



FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER

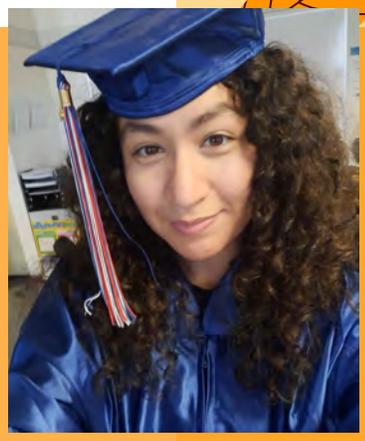


President's message - Fall 2021
P-2



Students as Leaders COABE conference strand and more...
P-6

A Tucson Story of Triumph Over Tribulation
P-4



Awareness: Funding Update from COABE
P-7



The 2021 Arizona Adult Education is Almost Here!
P-5



National Adult and Education Family Literacy Week is upon us!
P-8

President's message - Fall 2021

By Katy Brown AALL Board President

Hello from your new AALL Board President,

Welcome,

I am very happy to say that I will be your AALL President of the Board this year. I have many goals for the year, but my main goal is to support and guide AALL in its mission to “improve opportunities for educational growth by promoting and inspiring lifelong learning and adult literacy in Arizona”. This year AALL has a talented Board of Directors, with 17 people from 11 different programs in Arizona. The diversity of location, program size and focus offers us a well placed view. Please consider joining our team, either as a future board member or as part of a committee supporting the work that we do.

Ongoing plans for the year include:

- Acknowledgement of personal and program achievements: AALL’s annual Awards Celebration will take place at the ADE Institute, September 18, 2021.

Please join us. Be on the lookout for people in your own program that you can nominate when the opportunity comes around again next year. You can also showcase your program by submitting an article and/or photo to our newsletter. Show off what you do.

- Awareness and Advocacy: AALL will continue its role of monitoring and spreading information about legislative actions that affect adult education in Arizona. Be aware and be involved. Our voices matter.

- Professional Development and Learning opportunities: The AALL Spring Conference will be April 28, 29, 30, 2022, in partnership with Mountain Plains Adult Education Association (MPAEA). Our theme: Facing a Changing World: Skills for the Future. It will be the place to be, with both virtual and in-person options at Rio Salado Conference Center.



Please consider presenting, or request a topic that you would like to hear more about.

- Scholarships: Scholarships for programs are available to hold open houses or to go on educational field trips. Scholarships are also available for individuals to attend professional development events, to take professional certifications, or for learning exchanges. The learning exchange is an underutilized benefit of being a member. Look around you. Find a program or instructor that you would like to work with and maybe some funding from AALL can help to give you the time to collaborate and develop something special for your classes or program.



This year we will continue to strengthen our ties with workforce for the benefit of our students and our state. We also would like to expand our membership to ensure that all programs in Arizona that have adult education programs are connected and involved. We have a lot that we can learn from one another for a strong Arizona community. If you know of a program that is not a member of AALL, reach out to them or to me and let's make the connection.



I have been an adult education Instructor with Pima Community College ABECC for more than 20 years now and AALL has been there for me and my students throughout. Through times of changing technologies, changing funding, changing legislation and a continual growth in our profession, AALL's focus remains the empowerment of students and teachers to build and shape our lives for the better.

Thank you for reading our AALL newsletter. Adult Education in Arizona is a vibrant and powerful place. I hope that next issue you will be sharing and reading about accomplishments that your own program has submitted. You are an inspiration for many. Share what you know with others.

All the best for the coming year. I hope to see you at our events, or hear about your work.

Thank you,

Katy Brown





A Tucson Story of Triumph Over Tribulation

By Lance Waring from PCAP LEARN.

As we all know, there are many reasons why people don't finish high school. Too many times, students don't finish high school or their HSE because of experiences that no human being should ever have to face — experiences that often push them into addiction. Natalie, who began working with the PCAP LEARN Lab in November 2019 knows this all too well, but you would never guess it when you greet this joyful and eager young woman.

Natalie is a real fighter. Early on in the pandemic, she found herself alone, with no home or job. When lack of broadband and a device prevented her from joining on-line classes, she

borrowed books from the classroom and was tutored by an instructor on the telephone. At one point, her backpack, which contained her study materials, was stolen. Despite these setbacks, Natalie kept going, contacting her instructor to obtain another book so that she could continue.

What set Natalie apart in the classroom was her refusal to be daunted by what she perceived as difficult. She viewed math as her nemesis, but she attacked it with an enthusiasm that teachers usually can only dream of. One particularly vivid memory is from the day when she answered a word problem, which was a trick question, incorrectly. As her teachers explained the piece of it that she had missed, a broad grin—instead of signs of frustration—spread across her face as she grasped her mistake.

Natalie's HSE did not come easily for her. After she initially enrolled with PCAP in November of 2019, she accomplished 202.5 hours when face-to-face classes ended in March 2020. She tried to be one of the early adopters of online learning but was without her own device and service. Then in the middle of an online class period it became clear that online learning was not acceptable to the one family member who had allowed Natalie to use her computer.

With all the other tests passed, Natalie turned her attention to the GED® math test. She finally arranged use of a device so she could attend class regularly, complete homework assignments consistently, and ask excellent questions during class. She had to take the GED® math test several times before she passed, but she refused to give up; she would attend online class in the morning even after closing her workplace at 2 am. When this finally began to take a physical toll on her, she self-advocated to have her work schedule changed to accommodate school. Her hard work bore fruit when her score improved from 141 to 155.

In the past year, Natalie has gone from being alone out on the street to having a home and stable job, and she is making plans for the future. She has already enrolled in a CDL training program and looks forward to a day when she can put her justice-involvement behind her in order to pursue a health care career.



ARIZONA ADULT EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SYSTEM

The 2021 Arizona Adult Education is Almost Here!

By Beverly Wilson, Director Professional Learning Arizona Department
of Education-Adult Education Services

**2021 Adult Education Institute
September 16th - 18th, 2021**

Calling all adult educators!

You have only a few days left to register for this year's virtual adult education institute.
<https://www.azed.gov/adultedservices>

We are excited to welcome these featured keynote speakers to the institute!

**Thursday, September 16th
Opening session:**

**The Honorable Mark Kelly,
United States Senator
for Arizona**

**Friday, September 17th
General Session:**

**Dr. Lee Lambert,
Chancellor, Pima
Community College and Dr.
Jackie Elliot, Chancellor,
Central Arizona College**

**Saturday, September 18th
General Session:**

**ADE-AES and AALL Joint
Awards Celebration
featuring HSE Graduate,
Alma Ramirez Corrales**

The institute will feature four strands and over 30 break-out sessions for program administrators, ABE/HSE and ESOL teachers, and support staff. We look forward to seeing you online!

Students as Leaders COABE conference strand and more...

By Laura Porfirio - Past president, Member of awareness committee.

Did you know that AALL is the sponsor of COABE's Students as Leaders strand for their national conferences?



We've been doing that ever since 2018 when we hosted COABE and facilitated the first ever national ambassador training for students as representational leaders for adult education.

The next COABE conference in April 2022 will be hybrid (both in-person and virtual) and the call for proposals is out!

<https://coabe.org/coabe-2022-conference-presenter-resources/>

Do you have a best practice around student engagement and/or leadership development to share with the field? Do you have a student leader who'd like to share their perspectives with the field? Have you submitted a proposal and/or presented at COABE in our strand?

Consider submitting a proposal - due Oct. 15.

Don't forget there are AALL scholarship funds you can apply for to cover costs of participating - for both adult educators and adult learners.



Ambassador national training team from 2019

Stay tuned about a future Arizona Adult Ed Ambassador training sponsored by AALL's Awareness Committee. But in the meantime... More info about COABE's ambassador training offerings (online, virtual, etc.):

<https://coabe.org/ambassador-training/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=umWYtULOt3k>

For details or answers to questions about all of the above, please reach out to me anytime!

Laura Porfirio - Past president, Member of awareness committee and COABE Students as Leaders Conference Strand coordinator
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Awareness: Funding Update from COABE

By Amanda Whatley from Central Arizona College - AALL Awareness Chair



Infrastructure – Clearing the Path for Reconciliation: Last week, the Senate passed its bipartisan infrastructure bill, clearing the path for the Senate to pass its budget resolution. The infrastructure bill, among other things, creates the Digital Equity Capacity Grant program and the Digital Equity Competitive Grant program. These grants are designed to increase the funding for programs that address the digital divide and promote digital equity. ***In the Senate bill, adult education programs are eligible to administer or receive funds from these programs.***

While not direct funding for adult education, it could be an opportunity for increased funding for providing the services we know are essential for students. **The infrastructure bill has not passed the House and could change before becoming final law.**

Reconciliation – Call for COVID-19 Relief Funding for Adult Ed: Last week, the Senate passed its budget resolution, which sets the deficit limits for the House Education and Labor Committee and the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee for fiscal years 2022-2031 at \$779,500,000,000 and \$726,380,000,000, respectively.

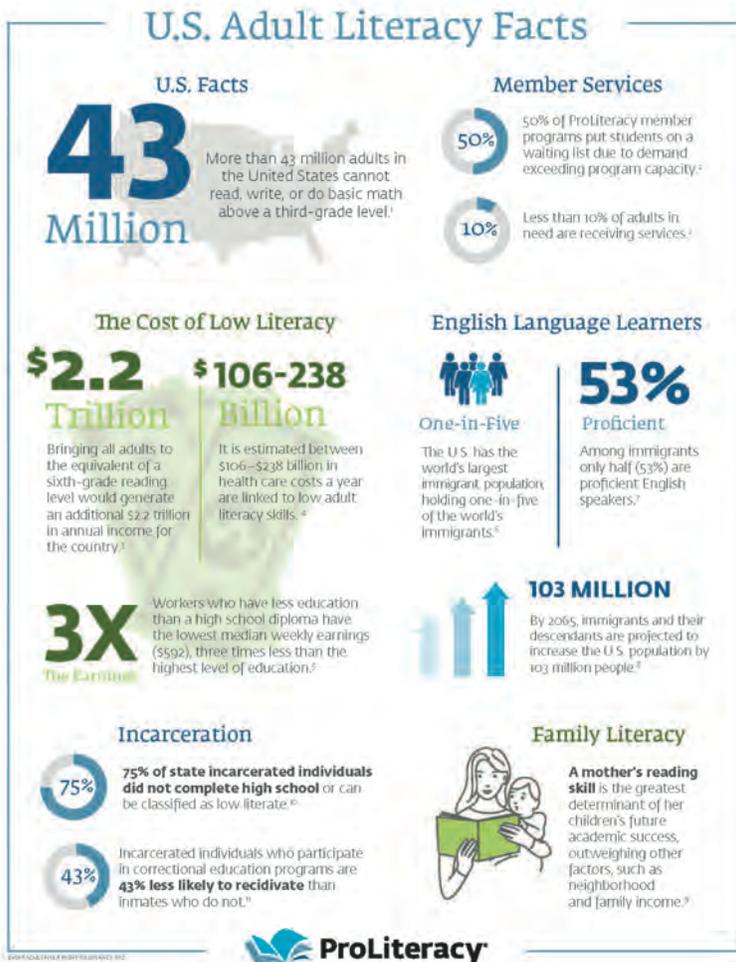
The budget resolution kicks off a “reconciliation” process that will likely fund important economic recovery investments such as free college and childcare. In addition, the reconciliation bill could fund COABE’s request to add **\$1 billion** in Adult Education funding (that is *in addition to* the regular annual appropriations).

To add your support behind an increase in adult education funding, [follow this link to fill out this form to send a letter to congress.](#)

Thank you!
Amanda Whatley
AALL Awareness Chair
aallawareness@gmail.com

National Adult and Education Family Literacy Week is upon us!

By Amanda Whatley from Central Arizona College - AALL Awareness Chair



Every year, the National Coalition for Literacy (on behalf of the adult literacy and basic education field) requests that Congress recognize one week as National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week. This year, that week is September 19-25, 2021.

The goal of National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week is to work side-by-side in every state, territory, and district to heighten public awareness, strengthen alliances, leverage resources, and increase the number of people who understand the vital role adult education and family literacy plays in our nation's well-being.

Celebrate all the great things happening in adult education by sharing your stories with elected officials, on social media, or even just family and friends. Access the toolkit [here](#).

Here are some interesting facts about Adult Education to get you started:

Thank you!
Amanda Whatley
AALL Awareness Chair
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