



## IAACE Announces 2026 Essay Contest Winners to Be Honored at Adult Education Day

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN** — The Indiana Adult and Continuing Education (IAACE) Association is proud to announce the winners of the 2026 IAACE Essay Contest, recognizing adult learners whose stories highlight the transformative power of education, opportunity, and perseverance. The selected essays will be **celebrated during IAACE Adult Education Day at the Indiana Statehouse on Wednesday, January 28, 2026**. The event showcases the impact of adult education across the state, and **members of the public are invited to attend and celebrate alongside students, educators, and advocates**.

“This contest elevates the lived experiences of adult learners across Indiana,” said Jennifer Wigginton, Executive Director of IAACE. “These essays reflect resilience, growth, and the life-changing impact of adult education. We are honored to share their stories with state leaders and the broader community.”

### 2026 IAACE Essay Contest Winners

- **Exceptional Award – \$300**  
*Moses Hassan*
- **Impactful Award – \$200**  
*Ibrahim Shittu*
- **Innovative Award – \$100**  
*Christine Strunk*
- **Collaborative Award – \$25**  
*Berverlie Metellus*
- **Transformative Award – \$25**  
*Adhanet Abrham*
- **Empowering Award – \$25**  
*Josh Ehrhart*

The public is invited to attend and join in recognizing these outstanding student voices.

### Adult Education Day at the Indiana Statehouse



Wednesday, January 28, 2026



Indiana Statehouse, North Atrium (2nd Floor)



Program Begins: 11:00 a.m. ET.

#### About IAACE

The Indiana Adult and Continuing Education Association (IAACE) is dedicated to advancing adult education through advocacy, professional development, and community collaboration. IAACE works to ensure adult learners across Indiana have access to education that strengthens families, communities, and the workforce.

For more information about Adult Education Day or the IAACE Essay Contest, visit [//iaace.com/adult-education-day-2026/](https://iaace.com/adult-education-day-2026/).