

# Delaware's Outstanding Adult Education Learners



2016





April 2016

The honorees highlighted in this booklet are dream-makers! These learners know how to make dreams into reality. The former Secretary of State Colin Powell once said that “A dream doesn’t become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work!” The stories of each person in this book exemplify this belief.

These women and men 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. This belief in the value of an education is the first step in turning their dreams into realities.

These learners are from diverse backgrounds and their dreams are varied. Some want to become more proficient in English to get better jobs or help their kids succeed in school. Others want to attend post-secondary education or enter training academies to enter employment, attain promotions or shift to new careers. Still others are “skilling up” to start their own businesses; while others finally have the time to complete their own secondary education. All want to be able to create their own futures and not just dream. As importantly, they don’t dream for just themselves, but also for their families, their workplaces and their communities. As these learners raise themselves up, they raise the rest of us up also!

The learners who attend Adult Education Programs are folks who are willing to work hard, persevere, and push themselves to attain more. This year’s honorees live these qualities on a daily basis and inspire others to become dream-makers also.

To those who have shared their stories here, thank you. You show us that making dreams come true is possible. You remind us that the journey to success starts with each individual learner who has the heart and will to create their own future!

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 and Prison Education Resources*

*This document is published by the Adult & Community Education (ACE) Network, 516 W. Loockerman Street, Dover, DE 19904. Collection of student nominations and publication distribution are completed by the Organization of Adult Alumni & Students in Service (OAASIS), 516 W. Loockerman Street, Dover, DE 19904. A portion of the funding for this document comes through a federal grant from the Delaware Department of Education under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act.*

# Delaware's 2016 Outstanding Students

Innu Virgiani Agustya  
Walterio Bravo  
Sonia Calle  
Carl Cephas  
Melissa Cole  
Gloria De Leon'  
Grant Avery Dorman  
Tiffany Dudlek  
Gabriella Gabriel  
Junior Golding  
Ana Gomez  
Kyle Halferty  
Chelsey Hall  
Meta Hampton  
Cheryl & Latoya Hudnell  
Haley Masten  
Gladis Mendez Mendez  
Julianna Morales  
Carlos Munoz  
Yatziri Ortiz-Alvarez  
Marilu Patino  
Eileen Pizarro DeLeon  
Terry Timmon  
Chau Thien Nhu Tran  
Seberina Hellen Michelle Tucker  
Mary Wardwell  
Deborah Witmer  
Dobromir Yankov

## Hall of Fame

Chedine Brown  
Jacqueline Hammond  
Richard Oros



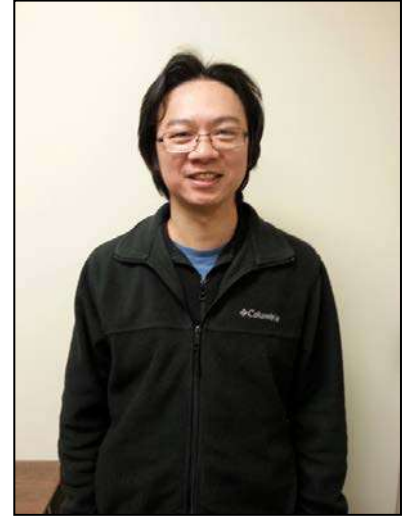
# Innu Virgiani Agustya

*Nominated by Christina EL Civics Program*

Mrs. Agustya enrolled in the EL Civics program at Glasgow in September 2015. She set goals of helping her daughter's education, using the library, and sharing knowledge with others. Innu has worked to attain her goals. She is helping her three-year old daughter to read. Frequently, she takes her daughter to the Newark Free Library. She is also sharing her education with other Indonesians.

The greatest obstacle she faced was not being able to drive. She must depend upon her husband for transportation. She and her husband worked out a schedule so that he can drive her to class.

Innu works very hard and stubbornly refuses to give up on her education. She plans to use her program experiences and accomplishments as a starting point to eventually earn a PhD in Psychology.



*“The next step  
in my  
education is to  
become a  
clinical or  
neuro  
psychologist.”*

# Walterio Bravo

*Nominated by Sussex Center EL Civics Program*



Mr. Bravo enrolled in the Sussex Tech Adult Education EL Civics program in September 2015. He established two personal goals upon entering the program, purchase books or magazines and retain employment.

Walterio was able to meet his goals because he purchased books and he retained employment.

His greatest obstacle was transportation. He was unsure if he could secure reliable transportation to and from his classes. Making an effort, he was able to find rides to his classes.

Being very dedicated, Walterio always participates in class and helps other students. He is very eager to learn. By using his program experiences and accomplishments, he will be able to communicate better in the United States.

*“[It is] a lot of responsibility to learn English because it is important and good.”*



# Sonia Calle

*Nominated by NEW START EL Civics Program*

Ms. Calle enrolled in the NEW START Adult Learning Program in September 2015. The goals she set were to purchase books or magazines, retain employment, obtain a writing COA, and obtain a library card. Sonia has attained the following goals so far: purchased books, retained employment, and obtained a library card.

She has exhibited many exemplary traits. She fits in well with her classmates and she treats school just like a job with professionalism, respect, and responsibility. Sonia models organization and her classmates have gained from her wisdom. She loves the opportunity to improve. She understands the direct correlation between learning English and her work in sales.

Sonia will use the new vocabulary, accurate grammar and clear pronunciation she's learning in her class to improve in her door-to-door sales job.



*“Education makes each day so interesting for me to learn more about my second language and improve myself.”*

# Carl Cephas

*Nominated by James H. Groves Adult High School – Red Clay*



*“Education is the key to many doors. I hope it takes me to the right place with the right people.”*

Mr. Cephas joined the program in January 2014 as an ABE student. His goal was to move from the ABE program to the James H. Groves Adult High School program. Carl has worked very hard and tested out of the ABE in English and is now enrolled in the credit courses to earn his high school diploma.

Being an older student who has been out of school for many decades, Carl found that getting up to speed with expectations, technology, and curriculum has been a challenge. To better his understanding of composition, he is currently working on a writing class. He has grown from sentences to pages.

Carl is an honest, hard-working man. He arrives to class every day with a smile and continues to make gains in all of his goals. He is extremely involved in his classmates' lives and cares about the well-being of everyone. Carl wants to attend college after being inspired by his daughters' success and education.

# Melissa Cole

*Nominated by James H. Groves Adult High School – Christina*

Ms. Cole entered the James H. Groves program at Glasgow in 2015. She set a goal of being more involved in her children's education and literacy. While she originally only set one goal, she added and completed additional goals. She became more involved in her children's education and literacy. Melissa also completed Composition A in English. She continues to sustain her employment.

Melissa faced many challenges when she entered the Groves program. She is unmarried and has three children, one with autism. Additionally, she must work weekends. Melissa has exhibited outstanding attendance and consistently displays superior work despite her numerous outside responsibilities.

She is characteristically very methodical and organized in doing her classwork. She devotes time and thought to carefully complete each writing assignment. In addition, she is a self-starter and can work independently.

Program experiences and accomplishments will help Melissa with exposure to new ideas and participation in a professional setting. Also, the encouragement from other students who have shared the obstacles they have faced and how they dealt with them has been beneficial.



*“I'd like to take classes at Delaware Tech. I want to teach [kindergarten].”*

# Gloria De Leon'

*Nominated by Sussex Center ABE Program*



Ms. De Leon' enrolled in the ESL program at Sussex Tech Adult Education in August 2015. Upon entering, she set the goals of purchasing books or magazines and increasing involvement in community activities. Thus far, Gloria has purchased various reading materials and she has increased her involvement in community activities. Therefore, she has met her original goals.

*“[The value of my education is] to help others motivate them to study, with studies you can find a better job. Education is the foundation, is the life of people.”*

Gloria's main challenge was her feeling of being ashamed about going back to school. She was afraid of not being able to learn anything and that she would have to drop classes because of that. When she attended class, Gloria saw the motivation in other students and she in return was motivated by others. For that reason, she continued learning English.

At the beginning, she was shy and didn't want to talk in front of other students. However, she is now one of the students that participates more. She, characteristically, does not want to leave the classroom until she understands her work. Gloria always tries to do her best when reading and talking.

Gloria will use her program experiences in her workplace and with her friends. In any emergency that she may have, she will be able to communicate and speak English.

# Grant Avery Dorman

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

Mr. Dorman enrolled in the ABE program at DTCC – Owens Campus in August 2014. He set goals for improving his math, reading, and writing skills, as well as retaining employment. Since setting his goals, Grant has earned COAs in both reading and writing. Also, he has retained his employment as a merchandise processor in the stockroom at Marshall's in Rehoboth.



His challenge was to ensure that he had transportation arranged to get him to and from school. He accomplished this by working with his transportation provider to ensure that he could get to school and back home.

Grant rarely misses a class. He is very considerate and helpful to his fellow students and his teachers. Last year, Grant was awarded the School Spirit Award for the never ending enthusiasm that he shows toward his education.

He wants to use his program experiences and accomplishments to keep learning and growing. Eventually, he wants to earn his GED®.

*“It  
<education>  
means the  
world to me. I  
would love to  
have my GED®  
in hand so I  
have something  
to take me  
further in life.”*

# Tiffany Dudlek

*Nominated by James H. Groves Adult High School -  
Appoquinimink*



*“Give your  
best even when  
you feel like  
giving up.”*

Ms. Dudlek enrolled in the Appoquinimink Adult Education, James H. Groves Adult High School program in August 2015. Obtaining her high school diploma in 2016 was the goal Tiffany set for herself when she joined the program.

Moving toward her goal, she has passed her first semester class.

Several challenges and obstacles had to be faced upon taking classes at night. First, Tiffany was a single parent. She was able to resolve this challenge by arranging multiple child care options. Secondly, Tiffany had been involved in a car accident which left her without transportation to class. Not to be deterred by this obstacle, she organized and obtained alternate transportation to and from school.

She is a mature, focused, and goal oriented student. She is also a problem solver as she has shown by solving those personal problems which could have discouraged her in her studies.

After graduating with her high school diploma, Tiffany plans to enroll in college and earn a degree.



# Gabriella Gabriel

*Nominated by Christina ABE Program*

Ms. Gabriel entered the New Castle Learning Center in April 2014. She set numerous goals upon entry. Her goals were to earn her GED®, gain employability skills, obtain a driver's license, and increase involvement in community activities.

Gabriella currently has earned her GED® and is working cleaning houses. She has obtained her driver's license and volunteers with ESL students.

English and a major move were challenges that Gabriella had to face. She had to adjust to a new country and a new language. Gabriella's first language was French. When she experienced a major earthquake at her home in Haiti, she moved to the United States to live with her father.

Meeting her challenges, Gabriella worked very long and hard to learn the vocabulary in English needed to pass her test. She earned her GED® with grit and determination.

Gabriella is a very unique student. She is very adaptable and never gives up while working on her classwork. She maintains a positive outlook on life and on her education. Furthering her education and starting her own business are Gabriella's plans for using her experiences and accomplishments in the program.



*“I would like to use my degree to become a certified translator and continue helping people adjust to their new life in the United States.”*

# Junior Golding

*Nominated by Polytech ABE Program*



Mr. Golding enrolled in the ABE program at Polytech in December 2015. His goals upon entry were to vote/register to vote and to obtain a writing COA. He is still working on his writing COA, but his most recent TABE post-test in math showed an increase of 155 points and a level gain!

The biggest obstacle that he has faced thus far is that English is not his first language. He works hard to improve in reading and math, but hard work doesn't scare him. He is making great progress!

*“I’ve always wanted to be a soldier, and I’m looking forward to serving in the United States Air Force. After completing my diploma, I plan to enlist in the USAF, and later attend college.”*

Junior is making steady progress toward achieving his goals and will be able to achieve the goals he made earlier. He will be able to achieve any new goals he sets for himself.

He is hard-working and well-mannered. He sets a great example for his classmates. His out-of-class assignments are always complete, accurate, and on time. Junior's classwork follows the same pattern.

He is working to complete his education and improve his skills. Using his program experiences and accomplishments for support, he plans to enlist in the United States Military.



# Ana Gomez

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

Ms. Gomez enrolled in the DTCC – Terry Campus program in August 2015. Her confidence in math was low and she was concerned about the algebra and geometry sections. Ana set goals of completing the GED® credential, as well as completing the Department of Labor Out of School Youth Program, Life Skills class, Customer Service: Beyond the Basics Training and Financial Literacy class. She also set the goals of earning a Citizenship Skills COA and increasing involvement in her children’s literacy activities.



Ana studied hard and put immense effort into learning algebra and geometry skills. She worked diligently outside of the classroom and utilized her seat in the GED Academy to reach her goals more quickly. Thus far, she has reached all of the goals she set for herself, and was also accepted into Congressman John Carney’s internship program.

Her greatest challenges were child care and transportation. She enrolled into the Out of School Youth Program at DTCC and received assistance with transportation; her mother also came to help care for her children while she attended both programs.

Ana’s warm and caring personality served her well. She was a model student, encouraging others, and displaying the value of being focused, setting goals and working hard to reach those goals. Ana is cheerful, positive and nurturing and hopes to use these special characteristics to help the Hispanic population in the future.

Ana completed the final GED® subtest in December and has been employed with the internship program for Congressman Carney since January. Additionally, Ana has enrolled in Delaware Technical Community College to earn a Paralegal Certification and Criminal Justice degree.

*“You cannot accomplish anything of value in life without a proper education. You need a good education to get a good job to better your lifestyle for you and your family.”*

# Kyle Halferty

*Nominated by Red Clay ABE Program*



*“My education will take me to pursuing a college degree.”*

Mr. Halferty enrolled in the ABE program at the Red Clay Center in August 2015. He set a goal to continue his education. Thus far, he has attained an NRS level gain and has completed three fourths of the GED® work.

His greatest challenge came with his full time job as a cook. He had to find a balance between attending school, completing homework and working long hours. Earlier, Kyle had dropped out of high school due to health issues. He overcame his health obstacle and is now focused on pursuing his education again.

An exceptional student, he has devoted himself to finishing his education. Kyle completes all of his assignments and then plans time to work and study for the GED® outside of class.

Kyle plans to use his goal setting skills and educational experiences to pursue a college degree. Though he is undecided about a college major, he knows that after he completes his education at the James H. Groves Red Clay Center, he will be able to research numerous career pathways.

# Chelsey Hall

*Nominated by James H. Groves Adult High School – Sussex Center*

Ms. Hall enrolled in the James H. Groves program at Sussex Tech Adult Education during the fall of 2015. She set an NRS goal of registering to vote and a state goal of obtaining a James H. Groves High School Diploma. Chelsey still plans to register to vote. After she completes her Financial Literacy course exam, she will have passed all of the requirements for graduation.



Chelsey faced a challenge when she applied for a co-op at Indian River High School and her application was denied. That denial, however, led her to pursue James H. Groves High School as a pathway toward her goal of earning a high school diploma. She overcame her obstacle by registering for classes at the James H. Groves High School. With enthusiasm, she completed two credits in less than three months of attendance, thereby, earning her high school diploma.

She is very determined and goal-oriented. Her first day of class, she said that she was going to finish her classes as soon as possible. In less than three months, this exemplary student finished up her last course to meet all requirements for graduation.

Chelsey has a renewed interest in attending college. She says that attending the Groves program has given her confidence that she can succeed in college because it taught her how to work better independently and to be a self-motivator.

*“[The value of my education is] money. You have to have an education to do something with your life.”*

# Meta Hampton

*Nominated by James H. Groves Adult High School - Polytech*



*“My education will take me to places where I can help others. I’ve gotten this far with help from others. I want to do the same for someone else.”*

Ms. Hampton enrolled in the James H. Groves Polytech program in 1997 and then again in 2012. In 2014, she met the goals of gaining soft skills and increasing involvement in community activities. In 2015, she had set goals to purchase books or magazines and to retain employment. Meta met those goals she set in 2015 by increasing her involvement in community activities, gaining soft skills and purchasing books and magazines.

She faced a number of challenges upon entry into the program, including having been out of formal education for nearly 40 years. She lacked computer skills and felt shy and awkward in the classroom. She has definitely overcome these obstacles. She now speaks out in class and feels comfortable engaging in classroom discussion. She has joined the Polytech Center Student Advisory Committee and is working hard to become involved in campus activities.

Meta’s teachers describe her as persistent, hard-working and a pleasure to have in class. She never misses a class and always shows up prepared to work! She intends to use her class experiences and accomplishments to make a difference in the life of someone else.

# Cheryl & Latoya Hudnell

*Nominated by James H. Groves Adult High School - New Castle  
County Vocational-Technical (NCCVT)*

*Latoya: “For me, the value of my education is survival. . . . Everything a person needs to grow and survive comes from having some kind of education to pull from.”*

*Cheryl: “I think my education, of all things, is the root of living. . . . My education should help me in my career of choice which in turn helps me live a fulfilled life.”*

Cheryl and Latoya Hudnell enrolled in the James H. Groves program in August of 2014. They both set their goals to obtain employment and purchase books and magazines. Obtain employment and obtain a high school diploma were the goals they set for the 2015 school year. To date, Cheryl and Latoya have met their goals of purchasing books and magazines and obtaining employment. They will also meet their goal of obtaining a high school diploma on June 8, 2016.

Knowing that they had to pass an entrance exam to get into the James H. Groves program, they decided to study as much as possible. They studied a little bit of everything and focused on their weakest areas. Cheryl and Latoya noted that studying helped a great deal because their scores were better than they had anticipated. They made the outstanding accomplishment of starting the NCCVT James H. Groves Adult High School diploma program with zero credits and completing the program in fifteen months with perfect attendance. They were always punctual, actively participated in every class, and worked in the computer lab between classes. Throughout their time in the program, they were ideal role models to the other students. Cheryl and Latoya will graduate with outstanding grade point average, Cheryl earned a 3.7 GPA and Latoya earned a 3.9 GPA.

They will use the program experiences and accomplishments in the career areas of their choice by remembering the obstacles they overcame at Groves. They now know they can overcome any challenges and obstacles and accomplish anything they desire.



# Haley Masten

*Nominated by James H. Groves Adult High School – Delaware  
Center for Distance Adult Learning, Inc. (DCDAL)*



*“The value of my education is personal excellence. No matter how smart or confident you may feel, education is important and can provide you with that confidence.”*

Ms. Masten enrolled in DCDAL in the James H. Groves Adult High School program in January 2015. She initially set the goals to increase involvement in community activities and obtain employment. Haley has attained both of her goals as well as obtaining her Writing COA.

She has faced many personal challenges and obstacles leading into and while taking classes. Her biggest challenge and obstacle was her fear of math. Although math has always been a struggle for her, Haley said that her James H. Groves courses have helped her conquer these fears. Additionally, by conquering her fears, she feels more comfortable asking for help with her coursework.

Haley is very dedicated to her school work and has excelled in her courses. In just a year, she has post-tested into the James H. Groves program and has completed a great deal of her required courses. She is on track to graduate this September.

In the future, Haley aspires to be a telecommunications specialist for the State Police. Haley has said that in completing her education she will feel more confident and accomplished heading into her future career.



# Gladis Mendez Mendez

*Nominated by Sussex Center Family Literacy Program*

Ms. Mendez Mendez enrolled in the Sussex Tech Family Literacy Program in 2015. She set her goals to increase involvement in children's education and increase involvement in children's literacy activities. She has currently met both goals.

Gladis was challenged when she had to struggle to find transportation so that she would be able to attend classes. She had to make phone calls, wait for rides, and arrange other methods of transportation, which can be very stressful. Finally, Gladis was able to find her own transportation on a consistent basis.

She is a responsible student. She attends classes regularly despite her transportation obstacle when she first started at Sussex Tech. She is always willing to help other students.

Using her Family Literacy Program experiences, Gladis will be able to communicate with English speakers. She will be able to make appointments for her children at offices such as the doctor or dentist. Gladis will also be able to assist her children with school work, homework and any other areas where they may need assistance.



*“It is very important when you learn, so you can find a good job opportunity and to be able to help other people that are less educated.”*

# Julianna Morales

*Nominated by Polytech EL Civics Program*



*“I would like to attend University.”*

Julianna enrolled in the ESL Program at Polytech in August 2015. Her goal was to increase her reading skills. She is currently reading English chapter books.

Julianna’s main obstacle is that she does not have her own vehicle. She and her daughter use the bus as a means of transportation. Even though Julianna must use the bus, she faithfully comes to class even in the rain!

Julianna, a dedicated student, wants to speak English as clearly as possible. She also wants to comprehend what she reads. Julianna works hard to achieve her goals. She plans to use her knowledge to help her children with their homework.



# Carlos Munoz

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

Mr. Munoz enrolled in the LACC program in October 2014. He set goals of retaining his employment, getting more involved in his children's education, and acquiring citizenship skills. Carlos has attained the goals he had set forth earlier: he maintained employment, increased involvement in his children's education, and received a Citizenship Skills certificate.



He faced the challenge of taking English classes while at the same time working to support his family. To add to his obstacles, there were complications with his wife's pregnancy and he did not know the English he needed to communicate at the hospital. Carlos was able to get co-workers to teach him how to say the things he needed to communicate at the hospital. He began to practice English with his co-workers. In addressing his challenges, Carlos has participated more in class and has made good progress.

Carlos is a hard worker with the desire to advance in his job and in his life. He is neither timid nor inhibited. He forges ahead and does what he has to do to learn the language. He has also grasped the skill of how to study. He will use his experiences and accomplishments to advance in his job. His increased knowledge of English has served him well at work and in the English speaking world. He communicates with his supervisor and his work skills have improved greatly in proportion to his improvement with the English language. Carlos plans to continue improving and advancing in his job.

*"I want to  
advance in my  
present job and  
then get a better  
job where I can  
use my  
education."*

# Yatziri Ortiz-Alvarez

*Nominated by West End Neighborhood House ABE Program*



*“My education proves that I am moving forward in life and becoming a better person.”*

Ms. Ortiz-Alvarez began taking classes at West End Neighborhood House in October of 2014. She set three goals upon entrance of the program: to make Educational Functioning Level (EFL) gains, enter post-secondary or advanced training and obtain a Writing COA.

Within the first month of her studies, Yatziri made a giant leap by progressing four grade levels in just one test. After just four months, she also tested at the High Adult Secondary level. She recently complete a Writing COA as well.

Yatziri has obtained her Customer Service certification from the National Retail Foundation. She also decided to apply for United States citizenship. She worked with a tutor while she studied for her exam, and in January 2016, she passed her citizenship test and became an official citizen of the U.S.

Her biggest challenge was to strengthen her English speaking skills. She had been out of school for 13 years and was hesitant to read aloud for fear of misspeaking. Yatziri also has three children, one of which has an incurable genetic disorder. She has been juggling the responsibilities of her role as a mother and as a student.

Her English speaking skills have improved tremendously. Her speech is much more fluent and her vocabulary has increased. Her family is proud of her accomplishments, especially her status as a U.S. citizen.

Yatziri has used her soft skills and certification to obtain employment and build her resume. Her newfound skills have also allowed her to help her children with their schoolwork. She continues to work towards her GED®.

# Marilu Patino

*Nominated by Red Clay EL Civics Program*

Ms. Patino enrolled in August 2015 in the EL Civics program at the Red Clay Center. She set two goals and followed through with them during the school year. First, she retained employment. Second, she increased involvement in her children's education by taking sign language classes to help her son.

Marilu was faced with the challenge of being very timid. She was unwilling to ask questions when she didn't understand the classwork. Over time and little by little, she became more confident with her speaking abilities. She also began to ask questions every time she needed help.

She is a very hardworking and responsible person. No matter how busy her day was, she always found time to come to class and to do her homework.

Owning a hair salon in Wilmington, Marilu will use her program experiences and accomplishments to improve her English. As a result, she will be able to attract more English-speaking customers to her salon.



*“I am grateful for the education I am getting. It will help me to better communicate with my children and to take advantage of new opportunities in the labor force.”*

# Eileen Pizarro DeLeon

*Nominated by Polytech Family Literacy Program*



*“I want to open a hair salon. I have a license from Puerto Rico, and I hope to use it here in Delaware.”*

Ms. Pizarro DeLeon enrolled in Polytech’s ESL/Family Literacy program in September 2015. Her goals were to obtain a library card, increase involvement in children’s literacy skills, and to obtain employment.

Eileen has met all of her goals that she set upon entering the program. Her children are doing well and she has a job. Eileen also earned an ESL3 Certificate of Attainment.

She faced two major obstacles upon entering the program. She and her family needed to obtain a stable living environment. She also needed to find employment. Despite these challenges, Eileen has stayed very positive throughout the struggles she has faced this year. Her attendance and determination have helped her to get through difficult times.

Eileen’s teachers describe her as a consistent, hard-working, honest and loyal person. She is an excellent mother and works hard to provide the best education for her children. Learning English and helping her children will help her family reach their goals. She will have to take additional cosmetology classes to use her cosmetology license. Her positive attitude and dedication will help her achieve all of her goals.

# Terry Timmon

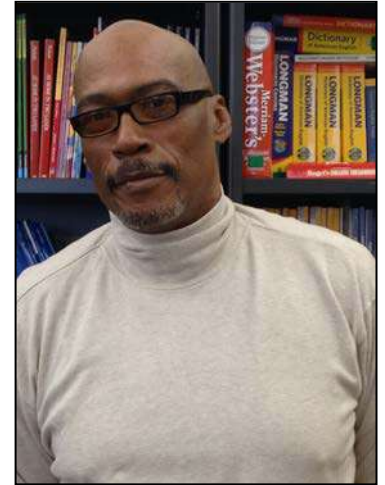
*Nominated by Literacy Volunteers Serving Adults (LVSA)  
ABE Program*

Mr. Timmon enrolled in LVSA in the fall of 2014. His goals were to improve his reading, get a job, and obtain a library card. Since enrolling, Terry has achieved his important goals. He has increased his reading skills by a level, has become employed, and has checked out books from the library.

Before beginning class, he struggled with daily literacy tasks. He had difficulty completing job applications, reading labels in the grocery store, and understanding written directions. Terry overcame many of his challenges. He attends class six hours a week, two hours more than most LVSA learners. Because of this dedication and native intelligence, he has made remarkable progress in his reading skills. Now, he employs tools and strategies from class to read text messages, follow written directions, and complete basic applications.

Terry is an exemplary student. He is an asset to LVSA! He is smart, serious, and determined. Shortly after beginning his studies, Terry started to experience steady success. He was chosen to represent LVSA at Wilmington recruitment fairs this summer. He continues to maintain his commitment to his program improvement.

As he accelerates on his path, he plans to obtain his driver's license and update his cooking skills by attending culinary school.



*“I can be an independent man. I can respect myself and hold my head up high without being ashamed.”*

# Chau Thien Nhu Tran

*Nominated by NEW START ABE Program*



Ms. Tran entered the New Start Literacy ABE program on September 9, 2015. Purchase books, retain employment, and obtain a library card were the goals she had set for the year. So far, Chau has accomplished her current goals by purchasing books, retaining employment and obtaining a library card.

Chau works 3<sup>rd</sup> shift and comes to class right after work. Even with this obstacle, she has only missed 3 classes and she completes her homework assignments.

She demonstrates citizenship skills in the classroom. She always volunteers to read or role play. Helping other students when she can is an exemplary characteristic.

Chau plans to put her program experiences and accomplishments to good use by being able to understand her boss and co-workers at a higher level.

*“Learning English will help me get a better job and speak with everybody. In the future, I plan to become a pharmacist.”*



# Seberina Hellen Michelle Tucker

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

Ms. Tucker enrolled in the GED® program at DTCC – George Campus in November 2015. She set several starting goals: to become more involved in her children’s education, participate in literacy programs, retain employment, visit the library, purchase books, improve soft skills and gain employability skills. By February 2016, she had met all of the goals she had established upon enrollment.

Seberina faced several challenges upon entry into the program. She is the mother of two who is working part-time. At the same time, Seberina is attending GED® classes. Despite the challenges of maintaining her job and raising her two children, Seberina completed the GED® class with perfect attendance and she also passed the Mathematics and Reasoning through Language Arts GED® tests.

She is an exemplary student who is extremely motivated. She attended class for three weeks with her sister before actually starting her class. Her “out of the box” problem-solving skills are unique.

Using her GED® program experiences and accomplishments, Seberina wants to become a nurse by attending the Nursing Program at DTCC. She plans to earn a B.S. in Nursing.



*“The look on my children’s face when I told them that I passed my math testing on the GED® - that is the true value of my education – that expression on their face.”*

# Mary E. Wardwell

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



Ms. Wardwell originally enrolled in DCDAL in 2009. She left and returned in 2012, only to leave again in a few months. Mary ultimately returned in March 2014 to the ABE program and today, continues seeking the GED® credential. Her goals were to achieve a Writing COA5, earn her GED® and gain employment.

Mary's COA5 application was submitted in January 2016. She passed the Citizenship Skills exam in January 2015. She has passed the Science section of the GED® exam. In addition to the GED® Preparation Program, Mary has begun DCDAL's Career Counseling Program to help make her more competitive in the workforce.

*“I believe learning and education are very important – I promised my Dad I would get my GED®, go to college, and make a better life for me and my daughter.”*

Her challenges began early in her life. As a child, Mary suffered seizures and was given speech classes in school. She had difficulty in analyzing information and explaining herself. So frustrated by being unable to succeed in school, she left in 2005. Mary worked at several entry level, low paying jobs over the next few years and became a single mom in 2009. She decided to focus on getting her GED® in order to pursue a nursing career. Her father's death during this time further motivated her. It was his dream to see her return to school.

Today, Mary has overcome several of her challenges. She plans to enter postsecondary education after she obtains her GED®. She is interested in entering Delaware Tech's C.N.A. training program in order to achieve that credential and begin her nursing career, ultimately to become an LPN or RN. Mary is looking forward to joining the workforce.



# Deborah E. Witmer

*Nominated by New Castle County Vocational-Technical  
(NCCVT) ABE Program*

Ms. Witmer first enrolled in the NCCVT ABE/GED® Program in August 2012. Her initial NRS goal was to obtain the GED® credential. She attended regularly and achieved a level gain in both reading and math. Deborah left in December 2013 due to complications with her pregnancy, but returned in March 2015.

Family health issues have impacted her educational path. First, it was her mother's health that made attending school difficult. Then, her father passed away ten days before her start at NCCVT. These circumstances made regular attendance and the daily trip from Middletown much more challenging. Another obstacle for Deborah was her own health complications. The exciting news of a first pregnancy soon became an obstacle to her attending school. Her physician thought she was under too much stress and insisted that she put school on hold in order to protect herself and the baby.

Deborah returned very determined to pick up where she left off. She quickly earned 60 instructional hours and reached a level gain in math.

Deborah models persistence and grit daily. She attends class four days a week and is often the first student to arrive. In addition, she is kind, helpful and encourages other classmates to keep trying.

Deborah plans to go to college and study information technology. She believes that she will do well because she has the discipline to study and complete whatever she sets as a goal.



*“The value of my education is something I treasure and will continue to help me succeed in life.”*

# Dobromir Yankov

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



Mr. Yankov joined LVSA's English classes in 2013. He spoke little English at that time. In addition to improving his English, his goals were to continue working, to read to his young daughter, and to participate in community activities in Wilmington and Newark. Dobromir has focused on his goals and kept his employment, supported his daughter in her transition to kindergarten, and participated in a variety of LVSA and community events. Furthermore, he has improved his spoken English by seven levels!

*“By communicating better with many different people, everything will be easier for me and my family.”*

His very busy work schedule has been a challenge of his since enrolling. Sometimes, because of his work, he must arrive late to class. Dobromir, however, met this challenge and has attended every single class both this year and last year.

Dobromir is an exemplary student. Not only is he a hard worker, he is smart, funny, and flexible. He works well with his classmates and is always happy to help the program in any way that he can.

He will continue to use program experiences and accomplishments to further his English skills. In the future, he will use these skills to pursue higher education and another profession.



## Chedine Brown

*Nominated by James H. Groves Adult High School – Christina*

Chedine Brown came to a community program in Wilmington at Delaware Adolescent Program Inc. (DAPI) in 2003 and enrolled in the GED® program there. Her instructor immediately saw her drive to succeed and her commitment to both education and to become a US citizen. Her goal was to become a nurse and eventually earn her RN, Registered Nurse. She stayed at DAPI studying during the day and getting academic help while dual enrolling at the James H. Groves Adult High School program at Christina in the fall of 2004. Chedine graduated with a high school diploma in spring 2005.

Earning her high school diplomas was the springboard leading to a Career Pathway in the medical field that offered sustained living wage opportunities. Chedine immediately enrolled in a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program and then earned her LPN, Licensed Practical Nurse. Chedine is currently employed as a nurse at Smyrna State Hospital for the Chronical Ill and also at the Mary Campbell Center in Wilmington. There, she works hard to help others who are less fortunate than she. She is also currently enrolled in the RN program at Del Tech, Terry Campus.

Chedine can now boast that she is a financially, emotionally and educationally successful woman. She owns her home in Smyrna. She makes all her own decisions. She has her beautiful daughter by her side as they both navigate the challenges of being successful, independent women. She became a US citizen in 2007 and now has a career that earns a living wage and affords her life's best choices. As Chedine says so exuberantly in her own words, "I am so very blessed as NOW I am living the American Dream!"





## Jacqueline Hammond

*Nominated by Delaware Technical Community College Owens  
ABE Program*



Jackie earned her GED® at DTCC, Owens Campus after leaving high school to help support her family. While working and helping to raise her younger siblings, which expanded to include foster children over the years, Jackie then graduated from DTCC in 1985 with an Associate's Degree in General Business Studies. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education in 1993 and then her Master's Degree in Education Counseling in 2001. In 2005, Jackie enrolled in a doctoral program, but was sidelined by a diagnosis of breast cancer. Although unable to work during cancer treatments, Jackie beat the cancer and continued with her career goals of teaching elementary and middle school students at several school districts in Delaware.



Later, Jackie's career led her to being a mental health clinician serving incarcerated adults in a prison setting. Jackie's career path didn't stop there. In 2010, her passion for teaching the neediest of all, incarcerated adults with few reading and math skills, led her to teaching the basic skills they need in order to become productive citizens when they are released. Jackie Hammond has continued to reach, teach and impact Delaware's adult students every day. In Mrs. Hammond's ABE/GED® Class, students earn level completions, Writing COAs, Citizenship COAs, and even GED® credentials. She is always willing to attend additional professional development offerings to expand her teacher toolbox.

Jackie is an inspiration for any adult education student who is trying to make their path from leaving day school to a successful career, not just a job!





## Richard Oros

*Nominated by New Castle County Vocational Technical  
(NCCVT) ABE Program*

Richard's family moved often while he was in high school, and he ultimately left high school. When he turned seventeen in 2009, he took the GED® Official Practice Test, then the official test. He passed all the subtests except Social Studies. After attending classes, he took and passed the Social Studies test.

When he left school and was preparing for his GED®, he also worked at Wawa. After earning his GED®, he was promoted to a Manager in Training, completed the program, and took an additional seventeen training courses. After leaving Wawa, Richard worked for the DE DMV where he earned an award for creating applications that tracked inventory, employee attendance and employee accrued time. He currently works at Bed, Bath & Beyond.

Richard has been a student at DTCC, Wilmington University, and Delaware Community College. He is currently enrolled at DTCC as an Electrical and Computer Engineering student. After completing courses at DTCC, Richard will transfer to the University of Delaware to complete his bachelor's degree.

Richard is also a leader in our community as a member of the Delaware Army National Guard since 2013. He is currently ranked a Specialist and is a Diesel Vehicle Mechanic. Richard has taken advantage of learning opportunities offered through the National Guard. He was awarded the Army Achievement medal after an annual inspection and was the only lower enlisted soldier present at the time of the inspection.

Overall, Richard's integrity, loyalty, leadership, community service, academic excellence, and persistence is commendable. He is simply true to himself and doesn't really know any other way to approach life.

