

# Iowa Literacy Connection

*It is everyone's business!*

ilc.coabe.org

September 2022

## Greetings

What a wild summer! After the heat and the hail, we are now back to school and business.

2022 has been a great year for Iowa Literacy Council with an unforgettable conference that people are still talking about. I received emails from almost every vendor telling me how great they thought the conference was and that they are looking forward to coming back next year. One vendor who presented during the last time slot told me that she expected a small group because people like to head home early. However, she had over 50 people in her room with some sitting on the floor.

We received great feedback, and we are looking forward to the 2023 conference with great sessions, generous vendors, and exciting keynotes. Please be sure to let me now if you have ideas as early as possible. We want to meet YOUR needs!

As mentioned during the conference, you are officially ILC/COABE members up through March of 2023. At that time, we will be renewing memberships and hope to have some extra surprises included. There will definitely be a huge discount in the registration for next year's conference for members. We vow to keep the membership fee reasonable.

This newsletter includes information about the upcoming the Adult Education and Family Literacy Week including a contest that will win a program one free 2023 conference registration, future professional development opportunities, important dates to note and fun photos from the conference. Please send in success stories and photos to include in the next edition.

*Have a healthy Fall!*

Dr. Helene Fein  
Executive Director  
Iowa Literacy Council



ProLiteracy Conference  
San Antonio, TX  
October 3-5

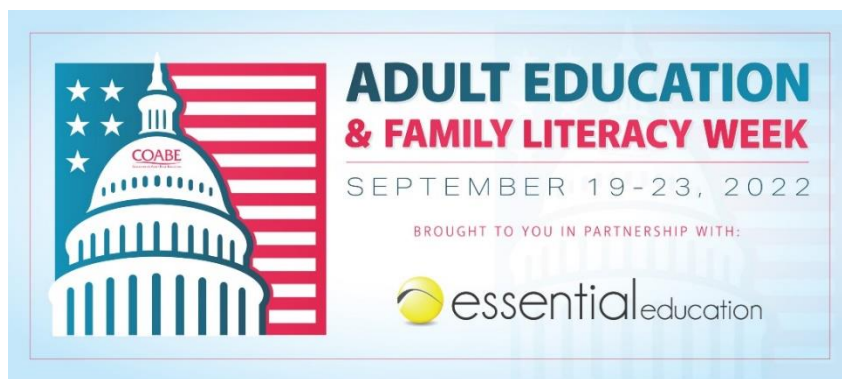
[More information](#)

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Iowa Winter Conference  
Virtual  
January 31, February 2, 2023

.....  
CASAS National  
Summer Institute  
Garden Grove, CA  
June 12 -15, 2023

[More information](#)

.....  
Iowa Literacy Summer  
Conference  
Ankeny, IA  
TBD



The National Adult Education & Family Literacy Week is a time to get the word out about the importance of our work to our community and world. The Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE) provides a multitude of resources for you to use - from data sheets and legislative talking points to success stories to share.

We encourage you to use this great resource to get the word out. Visit <https://coabe.org/action-items-for-state-leaders/> and look for the Resources folder on the right. There you will be able to:

- ✓ Look up your legislators
- ✓ Send emails to schedule appointments with representatives (including, president, governor, US and state senators and representatives). COABE has even provided a template with talking points for the email
- ✓ Download state fact sheets
- ✓ Toolkit for State Leadership Participation
- ✓ See the COABE Recommendation for the Biden Administration & 117<sup>th</sup> Congress
- ✓ Access the Award Winning Educate and Elevate Campaign Site

**Find the toolkit here**

[AEFL Week Toolkit for State Associations](#)

## Make A Plan – Win A Prize!

What is your plan for getting the word out about the importance of Adult Education during National Adult Education & Literacy Week – **September 19 – 23**? Who needs to know? What will you say? How will you celebrate the week?

We want to hear from you! Send your plan to inform and motivate. By submitting your plan, you will enter to win one of two free registrations for next year's Adult Education and Family Literacy Conference. Submit your plan to [ilcexecutivedirector@iowa.gov](mailto:ilcexecutivedirector@iowa.gov) by midnight, **September 17**. Winning program will be announced on September 19.

# COABE

## Special Events

[Click Here for More Information](#)

### **Monday, September 19**

#### **National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week Kickoff**

Join COABE as we kick off National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week with Assistant Secretary Amy Lloyd at the Office of Career Technical and Adult Education!

#### **Impact Funding for YOUR Local Program**

Tune in for a legislative update from COABE's public policy firm, Penn Hill Group. You'll hear about our recommendations to congress for WIOA Reauthorization and receive a progress update on current WIOA funding projections for 2023.

### **Tuesday, September 20**

#### **Research makes the case for adult education**

Research in the field of adult education underscores the transformative value of adult education in a learner's life and sphere of influence. Join us to hear about a groundbreaking longitudinal research study that your program and alumni can participate in. You will also hear about the upcoming "Students as Leaders" peer reviewed research journal that will be released in spring.

#### **LINCS Correctional & Reentry Education Community**

Join us as we partner with the COABE Literacy Behind & Beyond the Walls Committee in celebration of Adult Education Family Literacy Week. This interactive event will explore the state of adult education in the correctional setting, the importance of adult literacy for the men and women behind bars, and the positive impact further education has on their families.

### **Wednesday, September 21**

#### **Student Success Panel**

COABE recently redesigned the national and state data sheets that will be featured and discussed during legislative visits. The national data sheets include amazing student success stories. Hear from the adult learners that have been profiled and get inspired to submit your learner success stories.

#### **Every Vote Counts: Tips, Tools, & Resources for Teachers & Adult Learners**

Participants will identify the latest civics and online voting and 2022 Midterm Election resources appropriate for ELL, ABE, and Citizenship adult learners in the form of mobile apps, videos, podcasts, websites, activities, and more. By adapting and incorporating these digital resources, participants will be able to deliver relevant content about voting in online, blended, distance, or directed self-study learning environments.

### **Thursday, September 22**

#### **Employer Perceptions of the HSE**

Employers shared their perceptions of the High School Equivalency in the recent COABE/NASDAE survey of more than 750 companies nationwide. Read the brief published by COABE and join us for this exciting discussion about the findings.

### **Friday, September 23**

#### **NRS Assessments: Your input matters!**

COABE is calling on congress to fund a pilot of innovative assessments to support ongoing input we receive from adult education administrators and teachers. Join us for a lively discussion about assessments and the potential for a pilot program under WIOA reauthorization.

# 2022 Educator of the Year



Ginger Culpepper, Northwest Iowa Community College was selected as the 2022 Archie Willard Adult Education & Literacy Educator of the Year. She was recognized for her work in Adult Education at the 2022 Iowa Literacy Conference in July. She is shown receiving the award from ILC president Juan Garcia and ILC board member Tara Tedrow.



LITERACY OPPORTUNITY FUND



## Applications are now open for the Literacy Opportunity Fund!

To be eligible for this grant, your organization must

1. be a registered nonprofit with 501(c)(3) status
2. have an Employer Identification Number (EIN)
3. provide literacy services directly to students
4. be located within the United States
5. not have already received a Literacy Opportunity Fund grant during this calendar year.

The Literacy Opportunity Grant is funded by the Nora Roberts Foundation and administered by ProLiteracy. The Literacy Opportunity Fund distributes grants of \$3,000 to \$6,000 to support general operating expenses.

Please visit the [Literacy Opportunity Fund](#) page for more information. Applications will be accepted through ProLiteracy's online grant portal. [Click here](#) to create your account. \*

Applications must be submitted no later than **October 1, 2022**, to be considered. Grant announcements will be made by November 28, 2022.

*\* Accounts on ProLiteracy's online grant portal are different from Education Network accounts. If you have not applied for a grant through our online grant portal before, you will need to create a new account.*





## Bridges to Success Leads to Student Success

Through a partnership between United Way of Central Iowa and DMACC, Bridges to Success was established in 2015. This program was created as a way to help students earn their high school equivalency diploma and plan for the future. Below are just a few of the successes:

"I dropped out of high school in my senior year and wanted to prove to my four boys that I could get my Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma. fails, I finally pushed myself and made it through the last time [with help and support from Bridges to Success, a United Way partner program with DMACC. I feel relieved to be finished. It's a way to show my kids that no matter what you go through, you can still do anything you want.

I'm pursuing a nursing degree after this. I work in health care right now with Mercy and it's truly where my heart lies. I love health care."- *Megan*



"Graduating with a Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma [with help from the Bridges to Success partner program with Des Moines Area Community College] was about proving to my girls that you can do anything that you put your mind to. Getting the diploma itself was easy, but I started prerequisites for nursing and going into the nursing program. That's the hard part.

I am now 33 now and I had my daughter at 16. It's been quite a journey to get to this point. There were many hurdles that I had to overcome to get to where I am now but I'm proud of myself for graduating." - *April*

"I pursued the Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma program because I wanted to graduate early. That then allowed me to attend college early at age 17. When I did the test to get my GED, it showed that I was college ready in all of classes. I have autism and I think a lot of my teachers didn't think I could do it because of my disability.

The Bridges to Success program is really great because it gives a lot of people the opportunity to graduate when maybe they wouldn't have been able to before. A lot of people graduating with me have accomplished so much." - *Tricia*





## Refugees Alliance of Central Iowa

RACI is a network of service providers, government agencies, religious groups, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions that work together to better serve the needs of the growing refugee population in central Iowa.

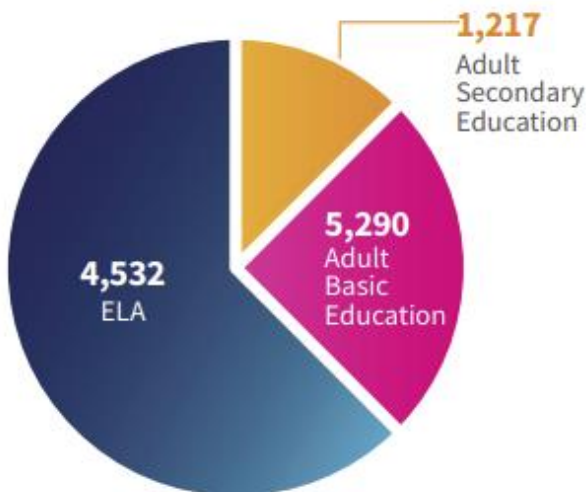
The Refugee Alliance of Central Iowa (RACI) [website](#) provides great information to those that work with refugees. You can find information on:

- Resources that are available throughout the community
- A Refugee Immigration Guide
- Donation – what is needed, and where to donate
- Recordings of the Refugee Summit that included topics regarding employment, eviction, fair housing, brain injury and COVID

## Numbers to Know



### INDIVIDUALS IN NEED OF ADULT EDUCATION SERVICES



**11,039**

Total adult education enrollment

**79,472** Number of adults in the state who **do not speak English well or at all.**

**144,013** Number of working-age adults (16-64) in the state **without a high school credential**

**8,963** Working-age adults (18-64) **without a High School diploma and are unemployed.**

**\$428 Federal funds**  
**per adult learner.**

Our learners have the most barriers to employment and literacy, yet we receive limited funding compared to the **\$10,000** per pupil received by elementary education.





# Facing the Future Together

The 2022 Adult Education and Literacy Conference was a great success. We had over 180 people attend the 3-day event which was held at DMACC in Ankeny. There were forty-seven sessions presented on a wide range of topics. There were informative workshops, enthusiastic vendors, inspiring keynotes, and fantastic networking. We also had delicious food and fabulous prizes including a brand-new laptop (thanks to Connectable.)

Did you miss a presentation? You can see the handouts at: <https://2022adulthoodeducationandliteracy.sched.com/>



The conference was a great opportunity to network!



Speakers gave presentations on a wide range of topics.



Enthusiastic Vendors!



Over 180 attended the 3-day conference.

Connect with us!



The Iowa Literacy Connection is a publication of the Iowa Literacy Council which was established to help coordinate literacy programs statewide. The ILC administers funds to support advocacy and resources that enable Iowans to access literacy building opportunities.

## We want YOU on our Team!

Not currently a member of the Iowa Literacy Council? We would love to have you as part of our growing team of educators, students, and administrators.

What are the benefits of being a member of the Iowa Literacy Council?

- Educational Tools
- Access to legislators
- National awards
- Adult educator resources
- COABE conference discount
- Professional development
- Journal access
- And much more

What are you waiting for? Hop over to the Iowa Literacy Council [website](#) to join today!

[Learn more](#)