

LiteracyLinks

Quarterly Newsletter - June 2024



Portland LITERACY Council

What we're covering this quarter:

- **Reflections from our annual volunteer tutor conference, Equity Through Literacy 2024**
- **A new resource for our community: The Volunteer Literacy Tutor Exchange (VLTX)**
- **Sip and Support: Portland Literacy Council Partners with Dobbles Family Winery**

Reflections from Equity Through Literacy 2024

We hosted our annual volunteer tutor conference, Equity Through Literacy 2024, on Saturday, May 11th at the Portland Community College, Rock Creek Campus. The event was fantastic, bringing together dedicated tutors, community partners, and learners for a day of enriching workshops, inspirational talks, and meaningful connections.

Powerful Perspective

One of the most impactful elements of the Equity Through Literacy 2024 conference was hearing directly from the learners we support.

Lunchtime Program: Student Speakers

During the lunch break, attendees were deeply moved by the personal stories shared by our student speakers. These globally diverse learners detailed their journeys of acquiring English literacy, emphasizing the transformative power of literacy in their lives. Their heartfelt narratives highlighted the importance of our collective efforts, inspiring everyone present to continue their impactful work with renewed vigor.



Closing Session: Cultural Awareness Panel

The conference concluded with a Cultural Awareness Panel, where learners from diverse cultural backgrounds shared their experiences and insights into learning English. This session provided tutors with a unique opportunity to engage directly with learners, asking questions and gaining a deeper understanding of the learner perspective. The panel was a highlight

for many, offering valuable context and fostering empathy for the challenges faced by adult learners.



What attendees had to say

Hearing from the learners themselves underscored the significance of our mission and reminded us of the profound impact that literacy has on individuals and communities alike.

"It's so inspiring to hear from students. This panel was very eye opening."

"Great reminder of the impact that we can have...That's why we do this."

Workshop Highlights

The conference featured a series of informative workshops designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of our volunteer tutors. Each session was crafted to address the diverse needs of adult learners and to provide practical strategies for tutors to implement in their teaching practices. Among the eleven fantastic workshops featured were:

Foundational Literacy Skills for Native English Speakers

Presented by Peggy L. Murphy and Lorie Wigle

- This workshop introduced the Orton-Gillingham approach and explored strategies to support native-English speakers with low literacy skills. Attendees discussed the challenges faced by these learners and brainstormed ways to improve successful outcomes.

Putting English to Work: Supporting Employability with English Tutoring

Presented by Patrik McDade

- Participants learned innovative methods to blend English language learning with employability skills, including practical techniques and real-world examples of immigrant entrepreneurs.

Teaching English to Beginning Level Students

Presented by Virginia Nelson

- This session focused on pronunciation, basic communication needs, and cultural nuances, providing tutors with essential strategies to help beginning English learners integrate into their communities.

The Orton-Gillingham Approach: Helpful Tools for Getting Started

Presented by Julie Hiefield

- Attendees were introduced to practical tools for reading instruction using the multi-sensory Orton-Gillingham approach, ideal for learners proficient in listening and speaking English.

How to Reduce Learner Confusion and Correct Learner Errors with Beginning English Learners

Presented by Amy Grant

- Tutors learned effective methods for presenting information, giving directions, and correcting errors to enhance the learning experience for beginning English learners.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all participants, presenters, sponsors, and volunteers who made this conference a success. Your dedication and enthusiasm continue to drive our mission forward, creating a more literate and equitable community.

Stay tuned for more updates and opportunities to get involved in our ongoing efforts to support literacy in Portland. We look forward to seeing you at our future events.

Introducing the Volunteer Literacy Tutor Exchange (VLTX): A New Resource for Our Community

We are excited to announce the launch of the [Volunteer Literacy Tutor Exchange \(VLTX\)](#), a resource library designed to support and connect the dedicated tutors in the PLC network. The VLTX hub aims to enhance your tutoring experience by providing access to a peers' lesson plans, placement opportunities, and more.

What you can expect:

- **Perspective from volunteer literacy tutors:** Through various mediums, we will feature stories, successes, and thought leadership from volunteer adult literacy tutors.
- **Impact in practice:** Dive into a diverse collection of creative and effective lesson plans crafted by fellow tutors. Whether you're seeking new ideas or tried-and-true strategies, our featured lesson plans will inspire and support you.

The VLTX is more than just a resource library; it's a community of passionate volunteers dedicated to empowering adult learners. By sharing your expertise and insights, you contribute to a supportive and collaborative environment that benefits everyone.

Visit our website to explore the platform, contribute your lesson plans, and learn from your peers. We are thrilled to bring you this new resource and look forward to seeing the amazing contributions and collaborations that will arise from the VLTX.

Sip and Support: Portland Literacy Council Partners with Dobbles Family Winery

We are thrilled to announce that Portland Literacy Council has been chosen as a 2024 Charity of Choice in the [Dobbles Family Winery Community Giving Program](#). This exceptional partnership blends our shared commitment to community care and support, all through the joy of wine.

A Toast to Community

"Through strategic nonprofit partnerships, we extend our ethos of care and support beyond the vineyards."

At Dobbles Family Winery, giving back is more than a mission—it's a heartfelt tradition. Each year, the winery's staff selects local nonprofits that holds personal significance and a commitment to making a positive impact. We are honored to be part of this year's rotation.

Join the Celebration

[Book your visit](#) to their Dundee, OR tasting room today. When you arrive, ask about their "Charity of Choice" program. Whether you're hosting a summer soirée or enjoying a quiet evening at home, your choice of wine can make a difference. Together, we can create a more literate and equitable world, one bottle at a time.



We extend sincere gratitude to Dobbes Family Winery for their generous support and for choosing Portland Literacy Council as a nonprofit partner. Their commitment to community investment is truly inspiring, and we are grateful to be part of their giving program. Cheers to a wonderful partnership.

Raise a glass, share a story, and let's toast to a summer of literacy and community spirit!

DOBBES
FAMILY WINERY

Thank you for being a part of the Portland Literacy Council network. We will return next quarter with another update. In the meantime, follow us and stay in touch via social media! We are on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram (@portlandliteracy).

Portland Literacy Council
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