



# LiteracyLinks

The Newsletter for Volunteer Tutors

Peggy L. Murphy, Editor  
January 2016

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## Portland Literacy Council

PO Box 2872  
Portland, OR 97208-2872  
[www.portlandliteracy.org](http://www.portlandliteracy.org)

## [Online Literacy Links Subscription](#)

## Newsletter Editor:

[peggy.portlandliteracy@gmail.com](mailto:peggy.portlandliteracy@gmail.com)

## Community Grants Help Open New Avenues to Literacy

The Portland Literacy Board of Directors is pleased to announce the recipients of nine \$500 community grants. The programs provide a snapshot of adult literacy efforts in the metro area and demonstrate the dedication of the many big-hearted people working with adult learners to increase literacy.

Grant awards cover a variety of needs — computer literacy, citizenship and literacy, child care, and ESOL program support. Nearly 800 adult English learners will benefit from Portland Literacy's Community Grants Program.

### Computer Literacy Grants

- **SE Works** was awarded a grant to purchase tablets and applications for tutors and students in SE Works' Language Lab. Most adult English learners have limited knowledge and access to computers. This community grant will help increase computer literacy and student comfort when using computer programs. Over 200 students attend classes at SE Works.
- **Tigard United Methodist Church** will use its grant to enrich its ESL programs and allow wider access to computer tablets and appropriate applications. Funding will support finding and testing applications, and developing training for teachers and students in using the applications. Library field trips will help assist students in using their local library website to access programs from home and at the library. The ESL program at TUMC serves over 40 students per term.

### Citizenship Program Grants

- **Mission: Citizen** is a nonprofit run by high-school students who help prepare immigrants for the U.S. naturalization test and a life of active citizenship. The grant will help expand program marketing, and offer small attendance-based scholarships to be applied to application processing fees. Mission: Citizen served over 200 students during 2015.
- **Portland Meet Portland** provides citizenship instruction in North Portland's New Columbia neighborhood and SE Portland. They work with a variety of organizations serving immigrant communities. Their grant will supplement the costs of their citizenship classes. Approximately 25 students attend citizenship classes at Portland Meet Portland.

See page 2, **Community Grants**.

## Community Grants (from page 1).

- **SOAR Immigration Legal Services, New Americans Initiative**, will receive a grant to purchase culturally sensitive basic literacy textbooks and materials, and to acquire additional ESL literacy training materials for volunteer citizenship instructors. SOAR services more than 2,000 immigrants annually. About 15 percent are served by The New Americans Initiative.

## Child Care Grants

- **SHINE Adult English Language Learning** (a Community School Program that partners with Kinnamon Elementary School and Impact NW) received a grant to help pay for child care and other program costs. The grant will allow more parents to attend classes and enhance greater parental participation with the school and parent groups. The SHINE program at Kinnamon Elementary serves over 20 adults, and enrollment continues to increase.
- **William Walker Connects, SHINE Community School Program**, a William Walker Elementary School and Impact NW partner also received a grant to help pay for onsite child care during class time. The William Walker program seeks to increase enrollment, and improve parental confidence, interaction, and understanding of student progress. The William Walker SHINE program serves 20-25 students.

## ESOL Tuition Fees and Program Support

- **Sisters of St. Mary**, Beaverton, has received a grant for tuition and program support. The grant will allow students with financial need to continue attending classes. Over 200 students attend classes at St. Mary; classes include four literacy levels, citizenship, and computers.

Portland Literacy Council has provided small grants to non-profits involved in adult literacy efforts since 2012.

## A Place to Stand

### Portland Screening Benefits Roosevelt HS Library

January 28, 2016, 7:30 pm

Roosevelt High School Library is hosting the Portland premiere of the fantastic documentary of "A Place to Stand." This is the story of how Jimmy Santiago Baca went into jail illiterate, and came out a widely published poet. This library fundraiser is sure to be a "funraiser" for anyone likely to be inspired by the tale. Please share this information far and wide.

[Buy tickets online.](#)

**Note:** Organizers require a registration tipping point of the sale of 88 tickets by January 17, so order your tickets ASAP. If not enough tickets are sold money will be refunded.

**Contact:** Betsy Tighe, email: [btighe@pps.net](mailto:btighe@pps.net)

## GED Test Scholarships

The Portland Literacy Council awards GED Test Scholarships to qualified students who are GED-ready and meet additional qualifications.

### Applicants are considered GED-ready if:

- They are enrolled in GED studies or have completed practice GED tests with scores of 150 or greater (likely to pass) in each of the four testing areas.
- They have a plan for completing the four testing areas, including target dates for testing and the name and location of the testing center.

### Additional criteria:

- Must be 18 years of age or older.
- Not currently enrolled in a traditional high school program.
- Current Oregon resident living in Multnomah, Clackamas, or Washington counties.
- Allow Portland Literacy Council access to test scores.

A scholarship application form and instructions are available on the Portland Literacy Council website, [GED](#) page. The website also contains several resources for independent GED preparation.

## What's in Your Tutor Toolbox?

### Learning Express™

Skill development and job-seeking resources for all at your library.

Learning Express Library™ offers everyone from young students to adults a range of skill development and job-seeking resources they can use to improve their lives. Oregonians can use the Learning Express Library™ online from anywhere at any time. Features include

- Interactive tutorials for improving skills in reading, writing, math, science
- Video tutorials for improving use of computers and common software programs
- Practice tests for high school equivalency and college admissions exams, such as the GED, SAT, GRE, AP Exams, and TOEFL
- Tools for job searching, exploring new careers, and preparing for occupational licensing exams
- Ebooks that can be downloaded for further review and study
- Spanish language versions of many resources

Learning Express Library™ is available to all Oregon residents through the state's public libraries, K-12 schools, colleges and community colleges, as well as Oregon Career Information System sites. Getting started is easy as 1 - 2 - 3!

1. Access Learning Express Library™ via an authenticated website at local library or educational institutions, or the Libraries of Oregon website.
2. Create an individual account while at one of the authenticated sites. After that, Learning Express Library™ can be used from anywhere.
3. The last step is to explore the system and see how it might help you. The system remembers where you are in tutorials, so you can learn at your own pace and track your progress.

To locate a library in your area, use the [Libraries of Oregon](#) web site.

Learning Express Library™ is part of the Oregon State Library's Statewide Database Licensing Program (SDLP), a collection of electronic resources that also includes news and magazine articles and reference ebooks. The SDLP resources are supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) through a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant administered by the Oregon State Library.

*Editor's Note: Information courtesy of Learning Express™.*

## For Your Calendar

### March 19, 2016 - Save the Date!

**Volunteer Literacy Tutor Conference**  
Reed College. More details coming in the February LiteracyLinks.

### Upcoming Tutor Training Workshops

Learn more about tutoring on the [Tutors](#) page of the Portland Literacy Council website. Access online registration via the Tutors Page.

- January 16 & 23, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
PCC Willow Creek Center, Beaverton  
Online registration opens December 16
- February 27 & March 3, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
PCC Cascade Campus, Portland  
Online registration opens January 27

## Opportunities

### Citizenship Classes

#### Multnomah County Library

Details at <https://multcolib.org/events/citizenship>

- Rockwood Library, 17917 SE Stark St  
Jan 24 - Mar 13 (Sundays), 1-2:30 p.m.  
8 sessions taught by Mission: Citizen
- Midland Library, 805 SE 122nd Ave  
Feb 14 - Mar 20 (Sundays), 1-3 p.m.  
6 sessions taught by library volunteers

### SOAR Immigration Legal Services

Free classes open to everyone. Call (503) 384-2482 for more information.

Classes begin the week of January 11, 2016.  
7931 NE Halsey, Room 300  
(Bus 77 / NE 82nd MAX)

## Oregon and SW Washington Health Literacy Conference

"Better Communication, Greater Understanding"

Friday, March 4, 2016

Sentinel Hotel, 614 SW 11th Ave, Portland, OR

Hosted by Legacy Health

Registration is open at: <http://www.legacyhealth.org/healthliteracyconference>

Portland Literacy Council  
PO Box 2872  
Portland, OR 97208

## **You can help support adult literacy**

Portland Literacy Council is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We support volunteer tutors and students in the Portland Metro area.

Portland Literacy Council accepts donations [online](#) and by check to our mailing address, PO Box 2872, Portland, OR 97208.

Portland Literacy Council is enrolled in [AmazonSmile](#) and the [Fred Meyer Community Rewards](#) programs; Sign up at one or both websites, designate Portland Literacy Council as the charity of choice, and your purchases will pay it forward for adult literacy in the metropolitan area.