraine, Colombia, and Mexico which ranged from soup and salad to six desserts. Feast your eyes on my photos. For this tutor coordinator, a real perk!



## Rebecca: Student Advisor and So Much More

*-Cathy Roth, Program Coordinator, Lebanon*



Rebecca Lowenstein-Harting has become an important member of our team. She's the Student Advisor for adult learners at both IU13 Community Education and the Literacy & Learning Success Center in Lebanon. She is conveniently located at IU13 on the second floor at 1 Cumberland Street. Students are making appointments with her to clarify goals and plan steps to achieve them.

She has introduced herself in all the classrooms. Recently our intermediate class interviewed her. For the last couple of weeks, we have been learning how to organize descriptive writing and she has been willing to tell us about herself so that we could write about her. Students are also creating a slide show, comparing and contrasting her life with theirs.

On December 19th our students presented a slide show about Rebecca to the beginning level class. Will they remember she has degrees in anthropology and linguistics? She lives on a farm in Lancaster with 11 cats and a dog? She has taught ESL and she has also been a student facilitator on a Heifer International Farm in Arkansas? Her favorite animal is an alpaca, and she competes in roller derbies?

The students learned a lot about Rebecca, know she is there to help them, and practiced their technology skills creating their slide show. This is a wonderful collection of learning!

## Multicultural Holiday Quandaries

*-Cathy Roth, Program Coordinator, Lebanon*

At this time of the year, addressing the holidays, while remaining inclusive and sensitive to other cultures can be challenging. This year one of my intermediate students was clearly uncomfortable about a brief reading on the origin of Halloween. It explained how the holiday sprang from ancient European folks' efforts to stave off the horrors of the coming winter. Other students were interested in the topic.

This Thanksgiving, the same student who questioned the Halloween story asked me to explain Black Friday. Another student who had recently passed her citizenship test, wondered if Native Americans celebrated the holiday as enthusiastically as the Pilgrims' descendants.

Many textbooks include units on celebrations. *Ventures* includes a lesson on the Iranian New Year. In most cases, students enjoy learning about other cultures and discussing how it's alike or different than their own. Teaching students about American holidays, while learning about the holidays and traditions of other countries and cultures, can be a valuable and rich learning opportunity for both students and teachers.

## The Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon

We serve the people and communities of Lancaster and Lebanon Counties; working in partnership with multiple stakeholders, including but not limited to nonprofit agencies, educational institutions, business and industry employers, governmental staff, and organizations. Key to our success is a network of highly qualified volunteers, professional staff, and a supportive community.

### Mission

Promoting lifelong learning and learning for life.

### Vision

Adults have skills to transform their lives, sustain their families, and strengthen their communities.

### Values

- Quality** - Our high-quality programs and services are rooted in evidence-based practices and offered in an encouraging and caring environment.
- Goal-Driven** - Our programs and services demonstrate results that support the education students need to successfully transition to the next step of obtaining their life goals.
- Respect and Integrity** - Our compassionate and caring approach and interactions are highly respectful of diverse backgrounds and differences. Our integrity rests in our word, all deeds and actions that ensure trustworthiness and confidentiality.
- Leadership** - Our staff, board members, volunteers, and students are engaged and are actively advocating for adult education. Our responsibility to continually enhance our own leadership skills will keep us prominent in the field.
- Innovative** - Our effective partnerships, strategic approaches, and being open to possibilities allow us to respond creatively to our work.
- Collaborative** - Our willingness to build strong relationships and alliances with others that support our mission ensures commitment to serving our community and the betterment of society at large.



**The Literacy Council of  
Lancaster-Lebanon is a  
partner agency of the  
United Way of Lancaster  
and Lebanon Counties.**



**The Literacy Council of  
Lancaster-Lebanon is  
accredited under the PANO  
Standards for Excellence®**

### Board

The Literacy Council is governed by a volunteer board of directors. 2019-2020 board members:

Eric Luckenbaugh, President  
Dave Diffendal, Vice President  
Mary Edith Leichliter, Secretary  
Erik Cianci, Treasurer

Scott Cole            Martha Guajua  
Rich Druby          Cheryl Hiester\*  
Willa Freer         Aliina Hirschoff Hopkins  
Ashley Garcia  
Star Gibbs

(Non Voting)

### Staff

Jenny Bair, Program Director  
Brittany Foose, Program Coordinator  
Steve Hess, Student Services Coordinator  
Cheryl Hiester, Executive Director  
Mitchell Hiester, Program Assistant  
Jane Myers, Volunteer Services Coordinator  
Ilisa Powell Diller, Outreach & Resource Coordinator  
Cathy Roth, Program Coordinator, Lebanon  
Amanda Ruth, Program Coordinator, Lebanon  
Monica Shannon, Receptionist

### Adjunct Teachers

Meredith Aul	Deb Linton
Lisa Bowman	Rita Nutter
Barbara Dorozynsky	Lauren Swartz
Kerry Hurst	

### Volunteers Needed

*"Action is the foundational key to all success."* –Pablo Picasso

Take action today and join us. We need volunteers to teach basic education skills.

To get started, contact:

- Jane Myers, Lancaster Center  
[jane@literacysuccess.org](mailto:jane@literacysuccess.org)
- Amanda Ruth, Lebanon Center  
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