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IAACE September Newsletter- Celebrating AEFL Week

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In This Edition of the IAACE Newsletter:

President's Message: Celebrate! AEFL Week

Governor Braun Proclamation

Mayor Proclamations

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ProLiteracy Membership is a gift to all our Members

Essay Contest 2026

Adult Education Day 2026 Theme

Conference Program Release

IAACE Members September Birthdays



Team-

We are Celebrating Adult Education and Family Literacy (AEFL) Week!

What an incredible week it has been! Each September, AEFL Week shines a spotlight on the life-changing opportunities that adult education brings to individuals, families, and communities. This week, we've been raising awareness, celebrating success stories, and reminding everyone of the essential role adult education plays in building a stronger workforce and a brighter future.

Why AEFL Week Matters

Across the country, millions of adults are improving their skills in reading, writing, math, and English language learning. Others are pursuing a High School Equivalency (HSE) or earning industry-recognized certifications that open doors to better careers. Adult education doesn't just transform the lives of students—it strengthens families and communities, too.

Celebrating in Indiana

Indiana mayors across the state have joined the celebration by issuing official proclamations. We are excited to share these in this newsletter. These proclamations highlight the importance of adult education and demonstrate that investing in our learners means investing in a stronger workforce, a more engaged citizenry, and a brighter future for all. We are grateful for our leaders standing beside our programs this week.

Governor Braun has also issued a proclamation!

How You Can Keep the Celebration Going

✨ Share your story – If adult education has impacted your life, let others know!

✨ Spread the word – Talk to friends, family, and neighbors about our programs.

✨ Tag IAACE – Be sure to tag IAACE in your posts so we can amplify your celebrations.

AEFL Week is more than just a celebration—it's a call to action. Together, with the support of our leaders, educators, and community members, we are creating pathways to success and opportunity for all.

Let's carry this momentum forward. I can't wait to keep the celebration going with you at the **IAACE Conference next week!**

Caroline Foster

IAACE President 2025-2026

Governor Braun Proclamation

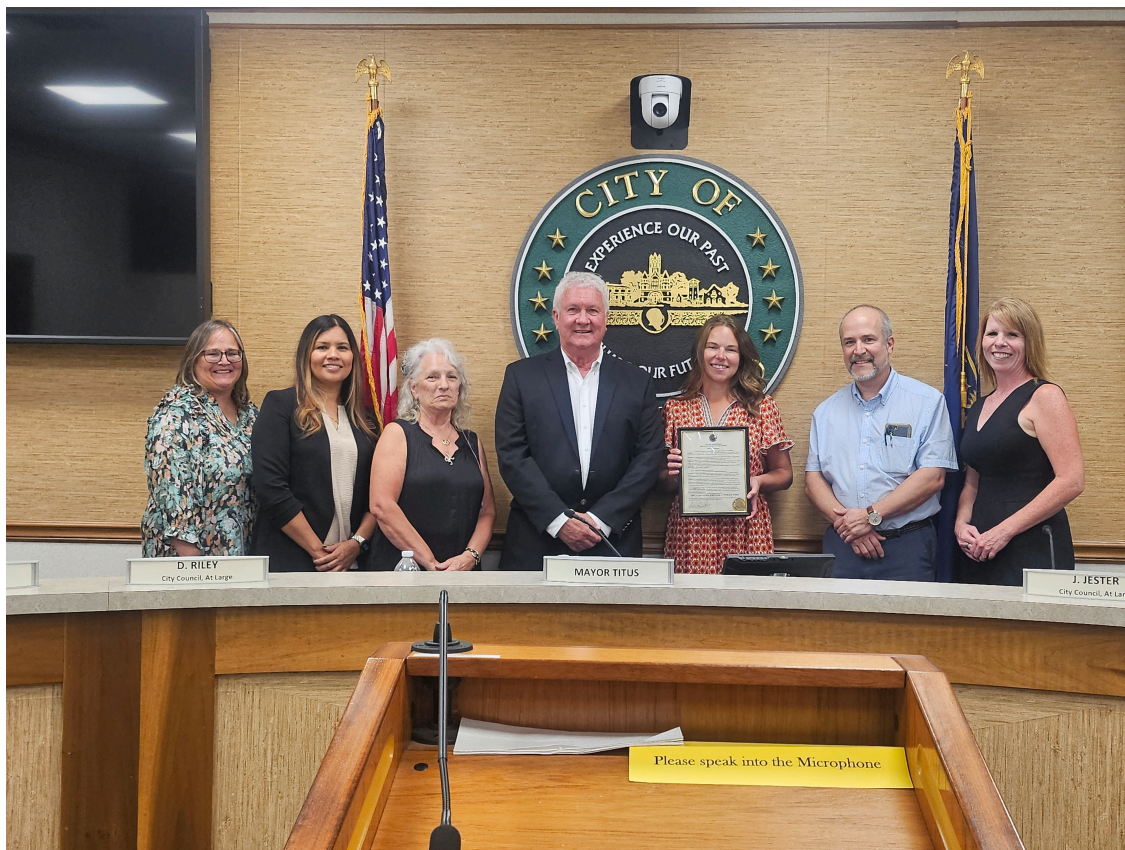
We are excited to share that Governor Braun has officially issued a proclamation recognizing Adult Education & Family Literacy (AEFL) Week in Indiana. This recognition highlights the importance of lifelong learning and the vital role adult education plays in strengthening our communities.

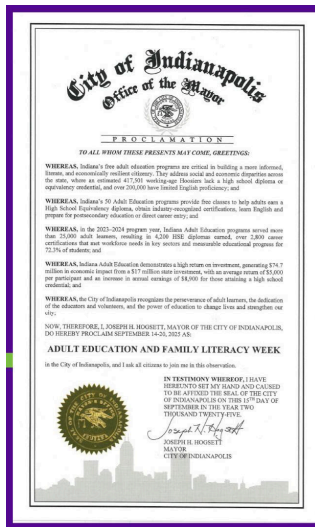
Denise Esslinger, COABE Fellow, and Lara Pastore, Division Director with the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, proudly picked up the proclamation on behalf of the field.

Join us in celebrating AEFL Week and helping spread awareness of the life-changing impact of adult education. Share the post and tag us!



Mayor Proclamations across the state



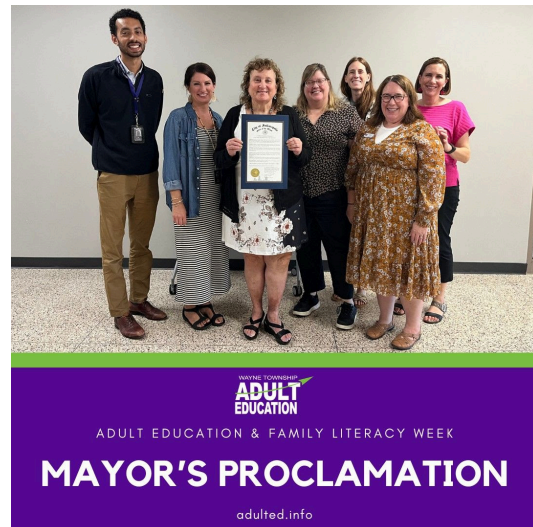


MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION

"The City of Indianapolis recognizes the perseverance of adult learners, the dedication of the educators and volunteers, and the power of education to change lives and strengthen our city"

ADULT EDUCATION
& FAMILY LITERACY
WEEK

adulted.info



ADULT
EDUCATION

ADULT EDUCATION & FAMILY LITERACY WEEK

MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION

adulted.info



ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY WEEK 2025



[View AEFL Week Photo Album](#)

Mayor Proclamations Across the State

Indianapolis, Mayor Joe Hogsett

Evansville, Mayor Stephanie Terry

Greenfield, Mayor Guy Titus

LaPorte, Mayor Tom Dermody

New Albany, Mayor Jeff Gahan

Warsaw, Mayor Jeff Grose

Kendalville, Mayor Lance Waters

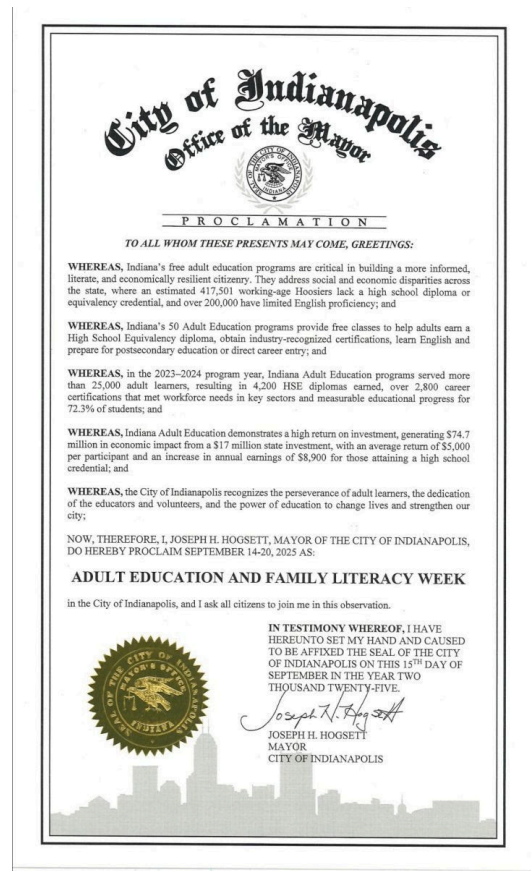
Jeffersonville, Mayor Mike Moore

Lawrenceburg, Mayor Kelly Mollaun

Fort Wayne, Mayor Sharon Tucker

IAACE, congratulations to all who made these happen, and special thanks to all the Mayors who took the time to recognize #AEFLWeek2025!





Update from Washington, D.C. — COABE Flood the Hill

By Marilyn Pitzulo

Earlier this week, I participated in COABE's *Flood the Hill* event in Washington, D.C. On Monday and Tuesday, I joined colleagues in meetings to educate about adult education and share the impact of our work in Indiana.

In addition to a photo opportunity with Senator Todd Young and a meeting with his staff, we met with staff from Senator Banks' and Representative Messmer's offices. We also connected with the offices of Representatives Shreve and Spartz to deliver materials and raise awareness.

I look forward to sharing more details about these conversations at the IAACE Conference next week.



Marilyn was a panelist on Tuesday at COABEs **Adult Education Legislative Briefing** at the Russell Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C. The event kicked off the morning and fueled us for our meetings all afternoon!



iaace Essay Contest

[//iaace.com/advocacy/essay-contest/](https://iaace.com/advocacy/essay-contest/)



**How Has
Adult Education
Opened Doors
in Your Life?**

**YOU
HAVE A
STORY
TO TELL.**



career



post secondary
education



HSE Diploma



other

3-5 PARAGRAPHS 750 WORD MAX. TYPED

**Celebrate AEFL Week with the IAACE
Essay Contest**

AEFL Week is all about celebrating the power of adult education — and what better way to shine a light on your journey than by telling your story? We're thrilled to announce that the **IAACE Essay Contest is officially open!**

This year's theme is:

👉 *"How has Adult Education Opened Doors in Your Life?"*

Every adult learner in an Indiana adult education program is invited to share their story in 3–5 paragraphs (up to 750 words). Your essay could be the one that inspires others, shows the impact of adult education, and gets celebrated statewide.

📅 **Deadline:** December 15, 2026

📍 **Winners Officially Announced:** Adult Education Day, January 28, 2026, at the Indiana Statehouse

🔗 Details & how to enter: [IAACE Essay Contest](#)

And teachers — we've got you covered, too! Join us for **Teachers' Talk at Noon ET** (iaace.com/teachers-talk) where we'll swap tips, brainstorm ways to guide students, and share fun strategies to get those essays flowing.

✨ AEFL Week is the perfect time to put student voices front and center. Let's celebrate learning, growth, and all the doors adult education has opened. We can't wait to read your stories!

The Teachers Talk talked about the Essay Contest.



WHY PARTICIPATE?

1. Elevates student voices
 - a. Opportunity for Advocacy
2. Writing Practice for GED/HISET
3. Pathway to participate in Adult Ed Day at the Statehouse
4. Winners receive prize money!
5. Stories can be posted on your program's social media or used as a student success story for IAACE, your Program and DWD!

Visit the Teachers Talk page for the recording.

Teachers Talk Page



Gift of ProLiteracy

We're excited to announce this special gift of ProLiteracy Membership to all IAACE program members. One contact person will receive the membership package directly from ProLiteracy. To find out who we selected to receive the certificate, [click here](#).

IAACE Partnership Announcement – AEFL Week 2025

In celebration of **Adult Education and Family Literacy Week**, IAACE is proud to announce a new member benefit. We are pleased to announce our new Partnership with ProLiteracy and New Readers Press. This new benefit aligns with our mission to ensure every adult has the tools to thrive—whether preparing for high school equivalency, entering the workforce, or building foundational tech skills. The latest member benefit will provide IAACE members with exclusive benefits.

Such as:

- Access to Professional learning
- Research
- Advocacy tools
- Instructional tools
- Webinars
- Discounts on New Readers Press materials
- Grants and funding opportunities, and much more!

This collaboration reflects IAACE's ongoing commitment to equipping educators and learners with the tools they need to thrive in today's workforce.

Together, we're advancing the mission of adult education: to ensure every adult has the opportunity to build essential skills, earn credentials, and pursue lifelong learning.

IAACE is proud to stand with ProLiteracy and New Readers Press in championing literacy, equity, and opportunity for all.

You can explore the benefits here: [ProLiteracy Membership Benefits](#).

New Readers Press Contact:

Elaine Pardieck

Sales Consultant

elaine@elainepardieck.com

Cell: 812.498.2277

Fax: 312.561.4734

Welcome ProLiteracy Members!

We're excited to support your journey and celebrate the impact you make every day.



As a ProLiteracy member, you receive exclusive access to:

**Discounted
Instructional Materials
from New Readers Press**

**SAVE UP TO
25%**

Members-Only Resources

Get insider access to exclusive tools and updates, such as:



**Browse a wide
selection of high-quality
resources, including:**



**Exclusive professional
learning opportunities**

Advance your skills through webinars and workshops designed just for members.



For more information or a price quote on instructional materials:
ELAINE PARDIECK | 812.498.2277 | Elaine@elainepardieck.com

**LEARN
MORE**





COABE **Day 5** of AEFL Week Challenge: **Send an email to Congress**

📌 **AEFL Week Challenge:** Take action in one of our email campaigns!

Choose the appropriate campaign here: <https://lnkd.in/eJkZjBv9>

Take it a step further by sharing with colleagues or learners in a class and asking them to do the same.



IAACE Conference Program





COABE

The Voice Of Adult Education



Be a Part of the ADULT EDUCATION MOVEMENT!



Click the graphic above to Sign the Pledge!



Happy Birthday to September Birthdays!

If your birthday is missing, [sign in to your profile](#) and add your birthday month and date. Your membership may also have expired.

Laura Elsbrock	1
Kathleen Dimmett	2
Jenalee Veenkant	4
Amy Stewart	4
Luz M Espinoza-Castillo	6
Lisa Deck	8
Cynthia Hurt	10
Darci Hawxhurst	11
Teresa Valtierra	13

Ann Lewis	13
Anne Barth	13
Dianne Malfese	14
Cathy Bullington	14
Marcia Bridges	15
Naoma Therese Harness	20
Katherine Elliott	21
Marilyn Pitzulo	22
Rebecca Hayes	23
Jamie Holsapple	24
Rachel L. Hilligoss	24
Diane Gaskin	26
Kenneth Knuppel	26
Nicole Cervone-Gish	26

Share and Learn: Member Resources

AE Acronyms Dictionary



The Power of the Pause!

This is your monthly reminder to ask, "Are you pausing?" In this busy time, we must take a moment to pause and breathe! Look around, observe, and enjoy life! Jenn visited Indianapolis with the COABE crew and paused to snap a picture of this Indiana sign at the Indiana State Museum.

Calendar Link

Finding what you need on the IAACE Website is easy, check out the <https://iaace.com/help/> page for searching tips and help on the virtual.iaace.com platform.

The platform, virtual.iaace.com is available for all IAACE members and is a viable option for your professional development needs. Find details on Professional Development Options at <https://iaace.com/professional-development/>



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