

# Outstanding Adult Education Learners

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March 28, 2015

*The honorees highlighted in this booklet believe in the value of an education. These men and women have family, work, and community obligations. Their lives are busy with little time to spare. Still, they commit a significant amount of their precious time and energy to completing their education. These adult learners know that an education provides them with access to jobs and skills that will enhance their lives and those of their families.*

*In 2013, the OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) released their Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC) which reported that “the need for routine cognitive and craft skills is declining while the demand for information-processing and other high-level cognitive and interpersonal skills is growing....in addition, workers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century must also have a stock of information processing skills and various ‘generic’ skills including interpersonal communication, self-management and the ability to learn, to help them weather the uncertainties of a rapidly changing labour market”.*

*These learners, together with their instructors, understand this new reality. They realize that the changes necessary to be viable in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace will require new skills based on higher educational standards. These skills will be more difficult to attain and require perseverance or “grit” to achieve. Yet, these awardees are “up” for the challenge. They are stellar examples of dreamers who want to carve out a better future in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace. Consequently, they are willing to work long and hard to make their dreams into reality for themselves and their families.*

*To the students who have shared their stories here, thank you. You show us that lifelong learning is possible and attainable. You show us that dreams can come true!*

*You inspire the rest of us to follow in your footsteps!*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maureen Whelan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Maureen Whelan  
State Director of Adult Education and Prison Resources

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# Delaware's 2015 Outstanding Students

Joanne Alexander  
Jocelyn Anathol  
Kattia Arguedas  
Mardoqueo Berduo  
Michael Brooks  
Daniel Carter  
Tyler Cavanaugh  
Myung-Hoon Cho  
Oliver Coronado  
Clara De Leon Ortiz  
Genaro Dorantes  
Bonfilia Fuentes-Mejia  
Jose Efrain Garcia Garcia  
DaShawn Gardner  
Bruce Griffin  
Patrick Hogan  
Sabka Hristova  
Ashlee N. Hudgins  
Angela Marie Hudson  
Aimee Iovanisci  
Karen Jarman  
Peter Kamami  
Joseph Long  
Clarence McManus  
Cynthia Mitchell  
Vern Morris  
Beatrice W. Ndiba  
Tabatha Marie Pablo  
Santos Padilla  
Consuelo Padilla-Garcia  
Winsome Palmer  
Chhaya Singh



# Joanne Alexander

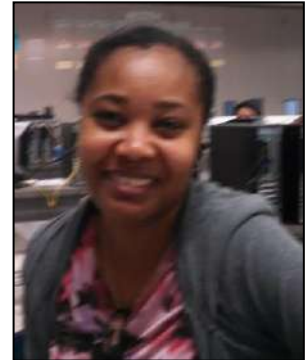
*Nominated by Appoquinimink ABE Program*

Joanne Alexander enrolled in Appoquinimink's ABE Program in January 2014. Her goals were to increase involvement in her children's education, involvement in community activities, to vote, and to visit the library. Thus far, she has increased her involvement in her children's education and she has visited the library.

Her greatest challenges or obstacles included the need for child care and procrastination. Child care issues have been resolved because her children are older now. Joanne has overcome procrastination by being determined to succeed. She is better disciplined in studying and studying more often. She has purchased additional resources so that she has a broader range of student materials at her disposal.

Joanne is an outstanding student. She is dedicated, punctual, determined, and persistent. She has a thirst to understand the concepts that are taught. She is an asset to her classmates and willingly helps others who are struggling.

Joanne plans on attending college. Her goal is to become a dental hygienist.



*“The value of my education is to set an example for my children and further my own education in order to enter college and graduate.”*

# Jocelyn Anathol

*Nominated by Polytech EL Civics Program*



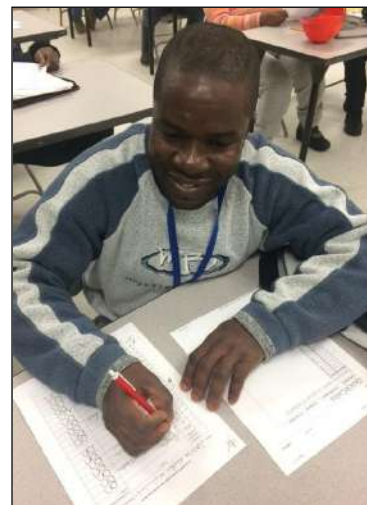
Jocelyn Anathol has a ninth grade education from Haiti and has lived in the United States for one year. He possesses very limited knowledge of spoken and written English.

He is working hard to bring his wife and three children here. In his attempt to reunite his family, Jocelyn obtained a job at Perdue Farms, Inc. He is an exemplary employee and therefore, was selected to participate in their on-site ESL program. He is an eager and passionate student who is determined to learn English.

*“I want to become a citizen and bring my wife and three children to America.”*

He is a dedicated, motivated and hardworking student. He arrives early to his evening shift to attend the ESL class and has also begun attending a second ESL class on Monday and Wednesday mornings.

Jocelyn is eager to learn English in order to “talk to more people and get a better job.”





# Kattia Arguedas

*Nominated by Red Clay ABE Program*

Kattia Arguedas enrolled in Red Clay's ABE Program in February 2013. Her goals were to improve her English skills and to obtain her secondary credential by passing her GED® test.

Kattia has progressed through the ABE levels and is beginning her preparatory classes toward taking the GED® subtests.

Because Spanish is her primary language, her ability to read, write, and speak English has been an obstacle. Through attending classes, she has made great improvement in her English language skills. She has been able to learn more vocabulary to help her to improve her reading and writing skills, particularly.

Kattia is a hard worker and a great student. She isn't shy to ask for more work in order to understand her lessons better. She understands that, as she advances in adult education, it will become more challenging. She hopes to receive her secondary credential to help her obtain better employment. She also plans to continue with her education with a goal of getting her high school diploma.

Family literacy is very important to Kattia. She states it quite simply, "Getting back into school has helped me with my kids. One day, my son, who is in the second grade, had questions about math. I was able to help him with what I learned in school. With my daughter, I was able to help her with fractions because we started the same thing at the same time. I can now help her with fractions...."



*"Getting back into school has helped me with my kids."*

# Mardoqueo Berduo

*Nominated by Sussex Center EL Civics Program*



Mardoqueo Berduo enrolled in Sussex Center's EL Civics program in October 2014. His goals were to pass the citizenship test, to retain employment, and to increase involvement in his child's education.

He passed his Citizenship Skills Certificate of Attainment (COA) on January 16, 2015, and he has retained his job as an electrician in his own business, Melvin's Electric LLC.

Despite his long hours at work, he has had excellent attendance in his EL Civics class. He is very helpful to other students and he participates well in class. He pays attention in class and has become a class leader.

Because of Mardoqueo's improvement in the English skills in speaking, reading, and writing, he will be able to obtain the Journeyman's Electrician License.

*“Learning to speak and write better in English helps me to communicate with my customers for service calls and it helps me to write invoices and order material for my job as an electrician.”*

# Michael Brooks

*Nominated by Groves High School – New Castle County  
Vo-Tech (NCCVT)*

Michael Brooks enrolled at NCCVT's Groves High School in Marshallton in November 2012. He set his goals to retain employment and to purchase books or magazines.

Twice, he met his goal of retaining employment. He has held the same job since he enrolled in Groves High School. Michael has overcome all of his obstacles by being strong and managing his way through his issues.

Michael always arrives to his classes on time and is ready to learn. He is eager to grow and learn. His attentiveness is extraordinary and he respects every person with whom he comes in contact.

He is planning to continue his education following his graduation at Groves High School. He is going to use his educational experiences in the workplace and in college.



*“It <education>  
is my top  
priority and I  
take it seriously.*

# Daniel Carter

*Nominated by Groves High School – Delaware Center for  
Distance Adult Learning (DCDAL)*



Daniel Carter enrolled in DCDAL’s Groves High School in the fall of 2013. His goals were to obtain his high school diploma, a library card, and to purchase books and magazines.

Daniel was previously enrolled in a homeschool co-op and received face-to-face instruction. At DCDAL, he has excelled in working independently to successfully complete his coursework.

He has become a very successful and motivated student. He is striving to become a better student and a better individual every day.

He plans to use the experiences that he has acquired at DCDAL to gain additional skills that will make him more successful in the workforce and to accomplish tasks to the best of his ability.

*“I highly value  
my education  
because of its  
importance in  
my future  
career and  
personal  
enlightenment.”*

# Tyler Cavanaugh

*Nominated by Christina ABE Program*

Upon enrolling, Tyler Cavanaugh cited his goals as to obtain employment, vote or register to vote, purchase books or magazines, and to obtain a library card to visit the library.

Tyler has attained three of his goals, thus far. He continues his job search, and looks forward to obtaining employment in the near future.

Tyler was unsuccessful in the K-12 system. He often fell asleep in class, fell behind in his studies, and he eventually gave up on school.

Currently, Tyler is alert and fully involved in his classes. He is attentive, motivated and very responsible. He is learning now, much unlike his previous K-12 system experiences. Tyler is goal oriented and is academically organized. He has been tenacious in his pursuit of knowledge and has excellent grades. He continuously asks questions to get a better understanding of his studies.

Tyler plans to use what he has learned to pursue his education further. He has become a leader in his classes and will use his leadership skills successfully in the future.



*“As long as you take your education one step at a time, everything will fall in place.”*

# Myung-Hoon Cho

*Nominated by Christina EL Civics Program*



*“Education helps me with my living. I can do more than just listen and understand. I can speak, and these are good times.”*

Myung-Hoon Cho enrolled in ESL classes in Christina’s EL Civics program in September 2013. He hoped to keep his job and to own a business someday. He also wants his sons to receive a good education in the United States.

Although Myung-Hoon’s level of English conversation is still very low, he can now speak with customers at the dry cleaners and he understand their needs. He is very proud that he recently became the owner of the business where he worked!

Spending time with his wife and three sons was difficult because he had to spend 12 hours per day at work and then also attend his English classes. He found visiting government offices for official business to be frightening and intimidating.

Myung-Hoon still works 11-12 hours each day. His wife also works with him. His sons are now in the Navy Reserves and the Army Reserves, while studying at Purdue and the University of Delaware. His youngest son is in Appoquinimink High School’s ROTC program.

He is self-motivated; he enjoys working diligently at his job and he is quick in his tasks. He wants to please his customers. At school, he volunteers to assist his classmates, teachers, and visitors by doing many small acts of kindness. He has a good sense of humor and he fits within any group.

With a sense of pride that business ownership instills, Myung-Hoon is eager to trust in his ability to communicate in English. He now understands the difference between present, past and future tenses.

# Oliver Coronado

*Nominated by Indian River School District ABE Program*

Oliver Coronado has been enrolled in Indian River School District's ABE program since September 2014. His goals include retaining employment and increased participation in community activities.

Oliver has met his goal of retaining employment and has increased his participation in community activities.

When Oliver first entered his ESL classes, his original assessment determined that his listening, oral, and general English language communication skills were limited. Because of his perseverance, his latest reassessment indicated that he has reached a higher educational level within a period of five months.

Oliver has attended almost every scheduled class. He is always willing to help classmates that are having difficulty grasping a new concept.

He consistently uses his newly acquired English skills at work and in the local community. He noted, "Bettering my English will provide me with ample opportunities to widen my social network and become more involved in the community."



*“Receiving and furthering my education is important because it will allow me to obtain a better paying job and be able to get a job in my career field as a mechanic.”*

# Clara De Leon Ortiz

*Nominated by Sussex Center Family Literacy Program*



*“Education is something important. It is a way to overcome. It is a lot of value. If you have it, no one can take it from you. We all need education.”*

Clara De Leon Ortiz enrolled in Sussex Center’s Family Literacy Program in August 2010 to increase her involvement in her children’s education, to increase involvement in her children’s literacy activities, and to retain her current employment. She has met all of these goals.

When she entered the program, she could not understand her teachers. It was challenging to learn a new language. She also had trouble with transportation. Probably, the greatest obstacle was the difficulty that she had in requesting time off at work in order to attend classes.

She was able to attend classes, and continued to study at home. She practiced her English whenever she could. At the beginning, her husband brought her to her classes; however, he did not want to continue. She had to learn how to drive so she could continue to attend her classes.

Clara explained, “I couldn’t communicate very well with my managers and co-workers at work. Now, since taking English classes, I can communicate much better.”

Clara is described by her teacher as intelligent and kind. She is a hard-working student. She attends classes regularly. Her education has helped her improve in her job. She can now interact with people and communicate with her children’s teachers. Now she can help her children with their homework.





# Genaro Dorantes

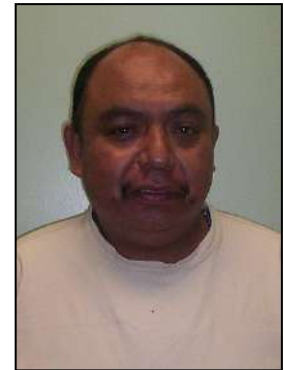
*Nominated by Latin American Community Center (LACC)  
ABE Program*

Genaro Dorantes enrolled in the Latin American Community Center (LACC) in October 2012 with the goals of purchasing books, retaining employment, and achieving citizenship skills.

Genaro has attained the three goals. He has progressed four Educational Functioning Levels and passed the 100 question Citizenship Skills Certificate of Attainment (COA).

His greatest obstacle included not having a car. He was in a bad accident but, in spite of this challenge, he persevered in attending his classes.

Genaro is able to get through his hardships. He loves history and civics and is able to read and study on his own. He wants to teach others who are struggling to survive in this English-speaking society. He wants to teach civics and ESL.



*“The value of my education is the personal advancement I received from my education and the knowledge to help others.”*

# Bonfilia Fuentes-Mejia

*Nominated by Indian River School District EL Civics Program*



Bonfilia Fuentes-Mejia entered Indian River School District's EL Civics Program with the goals of retaining employment, visiting the library, and increasing involvement in community activities. She has accomplished all of these goals this year.

Bonfilia reported that her primary challenge was the attendance in her classes, because she is a full-time, working mother. Since beginning the program, Bonfilia has maintained attendance and has been an active participant in her classes. Additionally, she and her husband have taken the initiative to seek learning opportunities by utilizing online resources that were discussed in class. In this way, she will be able to increase her knowledge of the English language.

Bonfilia is using her newly acquired English skills to help her children to succeed in school and to become an active and more productive member of her community.

*"<Education provides a way> to have better opportunities in life and to obtain a better paying job."*

# Jose Efrain Garcia Garcia

*Nominated by New Start ABE Program*

Jose Efrain Garcia Garcia enrolled in the New Start Program in the fall of 2012. He set the goals of retaining his job and getting a library card.

He has retained his employment and is a regular library patron. His personal goals are to speak and write English better. He is making good progress on both goals.

Jose works long hours at a mushroom farm. He often has to work overtime and cannot always make it to class. Jose has made his English class a priority this year and has had regular attendance. He completes his homework, participates in class and helps fellow students. He brought two friends to class with him this year.

He wants to find a better job and also wants to help his friends who do not speak English.



*“I have a better life because I can understand English.”*

# DaShawn Gardner

*Nominated by Delaware Technical Community College  
(DTCC) Wilmington Campus ABE Program*



*“<Education is>  
like air is to  
life!”*

DaShawn Gardner enrolled at the Wilmington Campus of DTCC in December 2014. Her goals were to increase her involvement in her children’s education and to enter post-secondary education or training. She has already increased her involvement in her daughter’s education.

DaShawn faced several obstacles including, childcare issues, self-confidence, self-esteem, and procrastination. She overcame her personal challenges and was able to secure childcare for her daughter. She built a support team to encourage her to keep pushing even when doubts of inability arise. She has shown great support, strength, and courage in her returning to school to pursue her education.

She is willing, persistent, and determined to get her secondary credential by taking her GED® test. She does not miss any days of classes without notification, always providing a reason for her lateness or absences. She shows up to class even if she is running late or if she has to leave early.

DaShawn plans to attend DTCC after attaining her secondary credential and will pursue an Associates Degree in Human Services in Drug and Alcohol Counseling. Due to her determination, she is likely to become a great counselor with grace, compassion and insight.

In her own words, she notes that the years of abuse, abandonment and disappointment caused her to realize the importance of an education and the need to pursue it with all of her strength.

# Bruce Griffin

*Nominated by Groves High School - Polytech*

Bruce Griffin has successfully retained employment, purchased books or magazines, obtained a library card, completed an Educational Functioning Level, and increased his involvement in community activities.

Bruce had been out of school for many years and works a full-time job; therefore, he was concerned that he might not be able to meet the demands of attending school, as needed. He really wanted to earn his high school diploma, but due to his outside responsibilities, he knew he would only be able to attend class two nights per week.

Bruce is extremely dedicated and committed to achieving his goals. He is a very hard working student who is a true role model to the other students attending the program.

Bruce will use his experience here to further his education and advance within his chosen career field.



*“I can only say that I view it <education> as the most important subject, which we as a people can be engaged in. That some achieve great success is proof to all that others can achieve it as well.”*

# Patrick Hogan

*Nominated by Delaware Center for Distance Adult Learning (DCDAL) ABE Program*



*“Education now means a lot to me, and I am happy with my classes and the program at DCDAL. I regret leaving high school, but now, I have options for my future I never had before.”*

Patrick Hogan enrolled in DCDAL in September 2014. His goals included improving citizenship skills, gaining employment and community involvement. He has attained all stated goals. His current job is entry level and he will need his secondary credential to continue his employment.

Patrick left the K-12 system due to family problems which led to serious truancy. He always wanted to complete his high school education, but due to his work schedule, he was never able to get started with adult education classes. When he enrolled at DCDAL, he was disappointed at his pre-test scores and placement. He quickly got underway and with vigor, successfully completed post-testing in November 2014 to prepare for his GED® test.

He focused on his studies and took advantage of the flexible scheduling of DCDAL’s online program which allows him to do schoolwork any time of the day or night. Patrick is enthusiastic about his success and plans to take his GED® test by the end of March.

Patrick is a focused student moving through classes smoothly. His positive attitude about school and his future keeps him motivated to finish.

He continues to work at his job. Upon his attainment of his secondary credential, new possibilities and options will be available to him. He is familiar with the transitional services offered by DCDAL which will make his dreams a reality.

# Sabka Hristova

*Nominated by Literacy Volunteers Serving Adults (LVSA)  
EL Civics Program*

Sabka Hristova enrolled at LVSA in the summer of 2013. She already had a job, but needed English to communicate with clients and community members. Sabka has continued in her employment and has made a level gain in her listening and speaking skills in English.

Sabka came to the U.S. as a middle-aged woman who was struggling with her oral proficiency in English. Although she was familiar with some written language, she did not feel confident learning to speak English and was afraid she would be misunderstood by those she was communicating with.

Ms. Sabka has learned to speak English and communicate with clients and people in the community. She speaks carefully and pays close attention to her teacher and other English speakers around her.

Sabka has a wonderful attitude and great dedication to learning. She rarely misses class and enjoys learning and sharing with her classmates from other parts of the world. Sabka uses English every day in her work and serves as a role model for her family and the LVSA community.



*“English is really important for me because I have to use it at work and everywhere, every day.”*

# Ashlee N. Hudgins

*Nominated by Delaware Technical Community College  
(DTCC) - Terry Campus ABE Program*



*“Life is what you  
make it, so is  
your education!  
Make it  
happen!”*

Ashlee N. Hudgins enrolled at DTCC’s Terry Campus to improve her skills in preparation to earn her secondary credential by passing the GED® test, to pass the Citizenship Skills Certificate of Attainment (COA), to obtain employment, and to enter a post-secondary credential training at DTCC. She has attained all of her goals that she set.

When Ashlee enrolled, her pretest scores indicated a need for skill development in math. Her confidence level was low and she was most concerned about algebra and geometry. She also had concerns regarding her social studies and science skills. Ashlee had personal issues that caused concern, among them was finding appropriate child care options.

Ashlee was able to receive assistance from church friends for child care and with other personal challenges. Strong effort helped to boost her confidence. She demonstrated her ability to be a lifelong learner by doing a tremendous amount of work outside of class. Ashlee utilized the GED® Academy online program and other resources in her quest to improve her skills.

Ashlee is a model student and encourages others. Her dedication and hard work demonstrated her desire to achieve her goals in a minimal timeframe. She is cheerful and nurturing, despite difficult personal challenges.

Within a week of earning her secondary credential, she started to attend retail sales operation certification classes and has registered for summer classes at DTCC in business



# Angela Marie Hudson

*Nominated by Delaware Technical Community College  
(DTCC) - Owens Campus ABE Program*

Angela Marie Hudson entered DTCC - Owens Campus during the fall of 2013. Her goals were to advance in all subject areas in preparation for the GED® test, to retain employment, and to achieve citizenship skills.

Angela has passed three sections of the GED® test, with just one remaining. She has retained employment with the same employer for seven years. She also has earned the Citizenship Skills Certificate.

Angela worked a full-time job while maintaining excellent class attendance. She organized her week and planned her days so she would always make it to classes and have time to study during the week. She made education a priority.

Angela's strongest trait is her enthusiasm. She encourages others and is always willing to give them pointers so that when they take the GED® test, they will be well prepared and know what to expect.

Angela plans to continue her education. She wants to study physical therapy and massage therapy after earning her secondary credential. She also has opportunities for advancement through her present employer.



*“I want to be able to say that I did it...Now, I’m going to further my knowledge in school with more confidence and a sense of pride...”*

# Aimee Iovanisci

*Nominated by Groves High School - Christina*



Upon entering Christina's Groves High School, Aimee Iovanisci's goals included retaining employment, registering to vote, and obtaining a library card and visiting the library. She has achieved all of her goals.

Aimee dropped out of the K-12 system when her parents divorced. Currently, she works 40 hours per week and attends classes four evenings per week. A high school diploma became a requirement in order for her to maintain her job of nine years.

*"You can't go anywhere without education. I want to go further in life."*

Aimee was able to balance her full-time work with her heavy school schedule through excellent time management and study skills. She has good study habits, fine motivation and goal setting skills. She is "people" oriented and friendly.

Aimee will be able to maintain her current position working in a pharmacy and will have an opportunity in job advancement after receiving her diploma in June 2015.

# Karen Jarman

*Nominated by Polytech ABE Program*

Karen Jarman enrolled at Polytech's ABE Program in September 2014. She set goals to gain employability skills, increase her involvement in community activities, and to obtain and use a library card. She has gained employability skills and obtained a library card.

She has been a school bus driver for 19 years. As a bus driver, her weekly paychecks are impacted by school cancellations, vacation, etc. She returned to school to earn a secondary credential that would enable her to get a full-time job with benefits and a paycheck that is dependable. Recently, Karen was hired at Perdue Farms, Inc., in Milford. She will now work a steady 40 hours per week with full benefits. In addition, her new work schedule will allow her to continue attending classes during the day to complete preparation for the GED® test.

She is extremely hard-working. She deals with challenges in a positive manner. Karen demonstrates a great deal of resilience and is a positive example for her fellow students.

Obtaining her secondary credential will open up many opportunities, including employment promotions. She is planning to continue into post-secondary education to become a Certified Pharmacy Technician.

She is proud to say, "Now I plan to use what I'm learning to help me be a better employee, to earn more money for my family, and to complete a training program for a new career."



*"I've never had the opportunity to complete my education, but I have always wanted it—just for myself."*



# Peter Kamami

*Nominated by New Start's EL Civics Program*



*“Education  
can allow you  
to go places  
you’ve never  
been. It will  
make my life  
easier.”*

Upon his enrollment in New Start’s EL Civics Program, Peter Kamami set his goal to retain employment, achieve citizenship skills, and increase his involvement in his children’s literacy activities.

Peter is working on the 100 questions to obtain the Citizenship Skills Certificate of Attainment (COA). He has retained his job and he is reading to his daughter.

Peter works in a home for disabled adults. He works the night shift. It is hard for him to attend the classes because he has been up all night. On the days before his class, Peter gets extra sleep before he goes to work.

Peter is finishing his Beginning Basic Education Certificate of Attainment (COA2) at Rosehill Center. Although he has a family and a job, his attendance is excellent. He is a polite, hardworking student who is working towards his goal of becoming a medical technician. He wants to enroll at Delaware Technical Community College (DTCC) to become an X-Ray technician.

# Joseph Long

*Nominated by Groves High School - Appoquinimink*

Joseph Long enrolled at Appoquinimink's Groves High School in August 2014. He set his goals to vote or register to vote and to obtain a library card and visit the library. He has obtained his library card.

Joseph was forced to relocate upon the death of his grandfather. While grieving for his grandfather, he was able to keep up his grades and he passed all of his classes for the fall semester.

He has excellent math skills. He received several awards, including, the Outstanding Student Award, the Student Achievement Award, and the Perfect Attendance Award.

Joseph intends to use his accomplishment and experiences to continue his education in college and to help him obtain better employment.



*“Education is the ticket that will take you wherever you want to go.”*

# Clarence McManus

*Nominated by Groves High School – Red Clay*



Clarence McManus enrolled at Red Clay's Groves High School in February 2014. His goals were to improve his academic skills and to obtain his high school diploma. He is scheduled to graduate with the Class of 2015.

Clarence is married with a family, so his time is valuable to him. He has put his life "on hold," and has taken time off from work in order to obtain his diploma.

He is a leader and a mentor to many of the program's students. He is a model student and always arrives early to school and has made great progress in a short amount of time.

Clarence will use his experience to mentor his peers and his children. He hopes to further his education beyond high school by going to college.

*"Oh man, it's  
<education>  
priceless. You  
can't get  
anywhere  
without it."*

# Cynthia Mitchell

*Nominated by Sussex Center ABE Program*

Cynthia Mitchell enrolled at Sussex Center's ABE Program in the winter of 2013. Her main goal is to complete the program and increase her attendance.

She has not missed any class sessions. Her job restrictions and schedule have been her greatest obstacles. She communicates regularly with her supervisor at work to remind him that she desires to attend her classes and to complete her program.

Cynthia is very friendly. She has provided community service in the program with their food drive. She has a positive attitude. She intends to use her experiences and accomplishments to work and communicate with a diverse population in a caring way.



*“There is no limit to my future once I obtain my diploma.”*

# Vern Morris

*Nominated by Literacy Volunteers Serving Adults (LVSA)  
ABE Program*



*“It means a lot  
to read and  
comprehend.  
Education is  
what makes you  
get through  
life!”*

Vern Morris enrolled with LVSA in the spring of 2014. He already had an excellent job caring for people, but wanted to improve his literacy skills so he could participate more in the community.

He has excelled at his job and recently won an award for the extraordinary care he provides to his patients. He has also increased his financial and digital literacy skills through his studies.

Upon starting classes, Vern’s biggest obstacle was a lack of confidence in his academic abilities. He studied diligently this year and has proven to himself that he is a capable reader.

He understands that we are all part of a larger community and must contribute to its success. He values education and is grateful for the opportunity to receive excellent instruction as an adult.

Vern will use his experience to advocate for the importance of adult education and to encourage other adult learners to come forward and strengthen their skills.



# Beatrice W. Ndiba

*Nominated by NCCVT ABE Program*

Beatrice W. Ndiba enrolled at NCCVT ABE Program in January 2014. Her stated goals were to retain employment, visit the library, make level gains, and to obtain her secondary credential by passing the GED® test.

Beatrice is still employed. She recruited students to participate in a weekly study group at the library. She has made level gains in both reading and math. She is currently preparing to take the GED® test.

The main challenge she faced was returning to school after many years out of class. She also had to take care of her family, which kept her very busy.

She overcame the challenges by believing in herself and working hard towards her goals. She adds, "...I volunteered to attend the OAASIS Leadership Conference in September that featured "Coach D." This experience motivated me to stay focused on my goal...."

She is a believer in the word of God and that helps her to always think positive. She says that it gives her the strength to go forward and not give up along the way. She uses her "gifts" to mentor her classmates.

She will use her experiences to encourage others to go back to school and pursue whatever they want, because, in her words, "It's never too late." She plans to be a motivational speaker.



*"There are many keys in the world. Among the keys, there is the one for education. It is upon you to take it and unlock your future."*

# Tabatha Marie Pablo

*Nominated by Groves High School – Sussex Center*



Tabatha Marie Pablo enrolled in Groves High School at Sussex Center in September 2013. Her goals were to transition from being an ABE student to becoming a Groves student and to get a job. She also wanted to read to her children and get involved in their education. Tabatha has met all of the goals that she set out to accomplish.

Tabatha struggled with her math skills. Through hard work and through identifying her learning style, she was able to achieve her math goal.

*“<the value of an education>  
To keep  
furthering my  
education to  
get a better  
job in order to  
help improve  
the quality of  
life for my  
family.”*

Her commitment and her positive attitude allowed her to conquer her challenges. She also has a desire to help and assist classmates, which further inspires her. She plans to use her experience and accomplishments in this program to add to her resume and employment portfolio to get a better job in the future.

# Santos Padilla

*Nominated by Latin American Community Center (LACC)  
EL Civics Program*

Santos Padilla enrolled at LACC's EL Civics Program in November 2012. He set goals of retaining employment, purchasing books, and achieving citizenship skills. He has retained his employment and has bought books.

At the time of entering the program, he had a great desire to study English but his work schedule did not permit him to attend classes. Santos decided to give up work hours that conflicted with class attendance even though it meant sacrificing the income that he needed.

Santos is driven to learn English and he takes every opportunity to improve. His hard work has produced obvious results. While he initially had difficulty communicating, he now is able to do so with ease.

He will use his experiences and accomplishments to get better jobs. Santos also plans to continue to help others.



*“The value of my education is the ability to communicate and have better opportunities for jobs and personal advancement.”*

# Consuelo Padilla-Garcia

*Nominated by West End Neighborhood House  
ABE Program*



*“...Without an education, one feels in the dark. As more education is gained, so is the feeling that one can succeed and shine brightly.”*

Consuelo Padilla-Garcia enrolled in the program in October of 2014. She set goals of making educational gains and entering post-secondary or advanced training, and obtaining employment.

After only four months, Consuelo achieved all of her goals. She obtained a part-time job and began working nights while attending school during the day. She completed her assignments for her teachers and tutors, while she took care of her children.

Consuelo made tremendous gains and she volunteered to get additional help in preparation for her GED® test.

Her largest challenge was strengthening her English skills. She was shy and lacked confidence. She needed to find a job to support her family. She also wanted to start a career in childcare.

Through much practice, her English improved tremendously. Not only has her reading ability and vocabulary improved, but she became more fluent in her English-speaking skills. Consuelo’s confidence has grown as she has heard others compliment her in her speaking. Her tutors remark about how they can tell that she practices a lot at home.

She is a great role model and is humble, appreciative, caring, dedicated and reliable. Her smile is ever-present in class. Her largest motivation is her children. She desires to be a better worker so she can provide for her family.

# Winsome Palmer

*Nominated by Polytech Family Literacy Program*

Winsome Palmer enrolled in the Family Literacy Program in October 2013. Her stated goal was to become a nurse after earning a secondary credential.

She had been out of school for 20 years when she enrolled at Polytech. She is a mother of four, including two teenagers. She is a very involved parent and was also interested in obtaining more education for herself.

Winsome works very hard to help herself and her family to obtain the best education possible. She brings her son and daughter to the family literacy program and is extremely interested in their educational success. She is proud of what they are learning in preschool and elementary school.

She is a role model to the other parents in the program. She is hard-working and determined to reach her goals. She always finds time to encourage her fellow students and support them in any way possible.

Once she earns a high school diploma, she plans to enroll in the Polytech Practical Nursing program and then continue her studies to become a Registered Nurse.



*“I plan to continue using my writing skills where my educational journey may take me.”*

# Chhaya Singh

*Nominated by Red Clay ESL Program*



Chhaya Singh enrolled in the ESL classes at Red Clay in September 2011. As a mother of two children, her main priority has been to stay involved in their education.

Watching her children succeed in school gives Chhaya great joy. Both are excellent students.

Chhaya studied extremely hard to pass her driver's license test. She located an application on her iPad to help her study and she encouraged other ESL students to do the same. Her fellow students celebrated with her when she came to class with her new Delaware driver's license.

*“When I couldn't talk to anyone because I didn't know how to speak English, I was very sad. Now I feel much better! I am happy! I want to come to school!”*

Speaking to others in English was her biggest obstacle. Because of her native language, Hindi, sentence word order was very difficult. Making the transition to forming sentences from left to right has been hard for Chhaya. However, she has been determined to overcome this challenge. She has learned to self-correct her mistakes, and her speaking has improved tremendously. She is not afraid to speak in class, which has built her confidence to speak English in the community.

Chhaya is an amazing woman. Determined to learn English and wanting her classmates to make the same commitment, she is a class leader. When other students begin to speak in their native languages, she announces, “English only!” She is tender-hearted and generous as well.

Once she completes her studies at Red Clay, she plans to volunteer at Christiana Hospital. After her children graduate from high school, she plans to go to college to study elementary education. Her lifetime goal is to become a kindergarten teacher.