



Portland LITERACY Council

Portland Literacy Council (PLC) is a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization that supports adult literacy programs, tutors, and students in the greater Portland area through a comprehensive website, online newsletter, annual Tutor Conference, tutor training workshops, GED scholarships, and community grants.

Annual Tutor Conference

Each March, over 100 volunteer tutors, students, and ESOL/ABE education professionals gather at Reed College to refresh and hone teaching skills and techniques. The Annual Tutor Conference is a networking platform that enables adult education advocates to share experiences of students from other cultures and to understand difficulties learners may have faced in the school system. The Annual Tutor Conference is jointly sponsored by Portland Literacy Council and the SEEDS (Students for Education, Empowerment, & Direct Service) Program at Reed College. Many local businesses provide door prizes for the luncheon program.

LiteracyLinks Newsletter for Volunteer Tutors

The newsletter highlights adult learning experiences, Portland Literacy Council activities, tips and techniques for tutors, calendar items, and training opportunities in the Portland metropolitan area. The newsletter is distributed by Email; subscribe to LiteracyLinks at <<http://www.portlandliteracy.org/newsletter/>>.

Tutor Training

In 2016-17, PLC has planned three 2-day workshops for new volunteer tutors. Certified trainers will present content that covers foundations and strategies for teaching listening, speaking, reading, and writing to adults in adult basic education or English classes.

PLC also offers shorter, topic-specific workshops for established tutors, e.g., cultural awareness, working with pre-literate English learners, teaching multi-level groups, and other topics.

Website <www.portlandliteracy.org>

PLC's website is a valuable and useful tutor/student resource, including:

- Events — Annual Tutor Conference, tutor discussion groups
- Newsletter — Current and past editions of LiteracyLinks
- For Students — links to ABE, ESOL, and citizenship classes; other resources
- For Tutors - tutor training workshop schedules, a listing of programs using volunteer tutors, Internet resources, and ESOL student/tutor learning packets.
- About Us — Portland Literacy Council mission, community partners, officers and board of directors, contact information.

GED Testing Scholarships

PLC awards scholarships to pay a portion (or sometimes all) of the mandatory fees associated with taking the GED exams. To qualify for the GED Test Scholarship, students must be 18 years or older, meet residency requirements, and not be currently enrolled in a traditional high school program. Applicants must meet GED-ready criteria to be considered for the scholarships.

Community Grants Program

PLC awards community grants to area non-profits to assist with student scholarships, program set-up, materials, technology upgrades, operating costs, utilities, and similar expenses. In summer 2017, PLC will offer four partial scholarships to attend the LESLLA Conference to be held in Portland August 10-12. The

Low Educated Second Language and Literacy Acquisition (LESLLA) is an international research forum on development of second language skills for pre-literate or low-level literacy adult learners.

It's easy to support the work of Portland Literacy Council!

PLC is dedicated to supporting volunteer tutors and the literacy programs they serve. The Council is the sole funder of tutor training workshops and the annual conference. This year, we have stepped up our fundraising efforts, and have undertaken board development work with the Nonprofit Association of Oregon. We hope to expand support of adult literacy programs, and greatly appreciate the support of the community in helping to fund our activities.

- A gift of \$30 will help pay for the professional training of a new volunteer tutor.
- A gift of \$42 will fund a scholarship for a tutor to attend our next Volunteer Tutor Conference.
- A gift of \$152 will help one person complete GED exams or provide teaching materials to a community-based literacy program.

Donate through our website, by check, or through indirect donations.

- Via our website:
<www.portlandliteracy.org/donate>
- By check: Please make checks payable to Portland Literacy Council and mail to:
Portland Literacy Council
P.O. Box 2872
Portland, OR 97208-2872
- Link your PLC donation to a donation to the Oregon Cultural Trust, and receive a tax credit for the same amount on your Oregon tax return. Learn more at <www.culturaltrust.org>.
- Indirect donations, at no cost to you, can be made through these corporate partners:

Fred Meyer Community Awards program – support PLC by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards card to PLC at <<https://www.fredmeyer.com/topic/community-rewards-4>>.

AmazonSmile program – When you choose PLC as your charity of choice, then buy any product through <AmazonSmile.com>, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to Portland Literacy Council

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