

Also: Meet Diana, Highmark  
Wholecare Supports Literacy,  
Career Fair Thanks & More!

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## A City Committed to Early Learning: Collaboration for Pittsburgh's Children



City of Pittsburgh First Lady and Literacy Pittsburgh board member Katie O'Connor recently convened a roundtable on early childhood development, with Literacy Pittsburgh CEO Carey Harris participating. Mrs. O'Connor's commitment to championing young children and their families through lifelong learning is energizing, and we are eager to support her efforts.

Although most of Literacy Pittsburgh's programs focus on adults, many of those adults are parents working hard to build the skills they need to help their children thrive. More than one-third of our adult students are raising children under age five, and more than half are parents of school-aged children.

Our children and family programs are designed to meet those needs directly. We help parents embrace their role as their child's first teacher and

support young children in developing strong early literacy skills. [Keep reading](#)

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## Terra Teets named State Advocate for Adult Education Fellow



We are excited to share that Terra Teets, Program Manager of Auxiliary Teaching/Support has been selected as Pennsylvania's new State Advocate for Adult Education Fellow (SAAEF) through [COABE](#), a national organization that advocates on behalf of adult education.

“I care deeply about adult learners, second chances, workforce pathways, and the educators and programs doing this work every day,” Terra explains. “This new role is a commitment to take that passion one step further by showing up more consistently and using my voice to help strengthen advocacy for adult education in Pennsylvania and across the country.”

As the Pennsylvania SAAEF Fellow, Terra will serve as a point of contact for adult education advocacy in Pennsylvania. She will also be supporting national advocacy efforts alongside COABE. Terra will be collaborating closely with Pennsylvania Association for Adult Continuing Education (PAACE) and other partners to elevate what's working, highlight learner impact, and keep adult education part of the conversation where decisions are made. Congratulations, Terra!

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## Immigration Changes Impact Students

Immigration policy shifts are reshaping the landscape for Literacy Pittsburgh's foreign-born students, creating new barriers that reach far beyond the classroom. Many learners now face uncertainty about their legal status—even those already vetted and approved—fear of attending in-person programs, and restrictions on employment opportunities—all of which disrupt their ability to build stable lives and pursue education. These challenges don't exist in isolation; they ripple outward into our region's workforce, reducing the number of motivated, reliable workers and shrinking a tax base that supports local, state, and federal services. Nationwide, these policies impact hundreds of thousands of refugees, asylees, visa applicants, green card holders, and other immigration applicants. [Keep reading](#)

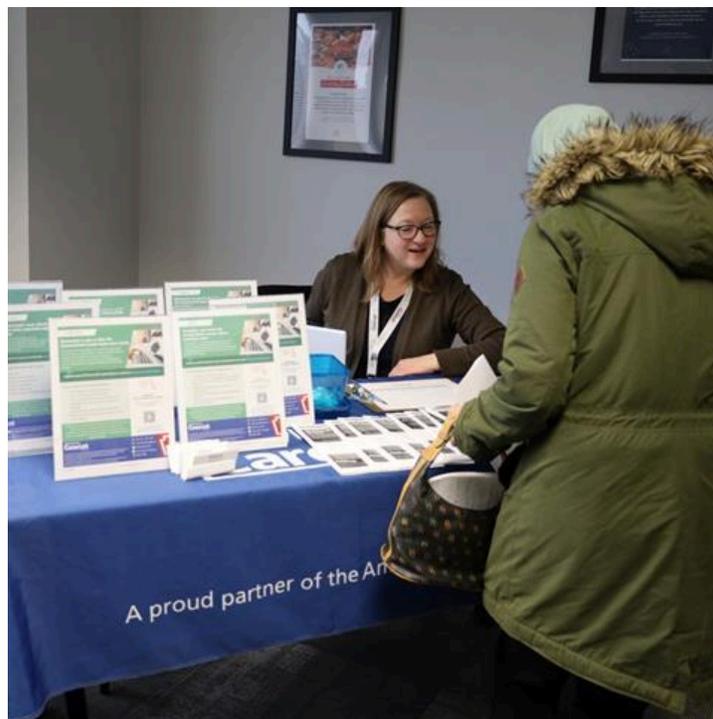
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## Local Companies Support Career Fair



Thank you to the companies who joined us for our recent Career Fair: PNC Bank, Fairmont Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh, JFCS Career Services, Catholic Charities, CareerLink, and UPMC. Our students appreciated the chance to learn more about these companies and job opportunities!





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## A New Beginning in Pharmacy: Diana's Journey

Diana moved to the United States from Ukraine in April 2023. Seeking safety and stability for her family amidst the war in her home country, Diana

chose to settle in Pittsburgh to begin a new chapter.

Diana first learned about Literacy Pittsburgh through recommendations from local community members. Recognizing that English is essential for work, study, and daily life, she enrolled in classes in 2024 to bridge the gap between her professional expertise and her new environment.



“Studying at Literacy Pittsburgh is a very good experience,” Diana says. “The teachers are kind and patient. Literacy Pittsburgh means support, opportunity, and a new start for me.” [Keep reading](#)

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## Board Spotlight: Ellen Duffield | CEO, Highmark Wholecare



As CEO of Highmark Wholecare and a current board member of Literacy Pittsburgh, Ellen Duffield sees firsthand how literacy and education shape economic opportunities, workforce readiness, and even community health.

“It is critically important to the success of organizations like Highmark Wholecare Wholecare that we have a skilled, literate workforce,” Ellen says. “We serve diverse populations with complex health and social needs. Strong language skills, including multilingual capacity, are essential for our teams to engage productively and compassionately with our members.” [Keep reading](#)

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## Staff Learns About Little-Known Pittsburgh History

Every other month, Literacy Pittsburgh offers its staff an opportunity to learn about and discuss historical and

contemporary issues confronting society in general and our students in particular. In January, staff members gathered to view and discuss the [documentary](#), “Struggles in Steel: A Story of African-American Steelworkers.” This is a film specific to the Pittsburgh area and highlights the largely unreported history of African-American steel workers, their fight for equality that helped shape modern unions, and the effects of mill closures on these individuals, their families, and their communities. These closures affected multiple generations within families, with consequences that remain evident today. Staff discussed ways they see this history impacting student lives.

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## **Sign up for our Next Introductory Tutor Training!**

[Learn more](#) about becoming a volunteer adult literacy tutor and register for training.

### **Introductory Tutor Training: Teaching Adult Learners**

#### **In-Person Workshop**

Saturday, March 28

10:15 am – 12:15 pm

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, East Liberty branch

Meeting Room 3A

130 S. Whitfield Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15206

CLP is not the host or organizer of this event. CLP does not support, sponsor, or represent this group or event.

### **Introductory Tutor Training: Teaching Adult Learners**

#### **Virtual Workshop**

Tuesday, April 7  
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM  
Northmont United Presbyterian Church  
8169 Perry Highway  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

**Why We Do the Work We Do** 📖 📄 🎉

“Literacy Pittsburgh helped me deal with others linguistically. It helped me prepare for speaking in interviews and working with my colleagues in the hospital,” “I love Literacy Pittsburgh and I owe them a lot.”

**Mohameden, Literacy Pittsburgh Student**



Support Literacy Pittsburgh with your purchase of comfy tees, cozy sweatshirts, and other cool merch. 10% of each purchase will help our students to succeed. Visit our merch store.

Thank you to Highmark Wholecare for sponsorship of *The Spark Online*.

