



# AALL

ARIZONA ASSOCIATION FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

# 2021

# WINTER NEWSLETTER

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## ABOUT AALL

### Our Mission:

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AALL strives to improve opportunities for educational growth by promoting and inspiring lifelong learning and adult literacy in Arizona.

### Our Vision:

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Arizona will have an empowered adult population and a dynamic workforce.

### Our Motto:

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Empowering Learners for Life

## President's message - Fall 2021

By Katy Brown AALL Board President



Hello everyone.

Time marches on. Students are beginning to come back to in-person classes, and our virtual classes are getting stronger. I know that we are still reaching out to connect with students who found it difficult to attend because of technology and family challenges this past year. I trust that their goals will get back on track. We are all growing and learning.

**And how about you? I trust that you are also growing and finding skills and methods to keep our program offerings rigorous.**

**The September ADE Institute was wonderful. Of course, I am partial to the AALL Open House and the Awards event. At the Open House we were able to share information about who AALL is.**

We attracted new members to a couple of our working committees. Thank you! The Awards event is a fantastic yearly opportunity to acknowledge the quality of the work that we do in Arizona. Bravo to the winners (check out our website) I am continuously inspired and renewed by the stories of challenge, success and accomplishment. Keep the date on your calendar for next year and plan to nominate your program's shining stars.

After the ADE Institute, there was the annual Adult Ed and Family Literacy Week. The AALL Awareness committee worked with a COABE Fellow, Sara Haghigi and others to conduct numerous meetings with Arizona legislators to share stories and promote Adult Education in our state. Flagstaff, Tucson and Phoenix mayors all signed special proclamations to recognize the national AEFL Week locally. Thank you to everyone who participated...



## Check out our coming events:

We are planning for the big spring event, the joint MPAEA / AALL regional conference to be held April 28, 29, 30 in Tempe. Our theme is Facing the Future: Skills for a Changing World.

Our vision is to provide you all with an interactive conference where presenters can show off what they do, and attendees can experience and learn skills to successfully navigate today's dynamic world of work and social challenges. It will be held both in-person and virtually at Rio Salado College in Tempe, Az. Let's practice what we preach.

Consider presenting. You won't want to miss it!

The benefits of an AALL membership are many. Please help us reach out to adult education providers who currently are not members. We would like to grow. There are professional opportunities to work on the Board or committees; there are scholarships and aid to hold events or learning exchanges. You can promote your program through our newsletter and awards. And, you have joint membership with MPAEA and COABE when you are a member of AALL. It's win/win.

More information <https://aafll.wildapricot.org/Membership-benefits>

We are also working to strengthen our connections to workforce partners who value our collaboration to benefit students and the economy of Arizona. Please let them know about AALL and Invite them to the conference. Invite them to present. We all benefit from many voices and hands joining together to build a vibrant, sustainable future.

Enjoy the newsletter. Please consider submitting your own article next issue. Share what you are proud of.

All the best,

*Katy Brown*

MPAEA - AALL  
REGIONAL SPRING  
CONFERENCE 2022

**Facing a Changing  
World: Skills for the Future**  
April 28th, 29th, 30th, 2022  
Tempe - Arizona

MOUNTAIN PLAINS ADULT  
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

AALL  
ARIZONA ASSOCIATION  
FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

[www.mpaea.wildapricot.org/aallconference](http://www.mpaea.wildapricot.org/aallconference)

**MPAEA - AALL  
REGIONAL SPRING  
CONFERENCE 2022****Facing a Changing  
World: Skills for the Future**

April 28th, 29th, 30th, 2022  
Tempe - Arizona



[www.mpaea.wildapricot.org/aallconference](http://www.mpaea.wildapricot.org/aallconference)

## SAVE THE DATE

The Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning (AALL), in collaboration with Mountain Plains Adult Education Association (MPAEA) is pleased to announce the MPAEA - AALL Regional Spring Conference 2022.

“Facing a Changing World: Skills for the Future”

This year's conference will use a hybrid format (virtual and in-person) at Rio Salado College Conference Center in Tempe Arizona on Thursday, April 28th, 2022 through Saturday, April 30th, 2022.

Stay tuned for more information!

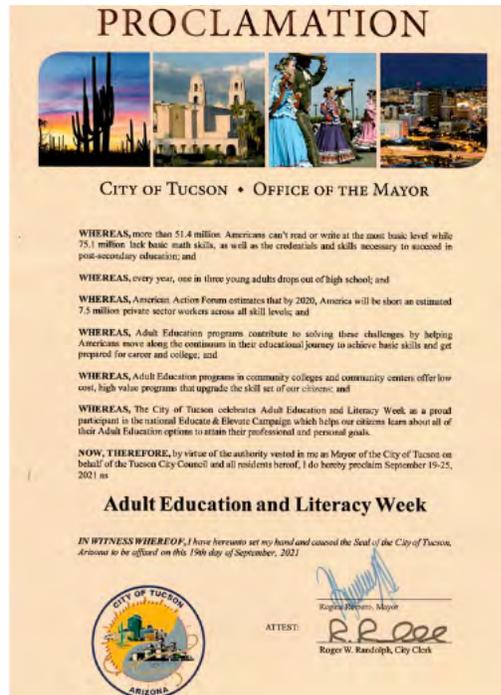
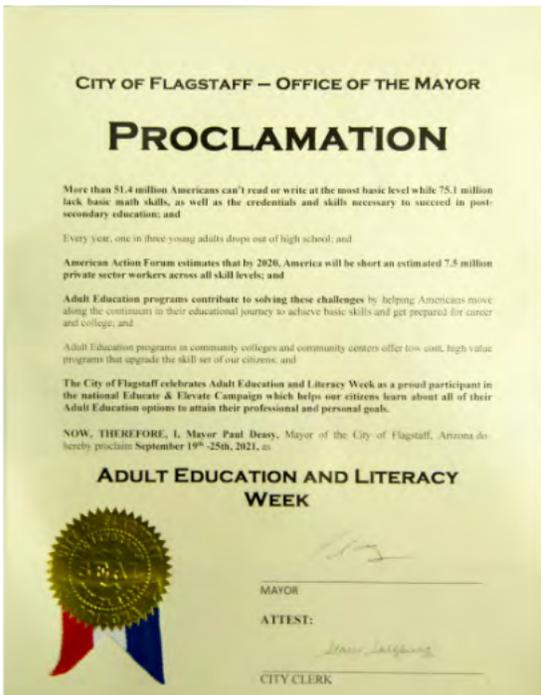
**Mark your calendar now. You won't want to miss this.**

# #AEFLWeek

During Adult Education and Literacy Week, our COABE legislative advocate has been raising awareness across the state, meeting with federal reps and.... Three AZ mayors issued proclamations to recognize national Adult Education & Family Literacy week!

The proclamation from the cities of Flagstaff, Phoenix and Tucson helps to bring much needed awareness toward adult education and assists adults in need of literacy services.

Special thanks to Sara Haghghi, Refugee Education Program Coordinator at Pima Community College - ABCEC for all her commitment and hard work with adult education.





# ★ Annual Awards ★

"Empowering Learners for Life"

The AALL Annual Awards provide an opportunity to honor Adult Educators and Advocates for their dedication, innovation and passion in our field.

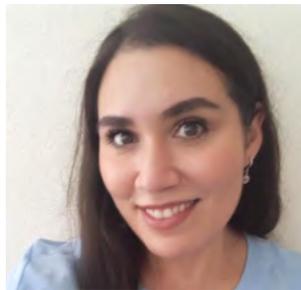
On September 18th we recognized the winners at the AALL Awards Ceremony during the ADE Institute!

These are the 2021 winners:



**Lifelong Learning Advocate Award  
in Honor of Francis E. Blake**

Laura Porfirio  
from PCC ABECC and AALL



**AALL Rookie  
of the Year Award**

Sarah Haghihi  
from PCC ABECC



**AALL Educator  
of the Year Award**

Minou Faiz  
from Arizona Center Youth Resources



**AALL Support Staff  
of the Year Award**

Patty Magdaleno  
from Mesa Adult Education



**AALL Volunteer  
of the Year Award**

Jim Dobbins  
from PCC ABECC.



**ELAA Student  
of the Year Award**

Maria Dolores Martinez Balvaneda  
from Rio Salado College

**Lifetime Achievement Award  
in Honor of Gary A. Eyre**

Julie Neff-Encinas  
from PCAP-LEARN

**ABE Student  
of the Year Award**

Victor Cruz  
from Northland Pioneer College

## 2021-2022 PL Teaching and Learning Webinar Series Series

By Beverly Wilson



ARIZONA ADULT EDUCATION  
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SYSTEM

Register for the free webinars in the PL Teaching and Learning Series. These webinars have been planned to provide you with ready to use instructional strategies and tools. Learn new skills virtually and network with colleagues around the state. Space is limited, so don't miss out on these great professional learning opportunities!

Dec 2nd - 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm  
(\*Dr. Susan Finn Miller)  
Supporting English Learners'  
Communication Skills.

Dec 3rd, 9th, and 10th - 1:00  
pm - 2:30 pm (\*Rachel Koch)  
Google Applied Digital Skills-  
A Three-Part Series

A portrait of Arnold Montiel, a middle-aged man with glasses and a goatee, wearing a light blue striped shirt and a dark tie with light blue stripes. He is smiling slightly. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

## My Education Mission

By Mireya Escamilla

My name is Arnold Montiel and I am a 58-year-old current HSE student with Pima College Adult Basic Education for College and Career (ABECC). After a family tragedy struck my life when I was in the 10th grade, I had to drop out of high school. For years, I worked in the construction trade where two work accidents took a toll on my back. I started to work for a print shop but still ended up needing double-back surgery. While laying in my hospital bed, I was concerned that I would not be able to return to my profession. Therefore, I decided to try to obtain my GED.

**I have passed three tests! I only have two more tests to pass, math and science. At a local level, I have participated in the Adult Ed Inspirational Poster project and I will be a part of ABECC's Ambassador Training. Although I have already told my story before several city, state and federal officials recently including during COABE's National Adult Education Family Literacy Week!**

Arnold is passionate about sharing his story in order to inspire other adults who are returning to school. After obtaining his GED, he is planning to enroll at Pima College in the Social Services program.

## I chose literacy in my mid-40s. It's never too late

Submitted by Arcelia Zamora



As a child growing up in New York, I was always told I was "dumb and stupid and couldn't do anything." I was abused all through out my childhood and never had a chance to get properly educated. I wasn't well emotionally.

Now at 48 and living here in the Valley, life has finally come full circle for me. While I have many to credit for my life today – my mom, my sister, my friends and my husband – I also have to give credit to an organization that has played a critical role in my current happiness, **Literacy Volunteers of Maricopa County.**



**Literacy Volunteers**  
OF MARICOPA COUNTY, INC.

About five years ago, I saw a sign for the nonprofit that caught my eye. I called and later went to visit with a teacher at the literacy volunteers organization. I remember saying to myself, "This is a blessing — this can change my life." I can earn a high school equivalency degree and maybe get educated for a better job and a better future.

It wasn't so easy. I failed. In fact, I failed the exam five times. Math and science were always hard for me and I struggled. But I didn't give up and the teachers and others at Literacy Volunteers of Maricopa County never gave up on me. There was constant encouragement and support.

The sixth time I took the exam I told only my sister and best friend that I was trying again. I was tired of telling people that I failed.

I kept checking to see if the grades had been posted and it seemed like I had to wait forever to learn my fate. I remember someone telling me that “you need to have faith and trust that this is in God’s hands.”

One night I went to my mom’s house and together we looked to see if the grades had been posted. I remember being so nervous. We looked and I passed. It made me proud knowing that I could do something and accomplish my goal. We cried together that night. It was wonderful.

Today, I’m a chaplain and assistant teacher at a local Christian school that helps abused foster kids learn and heal. I’m going to Rio Salado College and plan on eventually going to Grand Canyon University. I want to be a psychologist and help others through my experiences.

It all began when I saw that sign and had the courage to hold my head high and begin my education journey. It was there for me and it can be there for you. I hope by sharing my story it inspires others to accomplish something so rewarding as literacy education.

Sharda Ramdin lives in the West Valley. Reach her at [sharda.ramdin@yahoo.com](mailto:sharda.ramdin@yahoo.com).

## About Literacy Volunteers of Maricopa County

The organization is a Phoenix-based nonprofit dedicated to improving adult reading, writing and mathematical skills, and to helping non-native speakers learn English. It has two learning centers in the Valley — one at Indian School Road and East 16th Street in central Phoenix, the other in the Sunnyslope area at Seventh Street and Hatcher Road.

More information:

(602) 274-3430

[literacyvolunteers-maricopa.org](http://literacyvolunteers-maricopa.org)



**COABE**  
COUNCIL ON ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

# National Awards

Honoring Excellence in Adult Education

**\$10,000 Awarded**  
Teacher of the Year | Student of the Year | Administrator of the Year

**\$2,000 Awarded**  
State Innovation of the Year | Workforce Development |  
Individual Scholarships | Local Excellence in Advocacy

**Up to \$2,500 Awarded**  
Incentive Grants | Programs Succeed When Learners Lead

COABE awards more than 550,000 annually, in part through generous sponsorship provided by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. In addition to the awards noted above, all awardees receive complimentary conference registration, travel, and meals to the national conference where they will be honored. Nominators of the awardees also receive complimentary registration to the COABE 2022 national conference in Seattle, WA.

Imagen and text credits: [www.coabe.org](http://www.coabe.org)

2022 Award Nominations are Being Accepted.

"We are pleased to announce that, thanks to generous funding provided by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, we are able to offer prestigious national level awards.

The winner will receive an expense-paid trip to the 2022 COABE conference, and the successful nominator's registration will be paid in full!

A complete list of awards and links to apply can be found below. More information can be found on the COABE award page. The deadline to submit a nomination is December 21st, 2021.

Contact [awards@coabe.org](mailto:awards@coabe.org) with any questions".

## AALL Scholarships

The Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning offers scholarships to members of up to \$500 per year to be used to attend or participate in conferences, presentations, workshops or other professional learning activities primarily related to the instruction of adults in basic skills, high school equivalency, English language instruction, and/or Civics and Citizenship. Applications to attend activities which would be considered outside those related to adult instruction; i.e. elementary or secondary levels, must provide a rationale on how attendance/participation in the activity specifically relates to and how you would use it in your adult instruction. Scholarships are not available to pay a student's college costs.

For more information or to fill out Online Application go to <https://aafll.wildapricot.org/aallscholarship/>

Send applications to subject: "AALL Scholarship Committee Chair" at [aall4az@gmail.com](mailto:aall4az@gmail.com).

## Linda Mead Scholarship



This scholarship fund was created in Linda's name to keep her spirit, legacy and passion for adult education alive in our memories and deeds.

Students can apply to two different kinds of scholarships, High School Equivalency or Citizenship.

For more information or to fill out Online Application go to [https://aafll.wildapricot.org/Linda\\_Mead\\_Scholarship](https://aafll.wildapricot.org/Linda_Mead_Scholarship)

Send applications to subject: "Linda Mead Scholarship Application" at [aall4az@gmail.com](mailto:aall4az@gmail.com).