

Delaware's Outstanding Adult Education Learners



2017



March 2017

The adult learners highlighted in this booklet are dream-makers! They have planned out their next steps for achieving their goals. They know that dreams don't become real by only dreaming.

Our honorees are women and men who have family, work, and community obligations. Their lives are busy with little unoccupied time. Yet, they commit a significant amount of time and effort to their educational pursuits. The belief in the value of an education is the first step transforming dreams into realities.

These learners are from diverse backgrounds and their dreams are as different as they are. Some want to become more proficient in English to get better jobs or help their kids succeed in school. Others want to attend post-secondary education or training academies so they can enter the job market equipped for good jobs, better prepared for higher level positions or ready to shift to new careers. Still others are "skilling up" to start their own businesses; while others finally have the time to complete their secondary education. All want to be able to create their own futures by transforming their dreams into achievements. As importantly, they don't dream for just themselves, but also for their families, their workplaces and their communities. As these learners raise themselves up, they raise the rest of us also!

The learners who attend Adult Education Programs are folks who are willing to work hard, persevere, and believe they can achieve. This year's honorees live these qualities on a daily basis and inspire others to take their "next steps" also.

To those who have shared their stories, thank you. You show us that dreams can become real! You remind us that success is accomplished by asking "what's next" and sticking to our plans until the goal has been reached!

You inspire the rest of us to ask ourselves "what's next"?

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maureen Whelan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Maureen Whelan
State Director of Adult and Prison Education Resources

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Delaware's 2017 Outstanding Students

Aqeel Al Rubaye
Benancia Amado
Jacob Aurand
Marvin Benton
Peter Bouchelle
Bernes Brilliant
Edwin Calderon
Jennifer Carey
Ricardo Castro
Sima Chotalia
Patricia Colburn
Nicholas Constantine
Karon Gray
Faith Hall
Yolanda Harbin
Silas Harrison
Scarlett Hart
Seth Hauer
Barclay Knorr
Roselle Laws
Cristina Leon
Sean Lloyd
Elizabeth Martinez
Ariadna Morales-Salinas
Partol Nyomah
Lais da Costa Patricio
Hugues Pierre
Charisse Pineda
Tatiana Rodriguez
Shanikqua Turner
Tewyana Webb

Hall of Fame

Colton Gatts

Aqeel Al Rubaye

Nominated by Christina IELCE Program

Aqeel enrolled in the ESL program at Christina Adult Education in September of 2016. His goals were to retain his employment, be more involved in his children's education and visit the library. So far, he has gotten a library card, attended parent-teacher conferences in October and December, and retained a better job.

In Aqeel's new job, he has to interact with native English speakers. His lack of vocabulary is a barrier for him and he gets frustrated when trying to communicate complex ideas. Attending English class has given him more confidence to speak English.

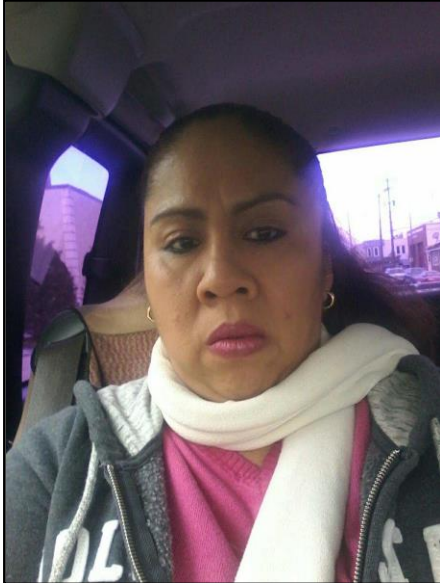


Aqeel is always willing to help others in his classroom and is dedicated to learning English. His improved English skills will help him to make a new life and future in this country.

“I want to understand, to send text like a native speaker. That is the connection to Americans and the community.”

Benancia Amado

Nominated by Literacy Delaware ABE Program



Benancia enrolled at Literacy Delaware in the spring of 2016. In addition to strengthening her English skills, her goals were to get a library card and to increase her participation in her children's education.

Benancia regularly visits the library and checks out books. She has become more involved with her children's education and homework and has also started studying English online.

Although Benancia did not have the opportunity to finish her schooling in Mexico, she is a willing and eager student in her Literacy Delaware classes. She is becoming more involved in her community and shares her excitement for learning with her family and friends. She is looking forward to taking computer classes at the Bear Library in the near future.

"I'm not afraid to speak English and communicate. I have more opportunities to learn and have different jobs."

Jacob Aurand

Nominated by James H. Groves Adult High School – Christina

Jacob entered the Groves Adult High School program at Christina in August of 2016. His goals were to obtain employment, improve his math skills and purchase books and magazines.

In his Algebra class, Jacob has completed Algebra IIA with an A+ average. He is very responsible, has excellent attendance, always comes to class on time, and works hard. When he does miss a class, he makes up the work.



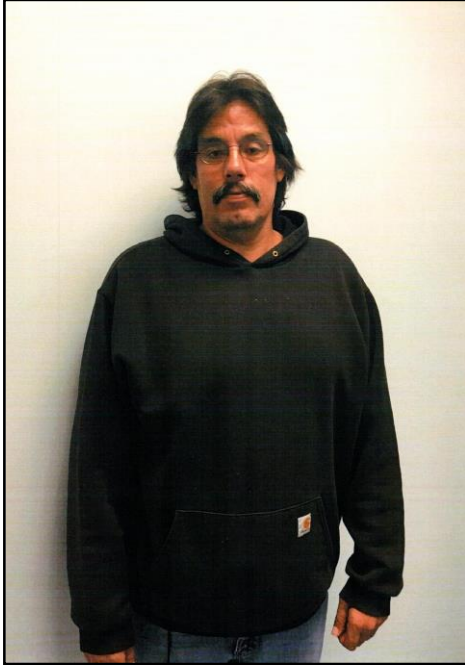
Jacob has trained himself to make good choices, face challenges and use his time wisely. He has been motivated and has found solutions to various challenges because of his attitude and grit. Jacob has also been a positive influence for his peers in the class. Other students seek him as a role model.

Jacob's future plans are to go on to college to become a mechanical engineer. With his demonstrated work ethic, he is sure to become successful!

“My education will bring me future success: emotionally, socially and financially.”

Marvin Benton

Nominated by Polytech ABE Program



In July of 2016, eleven years after having to discontinue his education at Groves Adult High School, Marvin decided to try again and enrolled in the ABE/GED® program at Polytech. He set the goals of retaining employment, achieving citizenship skills, voting, visiting the library, gaining employability skills and most importantly earning his GED® Test credential.

Martin never gave up! He attended class regularly, even after working ten-hour shifts. He also volunteered to provide transportation to other students who were in need. His perseverance helped him meet all of the goals that he had set. He will use his experiences and accomplishments to inspire others and provide better opportunities for his family.

“The value of education is to be successful in life, and in other words, to better yourself.”

Peter Bouchelle

*Nominated by Delaware Center for Distance Adult Learning, Inc.
(DCDAL) IELCE Program*

Peter enrolled in DCDAL at September of 2015. He set the goals of obtaining his high school diploma, entering post-secondary education and purchasing books or magazines. Peter has attained all of his goals! He is currently taking art lessons and will begin courses at the Delaware College of Art and Design in September.



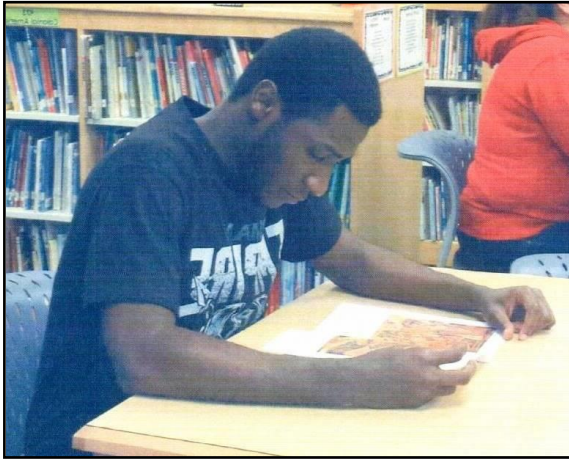
Although online learning fits Peter’s learning style, his first few weeks in the program were a period of adjustment for him. After mastering the challenge of studying independently online, Peter sailed through his courses with thorough and creative work.

He set a deadline to reach his goal of earning his high school diploma and he met that goal with remarkable grades and a good attitude. Peter is currently completing his portfolio to enter art college. He is a self-directed student and will use his experiences at DCDAL to drive him in his future education. Given his motivation and determination for success, Peter will do great things in his future!

“The value of my high school education is that it allows me to further my education in animation which is my ultimate career goal. One educational goal achieved, one more to go!”

Bernes Brilliant

Nominated by Polytech IELCE Program



Bernes enrolled at Polytech in September of 2016 and set the goals of achieving citizenship skills, gaining soft skills and purchasing books and magazines. He wanted to learn more English so that he could further his goal of becoming a pharmacy technician.

Because Bernes is very shy, it took him a while to open up and communicate with his classmates, but now he leads many class discussions and other students look to him for clarification and advice.

After completing his English classes, Bernes plans on attending the Pharmacy Technician Program at Polytech.

*“Education is very necessary for how people live in the world.
Education is the door of success.”*

Edwin Calderon

Nominated by Sussex Center IELCE Program

In November of 2016, Edwin entered the IELCE program at Sussex Tech Adult Education.

His goals were to retain his job, increase involvement in his daughter's education and purchase books or magazines.

Because he worked such long hours, going back to school was a challenge for Edwin at first. He met that challenge by working harder to show his boss that he was dedicated. As a result, his boss let him work less hours so that he could attend English class.

Edwin arrives on time for ESL class and helps other students. He also translates when needed. On Saturdays, Edwin takes an ESL basic welding class. His plan is to continue to improve his English, help his daughter with her homework and pursue a career in welding.



“Education helps me to help my family. I will do anything to help my family.”

Jennifer Carey

Nominated by Sussex Center ABE Program



Jennifer entered the ABE program at Sussex Tech Adult Education in August of 2016. Her goals were to retain her employment and increase involvement in her community.

As the mother of three children who are involved in their own activities, Jennifer has learned how to balance her life and make attending school a priority. She helps other students in her class and has taken a leadership role when appropriate.

She plans to use her experiences and accomplishments as a springboard to culinary arts school.

“I’m bettering myself for my family. I’m reaching my goals.”

Ricardo Castro

Nominated by Red Clay ABE Program

Ricardo has been enrolled at the Red Clay center since September of 2009. During that time, he has completed several goals including retaining employment, increasing involvement in his children's education and obtaining a library card.



Learning English was hard, but Ricardo dedicated himself to that goal and concentrated on reading comprehension, vocabulary and writing. At the same time, he continued to take care of his family and run his own business. As a result of this dedication, he was able to complete his ESL classes, enroll in ABE classes and pass three of the four sections of the GED® Test.

Ricardo works hard and is an exceptional student who has a willingness to help others. After completing his GED®, he plans to attend Delaware Technical Community College to pursue a degree in business.

“I value education for a couple of reasons. Education is important to me because I want to be a good role model for my kids. Pursuing my education will allow me more opportunities to be successful in expanding my business.”

Sima Chotalia

Nominated by NEW START IELCE Program



Sima entered the NEW START Adult Learning Program in September of 2016 and set the goals of obtaining a library card, increasing involvement in her children's literacy activities and achieving citizenship skills.

When Sima first enrolled at NEW START, she did not speak or understand English and found looking for a permanent job to be very difficult. Studying English has helped her speak with her children's teachers and her neighbors. It has also helped her to feel safer.

Sima is always smiling and offering to help other students. She takes new students under her wing and makes them feel comfortable in the classroom. She will use her experiences and accomplishments at NEW START to help her find an accounting job.

"I hope I can find a permanent job in accounting, learn to use the computer and help my son with schoolwork. I see myself becoming a better person."

Patricia Colburn

Nominated by West End Neighborhood House ABE Program

Patricia entered the program at West End Neighborhood House in December of 2016. Her primary goal was to earn her GED® Test credential. She also wanted to obtain training that would increase her employability skills since she had recently been laid off.

She has successfully passed the Language Arts and Social Studies sections of the GED® Test, and is preparing for the Science section. She also completed a Customer Service post-secondary training course, earning certification from the National Retail Federation. In addition, she has improved her academic skills in all areas.



“The value of my education is a release. It has released me from the prison of guilt and discouragement in my mind, and so the ultimate value of education is, for me, freedom!”

Nicholas Constantine

Nominated by James H. Groves Adult High School – Sussex Center



Nicholas enrolled in Groves Adult High School at Sussex Center in January of 2016 with the goals of obtaining employment and purchasing a book or magazine. He has met those goals and also retained his job.

Although Nicholas has suffered from many medical issues, he has learned to cope with these problems with the help of physical and emotional therapy. He has worked hard and shown determination to complete his goals. He is respectful, considerate of others, and modest about his achievements.

He will use his experiences at Sussex Center to hone such skills as time management, multi-tasking and persistent goal setting.

“Society demands that a person has a minimum of a high school education and I am meeting that demand by earning my high school diploma this June at Sussex Center.”

Karon Gray

Nominated by Literacy Delaware ABE Program

Karon enrolled at Literacy Delaware in the fall of 2015. At that time, reading and spelling were challenges for him. His goals were to visit the library and to improve his basic skills so that he could fill out applications easily and eventually get a better job.



Karon's reading skills have improved considerably. He recently completed a biography of Charles Darwin. He visits the library regularly and has retained his job.

A busy work schedule and demanding class work have not deterred Karon's dedication to complete his goals. He always attends his class. Soon he will be able to apply for a job that requires stronger literacy skills.

“Reading is important to me because it will help me get a better job, so that I will take better care of my family.”

Faith Hall

Nominated by DTCC Terry Campus ABE Program



Faith enrolled at DTCC – Terry Campus in August of 2016. She set goals of improving both her reading and math levels, achieving her GED® credential, retaining her employment and entering a post-secondary credential training program.

Faith was five months pregnant when she started her classes and it was a challenge to attend school and work. Faith was exceptionally dedicated in her classroom attendance and wanted to complete her goals prior to her baby’s arrival. She encouraged other students and shared the advantages of the program with them.

Faith earned a reading COA and two math COA’s. In addition, she attained her Citizenship Skills COA, retained her employment and enrolled into a post-secondary credential program. She also completed a customer service training class and a TECE I training program.

Faith has registered for the TECE II class this spring. Her future educational goals include registering for additional classes at Delaware Technical Community College to earn an associate degree in early childhood education to eventually become a kindergarten teacher.

“Education to me is the ability to learn new things by obtaining new knowledge to better yourself with a growing mind!”

Yolanda Harbin

Nominated by Appoquinimink IELCE Program

When Yolanda enrolled in the Appoquinimink ESL program in February of 2016, her goals were to retain her job, and visit the library.

Through class attendance and practice at home, Yolanda's reading and writing skills have greatly improved. She rarely misses class time, always participates in class and helps her fellow classmates.

Yolanda plans to use her experiences and accomplishments in her ESL program to help her advance her career.



“To have the knowledge to improve my future.”

Silas Harrison

Nominated by DTCC George Campus ABE Program



Silas enrolled in DTCC – George Campus in October of 2016. He set the goals of obtaining a driver’s license, seeking a part-time job, earning his GED® credential and enrolling in a degree program.

Before coming to the program, Silas had lost his job and was homeless. He has since located temporary housing and completed his GED® Test credential. He has enrolled in an associate degree program and is searching for a job.

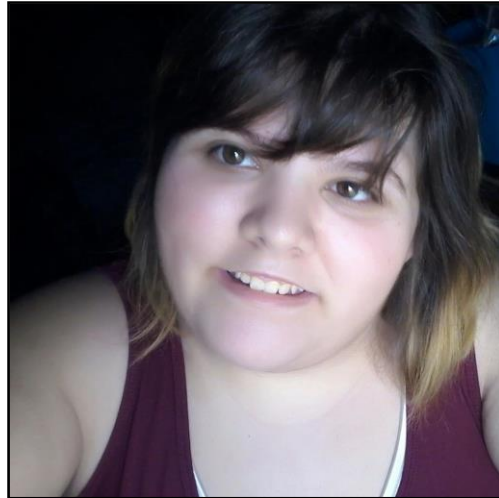
Despite some extreme challenges, Silas has an amazing spirit and shows goodwill to others. He visits the ABE classroom to speak with new students and encourages them to continue their education.

“The value of my education is LIMITLESS. My underachieving brain has now transformed into a SPONGE that continues to get fatter and fatter with knowledge. It all started with me taking a GED® class at Delaware Technical Community College, George Campus. After passing the GED® in December of 2016, I applied and am attending DTCC, majoring in Drug and Alcohol Counseling. The value of my education will direct me to advanced degrees in counseling as well.”

Scarlett Hart

*Nominated by Delaware Center for Distance Adult Learning, Inc.
(DCDAL) ABE Program*

Scarlett enrolled in the ABE program at DCDAL in the spring of 2015. She needed to remediate her math in order to enter Groves Adult High School and complete her high school diploma. Her other goals were to obtain employment and to read more books and magazines. So far she has obtained a part-time job, completed the work for a writing COA, achieved high school level math skills and improved her reading skills.



Her success in the ABE program gave Scarlett the confidence she needed to advance to Groves Adult High School classes which she is steadily completing. She is expected to graduate this program year. Scarlett is a helpful, loyal and dependable student. Last year she volunteered to help DCDAL fulfill its test site commitment to CTB and participated in a Field Test to update the TABE test.

In order to achieve her long-term goal of becoming a preschool teacher, Scarlett is preparing herself to move ahead to post-secondary education. She will take part in DCDAL's Transition Program to prepare for and facilitate this next step in her life.

“My education is really important to me. I am eager to get started with my life, and I know I will achieve my long range goal. Thanks DCDAL!!”

Seth Hauer

Nominated by James H. Groves Adult High School – Polytech



Moving from a home school environment to attending Groves Adult High School classes was a new experience for Seth when he enrolled at Polytech in August of 2015. He has set and met the goals of retaining employment and purchasing books and magazines. Other goals he met were gaining life skills, soft skills and employability skills.

Seth has thrived in the Groves Adult High School environment at Polytech. He is extremely polite, respectful and hard working. He gets along well with his classmates and is a role model among his peers.

After graduation, Seth hopes to attend the Baptist College of Ministry in Wisconsin to continue his study of music and playing the violin. He will use his experiences and many accomplishments at Polytech to thrive in his personal and professional life.

“To me, there is no price tag on education. Education is the key to the door of your mind, once it is opened, the possibilities are endless.”

Barclay Knorr

*Nominated by Delaware Technical Community College (DTCC)
Owens ABE Program*

Barclay first enrolled in the ABE program at the Owens Campus of Delaware Technical Community College in the Fall Semester of 2015. He set the goals of obtaining his GED® credential, retaining his job, earning a Citizenship Skills COA and becoming more involved in the education of his grandchildren.



It has been a challenge for Barclay to return to school after forty-four years. In addition to school and work, he is helping his wife raise five young grandchildren.

In the classroom, Barclay is actively engaged and works hard to complete his assignments. He is an upbeat individual with extraordinary people skills and he enjoys helping his classmates. He has retained his employment as a valet at Beebe Hospital, earned a Citizenship Skills COA and made level gains in both math and reading. The best news of all is that he has passed the GED® Science Test, Social Studies Test and Language Arts Reading/Writing Test.

Upon completing his GED® credential, Barclay plans to expand his employment opportunities, enroll in college and encourage others to do the same.

“At one stage in my life, I thought this would be insurmountable; however, taking on the challenge has made me a better person.”

Roselle Laws

*Nominated by James H. Groves Adult High School –
Appoquinimink*



Roselle enrolled in the Appoquinimink Adult Education program in October of 2016. She set goals of registering to vote and getting a library card. She also wanted to improve her math skills in order to help her daughter with homework.

Although returning to school was a challenge, Roselle realized that she needed to continue her education in order to help her daughter. Her organizational skills and dedication to attending her classes have helped Roselle improve her skills and be able to help her daughter with homework. Also, she now has a library card and she voted in the recent election.

Roselle's long-term goals are to earn her diploma and continue her education in college.

“The value of my education is to get my diploma for me as well as for my 10-year-old little girl. I was hurting because I was not able to help her with her homework, but ever since I went back to school, I can help her. I would cry sometimes after she would go to bed because I did not know how to do 4th grade math and reading but I am proud because I can help her now.”

Cristina Leon

Nominated by NEW START ABE Program

Cristina enrolled in the NEW START Adult Learning Program in September of 2016. She set goals of retaining employment, obtaining a library card, earning a Writing COA and purchasing books or magazines.



Cristina was unable to finish school in Mexico and is determined to finish her education in the United States. Although she has a long commute to work and takes care of two daughters, Cristina is consistent in her attendance. She is an enthusiastic student, and is always willing to participate in her class.

She will use her program experiences and accomplishments to become more successful at work and to continue to be a role model for her children.

“My education is very important to me because I am a role model for my two daughters. If you have an education you have opportunities in your life to be successful.”

Sean Lloyd

Nominated by New Castle County Vo-Tech (NCCVT) ABE Program



Sean enrolled in the ABE program at New Castle County Vo-Tech in July of 2016 and set the goals of obtaining employment and increasing his involvement in community activities.

Because Sean's life was often unstable and there was no encouragement from his home to value an education, he chose negative alternatives. Later, Sean realized that he needed to change his life and as a result has been spared a downward spiral. He took a parenting class before becoming a father. Now he is a dedicated, single parent who structures his daily routine around his children while remaining focused on his education.

Sean works hard and is always prepared for class. He came back to school because he wants to show his children that education is valuable and essential. He will use his program experiences to help gain future employment and job skills. He will also continue to help his children with their schoolwork and any life challenges that may come their way.

“I value education so much because I want to show my children that education is key. They can be anything in life they choose if they first complete school, and gain proper knowledge needed to be successful at whatever career path they choose.”

Elizabeth Martinez

Nominated by Red Clay IELCE Program

Elizabeth enrolled in the ESL program at Red Clay in August of 2016. Her goal was to improve her English skills and complete the ESL program. She met this goal in January of 2017.

In order to attend her classes, Elizabeth had to rearrange her work schedule and arrange childcare for her ten-year-old daughter. She always participates in class by asking questions and sharing her knowledge with others.



She will use her accomplishments in speaking English to improve her communication at work and with her daughter.

“I value my education very much and hope to improve in my work so I can move up. I also want to show my daughter that I work hard.”

Ariadna Morales-Salinas

Nominated by Sussex Center Family Literacy Program



Ariadna enrolled in the Family Literacy program at Sussex Tech Adult Education in the spring of 2016. Her goals were to get a job and participate in her children's education.

Although she struggles with English and taking care of twin sons, Ariadna consistently attends her classes and enjoys engaging in all activities. She is also participating more in her children's school and in community activities. In addition,

she found a job and earned a COA-ESL.

"It makes me feel like an important part of something great."

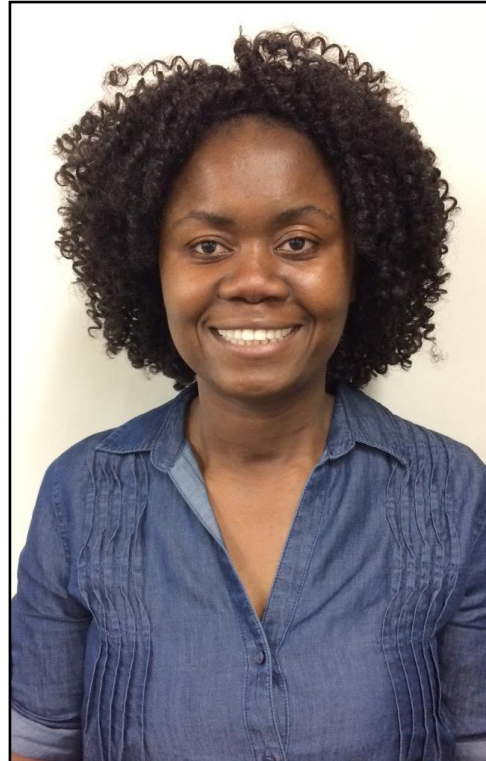
Partol Nyomah

Nominated by Christina ABE Program

Partol enrolled in the ABE program at Christina Adult Education with the goals of retaining her employment and increasing her involvement in her child's education. She is also working on her writing skills and has earned a COA in writing.

Partol moved to the United States from Liberia. Recently she lost all of her possessions when her house burned down. Although she is a single mother and struggles to find childcare for her daughter, she finds a way to regularly attend class. When that is not possible, she studies on her cell phone since she does not own a computer. Her ambition and work ethic help her persevere through difficult times.

In the future, Partol plans on pursuing a degree in nursing at Delaware Technical Community College.



“Without education, I would never be able to achieve my goals. Education helps me become a more successful person.”

Lais da Costa Patricio

Nominated by Latin American Community Center (LACC) IELCE Program



Lais enrolled in the LACC program in March of 2016. Her goals were to retain her employment and achieve citizenship skills. She has successfully passed the 100 question test used in the Citizenship exam and she has retained her job.

When she arrived in the U.S., Lais was unable to communicate with people and she felt lonely. She committed herself to learning English and making the sacrifices needed to attend classes. This included walking to school even in bad weather. So far she has had perfect attendance.

Lais is now in the advanced English class and is able to communicate well in English. She is a pleasant student and is an example to others in her class. She and her classmates keep in touch when not in class and Lais is no longer lonely. Her future plans include more study and advancement in her career as a web developer.

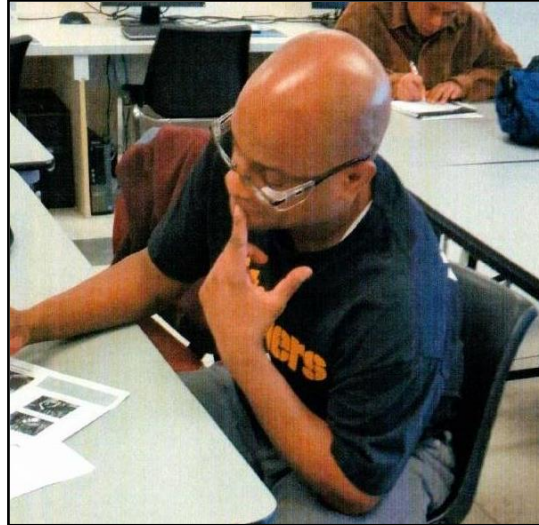
“The value of my education is that it helps me to communicate with people and I will be able to build a career.”

Hugues Pierre

Nominated by Polytech IELCE Program

Hugues enrolled in the IELCE program at Polytech in October of 2016. One goal that he set was to enroll in a post-secondary or training program.

As an English language learner, some of the course material was difficult for Hugues to understand. He is now doing well in his classes due to the support he receives from his



IELCE program. Hugues is dedicated to learning new things and has never missed a day of class. He arrives early, completes all of his assignments and helps his classmates.

Currently, Hugues is working to complete all of the steps he needs to become a certified electrician. He is enrolled in an Electrical I training program, and will take the Electrical II course in the fall of 2017.

*“The more you know, the better life you will have.
Education makes me more confident in myself and gives
me more career opportunities.”*

Charisse Pineda

Nominated by James H. Groves Adult High School – Christina



Charisse entered Christina's Groves Adult High School in the fall of 2015 with the goals of retaining her job, visiting the library and earning her high school diploma.

Although she needs a kidney transplant and has to get weekly dialysis treatments, Charisse has kept up with her work and has made great improvements in her writing. She attends class even when she is not feeling well and maintains good grades. She also has a part-time job. Her dedication to excellence, positive attitude and strong

work ethic enable her to persevere even when she is in pain.

After she earns her diploma, Charisse wants to pursue a degree in nursing. She wants to help others who need long-term care just as she does.

“Education is valuable to me to increase my quality of life and to make an impression to society. It helps you develop yourself and to employ tenacity to do better for yourself.”

Tatiana Rodriguez

Nominated by James H. Groves Adult High School – New Castle County Vo-Tech (NCCVT)

Tatiana enrolled in Groves Adult High School at New Castle County Vo-Tech in August of 2015 and set the goals of obtaining her high school diploma and visiting a library. This year she has set the additional goal of obtaining her driver's license.



Due to her school phobia and severe anxiety about attending classes, Tatiana had to overcome the challenges of getting to school on time and attending class regularly. She met those challenges and has overcome them because she has a purpose and wants to reach her goals.

One of Tatiana's strongest traits is the way she advocates for herself. She is never afraid to ask questions and is determined to keep school her main focus. She has been able to meet the goals of visiting a library and obtaining her driver's license. In addition, she will earn her high school diploma this June. She will use her program experiences and accomplishments to better her skills in communication, problem-solving and teamwork.

“My education taught me who I am. It gave me the opportunity of life experience. My education taught me how to work hard to be successful.”

Shanikqua Turner

Nominated by Polytech Family Literacy Program



Shanikqua entered the Polytech Family Literacy program in October of 2012. Her goals were to better herself and help her children do well in school. In 2014, Shanikqua tested out of ABE classes and started high school diploma classes. She is due to graduate this June.

She has worked very hard to earn her high school diploma while raising four boys. She continued to come to school throughout the school year with her boys who range in age from ten months to twelve years. Shanikqua always has a smile on her face and is enthusiastic, kind and patient.

Shanikqua has enrolled in a Medical Assistant Program and intends to get a full-time job when she completes her studies.

“My education means a better future for myself and my family. A much better job, with more money and benefits, to show my children that I did it and so can you! Also, it means that I accomplished a goal that I always wanted to and if I can do this, I can do anything.”

Tewyana Webb

Nominated by James H. Groves Adult High School – Red Clay

Tewyana enrolled at the Red Clay Groves Adult High School in September of 2016. She set the goals of gaining employability skills and obtaining a driver's license.



After relocating from New York to Delaware, Tewyana has been homeless. She suffers from chronic hip pain for which she may need surgery. She has faced several obstacles including attempting suicide and being a victim of domestic violence and rape.

Fortunately, she is receiving professional counseling to help her overcome her personal hurt.

Tewyana has improved her reading and math scores and has been able to transition from ABE to credit classes for Algebra IA and Biology. In addition, she is completing Career Development to gain employability skills. She is punctual for class and completes her class assignments. She helps motivate other students, has excellent communication skills and never accepts defeat. Her aspirations are to attend Delaware Technical Community College to major in Business Administration and someday own a trucking company.

“My mom always told me that no matter what I do in life a high school education will take you anywhere you want to go. Also, 50 years ago or so African Americans were not allowed to learn let alone attend school and me being the age of 45 now realize the importance of an education.”



Colton Gatts

Nominated by Polytech GED® Program



After receiving his GED® credential in 2011, Colton attended Delaware Technical Community College where he earned a dual associate degree in Human Services and Drug and Alcohol Counseling. In addition, he has earned a certification as a Direct Support Professional from DTCC and a certificate in Child Advocacy from Wilmington University. Currently, Colton is attending Wilmington University and is working on his final four courses of his Bachelor's of Science Degree in Behavioral Science. He will be taking his test for CADC (Certified Alcohol and Drug Counseling) and CCDP (Certified Co-occurring Disorder Professional) in May of 2017.

In addition to his classwork, Colton has been very active in his community. He has volunteered 4500 hours as a coach in both baseball and basketball and is currently a head Little League and AAU baseball coach. As a mentor for the NEXTMentoring program, he has supported Groves Adult High School students through their classes and helped them with the transition from high school to college/career training.

Colton is a leader in his profession. He is currently the Clinical Supervisor in charge of up to sixty-two clients for Crest-Central and Aftercare for Kent County. In this position, he is responsible for the supervision of six staff counselors, administrative reporting, recovery groups and case management all within a Level 4 prison therapeutic community.

Everything Colton does is done with integrity. He embodies honesty and authenticity and is committed to helping others, especially those who are struggling with substance abuse problems and prison/aftercare populations.



In the fall of 2018, Colton plans to begin his Master's degree in Administration of Justice with a concentration in Criminal Behavior at Wilmington University.

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Adult Education Terms

- ABE: Adult Basic Education
- CEA3: Certificate of Educational Attainment 3
- COA: Certificate of Attainment
- CTB: California Testing Bureau
- ESL: English-as-a-Second-Language
- Groves: James H. Groves Adult High School
- IELCE: Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education
- TABE: Tests of Adult Basic Education
- TECE: Training for Early Care and Education