

Also: Advocacy Action Alert, Meet
D'Arcy, Video Premiere, and
more!

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Celebrating International Literacy Day and Literacy Month!

Today is International Literacy Day! This newsletter is full of ways you can help us celebrate:

- Get a behind-the-scenes peek with the premiere of our brand-new video.
- Contact your senators and representatives and advocate to keep adult and family literacy in the federal budget.
- Sign up for a volunteer training to move a student from our waiting list. Or tell a friend about volunteering as a tutor.
- Read about how you can build a lasting legacy with Literacy Pittsburgh's Pathways to the Future

Video Premiere: Create Better Lives

Did you know Literacy Pittsburgh helps thousands of people each year get better jobs and feel more connected to the community? Take a peek behind the scenes with this brand-new video featuring our mission, students, and teachers.



Advocacy Action Alert



The House has released its Fiscal Year 2027 appropriations bill, and, unfortunately, as last year, it proposes eliminating adult education funding.

While disappointing, this bill is not the last word on funding. It is important to remember that strong participation in advocacy by staff, students, volunteers, and donors helped Congress reject a similar proposal last year. The Senate still needs to release a draft appropriations bill—which included level funding for adult education in FY 2026—and then both chambers will deliberate final FY 2027 funding levels in the coming months.

While both chambers recently passed continuing

resolution (CR) bills to keep the government open with flat funding through early December, they must reconcile the bills before September 30. Even if a CR is adopted, adult education funding may be at risk for the remainder of the fiscal year.

We have proven before that advocacy works, and it is once again time to urge Members of Congress to preserve and increase funding for adult education.

CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Build a Bridge to a Better Life

Help us celebrate Literacy Month by sharing your passion for volunteering with friends, family, and colleagues.

Did you know that right now 275 people are on our waiting list? If you help us spread the word—or sign up yourself to tutor—each of those new students could get started on their goals!

We've provided a graphic and text for you to copy and use on your social media, in a text message, or in an email. With your help, Literacy Month can become a life-changing celebration for these waiting students!

September is Literacy Month! I am honored to support Literacy Pittsburgh (as a donor/tutor/partner/friend). Each year, Literacy Pittsburgh helps thousands in our area earn a GED, get a better job, feel more confident speaking English, gain digital literacy skills, and so much more! I am proud to build a bridge to a better life! Today, there are 275 people on Literacy

Pittsburgh's waiting list. They need someone like you to help them reach their goals. Learn more at literacypittsburgh.org/literacy-tutor



Help Build a Lasting Legacy: Pathways to the Future

As we celebrate National Literacy Month, we're reminded that literacy changes lives every day. It opens doors to employment, strengthens families, and creates opportunities that can last for generations. At Literacy Pittsburgh, we're committed to ensuring that these opportunities remain available for years to come.

One of the most meaningful ways to make a lasting impact is through **Pathways to the Future**, Literacy Pittsburgh's planned giving program. Through a planned gift, you can help ensure that adults and families throughout our region continue to have access to the education, resources, and support they need to achieve their goals. [Keep reading](#)

Literacy Pittsburgh Named a Best Place to Work



Literacy Pittsburgh is proud to announce that for the fourth time, we have been named a Best Place to Work in the Pittsburgh Business Times' ranking! Thank you to our wonderful team for creating a supportive environment for their colleagues and our students!

While this is a great honor, the feedback we receive from the Best Places to Work survey is also very important. It is an opportunity to learn about areas where we excel along with opportunities for growth. We want to keep Literacy Pittsburgh thriving for our staff, our students, and our volunteers.

Behind the Scenes: Tutor Support

As you may know, the tutoring program here at Literacy Pittsburgh is expanding this program year! We're looking for new tutors in Washington, Butler, and Westmoreland counties—along with our current counties of Allegheny and Beaver. With this expansion, we want future tutors to know what support is available while they tutor with us. This article offers a behind-the-scenes look at the

support we provide to all our tutors beyond initial training.

Each year, our tutors complete a pulse survey that gives us information about their experience. Year after year, tutors tell us they feel well supported in their role. In the most recent survey, completed in Spring 2026, many tutors said they have the resources they need to be successful and feel well supported. [Keep reading](#)

Spotlight on Success: D'Arcy

"Most Americans don't realize how very difficult the English language is to speak... I would like to be a bridge to others."

After seeing a friend find success at Literacy Pittsburgh, D'Arcy decided it was time to expand her own options. She is currently working toward her GED with plans to move into CPU classes for Excel and Google certifications.



But her ultimate vision is higher learning: an Associate degree in languages to become an interpreter. Growing up in the West Bronx, D'Arcy discovered a natural gift for languages and a deep respect for the different cultures that enrich this country. [Keep reading](#)

Celebrating Milestone Anniversaries



We are pleased to recognize two of our staff members, Lisa Morse and Lauren Ramon, for their dedicated service to Literacy Pittsburgh.

Lisa Morse

North Hills - Butler County Program

Coordinator

10 Years of Service

For Lisa, the best part of working at Literacy Pittsburgh is the community. "Working at Literacy Pittsburgh for me is all about the people," Lisa shares. "I love interacting with people from so many different countries and different walks of life. Because I support both tutors and students, I have the opportunity to meet and influence a variety of people, and each story is unique."

Lauren Ramon

Manager, English Language Learning

5 Years of Service

What Lauren loves most about Literacy Pittsburgh is the people she works with every day. "We have incredible, resilient students who show up despite the many challenges in their lives," Lauren explains. "I also consider myself lucky to supervise dedicated teachers who show up with a sense of humor and curiosity, and to work with so many people who care so deeply about the work we do."

[Read more about Lisa and Lauren at this link.](#)

Welcome New Staff: August 2026

We are pleased to welcome the following new faces to our team:



Jason Sokol
Special Assistant to the CEO



Steven D'Addieco
Workforce Instructor



James Walsh
Program Manager, Digital Skills

Celebrating Our 258 Postsecondary Education Students

During the 2025-26 year, 258 students entered postsecondary education. An incorrect number was presented in last month's issue. Congratulations to these students for taking this exciting next step! 🎉

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, September 12
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Green Tree Public Library
10 W Manilla Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15220

Introductory Tutor Training: Teaching Adult Learners

In-Person Workshop

Tuesday, September 15
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Literacy Pittsburgh's Downtown Center
411 Seventh Ave
Suite 525
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Why We Do the Work We Do

Tutoring is not only a teaching experience, but also an opportunity to continue learning.
"Tutoring is all components. It's mentally

challenging for me, and I'm helping someone get ahead in life.” **Literacy Pittsburgh Tutor**



Two new merch store items: Tank tops for hot summer days and crewneck sweatshirts for chilly nights! Check them out at the link! Visit our merch store.

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



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