



## AEFL Week Celebration

# ADULT EDUCATION Newsletter

September  
2023

### IN THIS ISSUE

This year's National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week (AEFL) was September 18 – 22. The week of activities included in-person and virtual connecting between adult learners, community partners, business leaders, legislators, and friends of adult education to celebrate achievements in adult education.

National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week raises public awareness about the need for and value of adult education and family literacy. Its goal is to increase financial and societal support for access to basic education programs for U.S. adults with low literacy, numeracy, and digital skills. Advocates across the country use this opportunity to elevate adult education and family literacy nationwide with policymakers, the media, and communities.

In Arkansas, several events and activities were held to amplify the successes of Adult Education program participants--including Open Houses at local centers, a proclamation from the Governor of Arkansas, and recognition of a state legislator.

- ★ Open house events were held statewide. Programs invited community members to see how our high-value programs can help them upgrade their skill sets.
- ★ Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders signed a proclamation recognizing AEFL week and the importance of Arkansas Adult Education programs. The proclamation exemplifies the impact of the services provided to citizens of the state by Arkansas Adult Education.
- ★ State Representative Carol Dalby (Texarkana) was recently awarded the Legislative Champions Award by The Coalition of Adult Basic Education (COABE). The award honors legislators who work to ensure funding and visibility for WIOA Title II funding for their contributions. Rep. Dalby was recognized for her support of adult learners in Arkansas, improvement in access to adult education for Arkansans, and overall excellence of her endeavors to better workforce education. Along with Arkansas Senator Jimmy Hickey, Rep. Dalby sponsored House Bill 1091, passed as Act 100 on February 21, 2023. The act requires that the passage of a GED test be treated the same as receiving a high school diploma, offering statewide equity in recognition and aid to Arkansans who acquire a diploma through the challenging GED program as those who graduate from high school. View her acceptance at [https://youtu.be/M\\_xNktJKZto?si=05zAmjmFQ9zNxuPf](https://youtu.be/M_xNktJKZto?si=05zAmjmFQ9zNxuPf).

<i>AEFL Week Celebration</i>	<i>Page 1</i>
<i>Open House Events</i>	<i>Page 2-4</i>
<i>Hispanic Heritage Month</i>	<i>Page 4</i>
<i>Around the State</i>	<i>Page 5</i>
<i>AACAE/ALA Conference</i>	<i>Page 6</i>
<i>Stats At-A-Glance</i>	<i>Page 6</i>

# 2023 Adult Education Open House Events



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## Hispanic Heritage Month

### “Driving Prosperity, Power and Progress in America”

Many Adult Education Centers in the state held events in observance of National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 to October 15); all activities celebrate the histories, cultures, and contributions of Americans whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson. It was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period beginning on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day falls within this 30-day period.

Each year during Hispanic Heritage Month, Latinos En Arkansas—a nonprofit organization—recognizes outstanding community contributors. Eduardo Lemm was named to the organization’s 2023 list of “The Best of Our Very Own”.

Mr. Lemm is a Program Advisor on the Adult Education state staff team. He says, “I’m proud to represent Adult Education in our Latino Community. My representation reflects all of the Adult Ed staff.”

## Around the State

*Arkansas Adult Education Center directors and staff members continue working innovatively and often collaboratively to help our students succeed. Check out some of the activities happening around the state.*



### Arkansas Baptist College Adult Education Center

Gregory Ayers is a student at Arkansas Baptist College Adult Education. He was recently presented with a Certificate of Achievement for getting two level gains (one in Reading and one in Language Arts).

Adult Education Center Director, Debra Baker, states, "This is our way to create incentives and motivate our students this program year."

### East Arkansas Community College Adult Education Center

Bridgette Hale recently graduated from the East Arkansas Community College Adult Education & Literacy Program. Bridgette came to Adult Education in July with the goal of starting college courses at EACC in August. She displayed great enthusiasm and the dedication needed to accomplish her goal. Within a month, she earned her *Arkansas High School Diploma* and is now a freshman at EACC, taking 15 college credit hours.

EACC staff members strive to offer a flexible, no-stress environment to help their students succeed—just like Bridgette has.



### LACES for Teachers (Northwest Region)

The LACES for Teachers Northwest Regional training was conducted at the PEAK Innovation Center in Fort Smith. Teachers traveled from ATU Ozark, North Arkansas College, NWACC, NWTI, Fayetteville, Fort Smith, and UA Rich Mountain to participate in the training.

Teachers studied the importance of data review, how they can impact data quality, and how to pull reports. In addition, teachers had the opportunity to gain knowledge on ways student retention can impact the program, how data can help increase retention strategies, and the value they hold as instructors.

