

Adult and Family Literacy Today

Volume 9: March 31, 2023

Updates on adult and family literacy research, policy, and practice.

Institute Updates

Great Educational Opportunity in Family Literacy



"My Family Literacy Certificate has given me a 360-degree perspective on teaching and learning with adults and children." - Family Literacy Certificate Graduate

This quote speaks to the importance and value of Penn State's World Campus and Family literacy certificate! Scholarships are available if you are interested in studying about how to support families achieve academic and lifelong success. The online postbaccalaureate program covers a wide range of topics and benefits individuals working with adults and children. It is comprised of four, three-credit courses, but students who do not want to enroll in the certificate program can take courses individually. Students study high quality, researched-based material and have rich discussions with each other online about diverse topics related to family literacy. Students who received the family literacy certificate have gone onto start a company that integrates math and curriculum for children and families, provide family programming in libraries, or improve lessons and activities in family literacy programs. Comments from students reflect how valuable the certificate is:

- *The Family Literacy Certificate program was the jumping off point I needed to understand how to center families in my practice. I learned to work from evidence-based strategies that strengthen and empower families, build programs around family strengths, and needs, and partner with schools, families, and communities in pursuit of equity in education together. This program was professionally and personally life-changing for me.*
- *I took the Family Literacy course to learn more about literacy, and, in the process, I learned more about life. Literacy impacts us at all ages, in all conditions of our lives, and it can determine our success or failure in life. I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to learn and grow through these courses.*
- *I think the highlight of this course was having the opportunity to learn from our peers.*

[Check out the Family Literacy flyer here!](#) Contact Beth McLean, elg6@psu.edu, if you have additional questions.

Join ISAL/Goodling Faculty at COABE!



The Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE) Conference is taking place in Atlanta, GA, from April 2-5. ISAL/Goodling Faculty are presenting at the conference and hope you can join us at our presentations (see below for description)! For more information on the COABE conference, [click here](#).

Carol Clymer, Anna Kaiper-Marquez, Jungeun Lee, Elisabeth McLean, Esther Prins

Monday, Session 3, 2:00pm-3:15pm, Room(s): INTL 8/V5

Strand: Family Literacy

The Value of Family Literacy: Preliminary Results of a Multi-year Evaluation

In 2019, the William Penn Foundation launched a family literacy initiative that included a multi-year implementation and outcomes evaluation conducted by Goodling Institute at Penn State University. This session highlights preliminary quantitative and qualitative findings of the evaluation that is in its fourth year.

In-person and Virtual presentation

Anna Kaiper-Marquez

Monday, 3:45pm-5:00pm, Room(s): M304

Strand: Leadership for Administrators

Social Justice in Adult Basic Education and Adult Literacy

The diversity of learners in U.S. adult education programs is immense, but a focus on social justice initiatives to support these learners is lacking in research and practice. Drawing on the understanding that social justice is vital to all aspects of adult education, this presentation will give an overview of asset-based approaches to teaching and learning and explore how adult education programs can implement culturally responsive programming to support social justice for adult learners.

In-person and Virtual presentation

Carol Clymer and Elisabeth McLean

Tuesday, Session 5, 8:00am-9:15am, Room(s): INTL 8/V4

Strand: Family Literacy

Here to Stay: The Resilience of Family Literacy Programming

Despite dwindling federal resources for family literacy, states and local programs have continued funding family literacy programs. The Goodling Institute for Research in Family Literacy has been documenting these efforts since 2016. This session will provide an update on the status of family literacy funding in 2023, information about funding family literacy programming, ideas for building family literacy partnerships, and tips on grant writing.

In-person and Virtual presentation

Lee Presents Research at AERA



Jungeun Lee, Assistant Teaching Professor for Goodling/ISAL will present at [2023 American Education Research Association \(AERA\)](#) in April 2023. The conference, taking place in Chicago, brings together educators and researchers from around the world to share their research in an array of areas.

Lee's presentation, "*Pathways to success: Low-educated adults, non-cognitive skills and labor market outcomes*", draws from the U.S. national database for PIAAC 2012/14/17 to examine factors that influence labor market outcomes, i.e., earned income and job satisfaction, of low-educated adults who do not have post-secondary education. Lee finds non-cognitive skills are significantly associated with achieving monetary and non-monetary labor market outcomes even after controlling cognitive skills and other factors.

News From Our Career and Family Pathways Programs

Meeting International Learners' Literacy Needs



Penn State's Career Pathways ESL program continues to expand and now has 110 students representing 31 countries and five continents. Classes are offered at the basic, intermediate, and advanced levels and cover the domains of reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

In addition to classes, a monthly Conversational Café gives participants the opportunity to discuss timely topics at different locations throughout State College. The first one was held at a local cafe and was dedicated to International Women's Day. April's Conversational Café will focus on Earth Day.

The Career Pathways program is offered through Penn State's Institute for the Study of Adult Literacy (ISAL) and offers free adult education, ESL, and high school equivalency diploma classes. For more information, email Mariana at mxs552@psu.edu or call (570) 367-0851.

ISAL and LitCorps Partner to Create University/Community Partnerships

"Tutoring is definitely a highlight of my day," expressed Zoe Chadwick, a LitCorps tutor, who described her excitement about meeting with adult learners. LitCorps, matches Penn State students with adult learners in the Center and Lycoming counties and provides an opportunity for Penn State students to engage in community service and earn internship credits. As a partnership with the Penn State English department and partially funded with a Pennsylvania Department of Education, Division of Adult Education tutoring grant, LitCorps students engage in an in-depth study of aspects of literacy (e.g., social, economic, political) and apply their knowledge in tutoring sessions with adult education learners. Tutors, like Zoe, have the semester to practice what they learn. For many tutors, the experience bridges the gap between theory and practice.

Zoe described her tutoring as a chance "to laugh at my mistakes and to be fully myself when I'm teaching. I've always had the idea that you have to be serious when teaching, but that's definitely not the case Not only has tutoring helped me gain a lot of confidence in my teaching skills, but also, it's helped me develop really heartfelt connections." For Zoe and other LitCorps students, the Penn State-community partnership provides active engagement in literacy education for both students and our community of adult learners.

Announcements



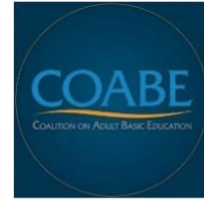
Family Literacy Community of Practice

Please join us on March 31st at 2:00 pm for the next Family Literacy Community of Practice sponsored by the Goodling Institute. Emily Wolfe, from Goodling, will cover the topic *Family Literacy Programming Using Remote and Online Modalities*.

April's Family Literacy Community of Practice will take place on April 28th at 2:00 pm. Beth McLean and

COABE Seeking Feedback from Adult Education Researchers

COABE seeks input from researchers who have worked or would like to work with adult education providers, the learners they serve, and the teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals working directly with adult learners. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey ([HERE](#)) to share your expertise and feedback, and they will enter you into their drawing for a \$50 gift card!



Resources



Department of Education Collaborating to Develop the Family Engagement Learning Series

The U.S. Department of Education announced new partnerships with Carnegie Corporation of New York and Overdeck Family Foundation to launch the Family Engagement Learning Series. The Learning Series, launched Feb. 28, 2023, is intended to help education leaders and practitioners implement family engagement strategies that support student success. To read more on this partnership, [click here](#).

Promoting Title II and Adult Basic Education

If you want assistance informing partners about your adult education program and services, the PA Adult Resources website has a [tri-fold brochure](#) that can inform partners about the types of services available and examples of adult education partnerships. Programs can customize the brochure for their agency. For more information about PA Adult Education Resources related to WIOA, [click here](#).

Association for Library Service to Children Develops Blog About Selecting Books for Storytime




A recent blog from the Association for Library Service to Children can help family literacy programs select books for storytime. [Click here](#) to learn more.

[Institute for the Study of Adult Literacy | Website](#)

[Goodling Institute for Research in Family Literacy | Website](#)

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