

# MAACCE MATTERS

Winter 2015

Volume 15

Issue IV



## Special GO GREEN Edition!



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**Statewide Support for Adult Literacy!** Clockwise from top left: **Lt. Gov. Boyd Rutherford** presents **Gov. Larry Hogan's** proclamation of Sept 21-26, 2015 as *Maryland's Adult Education and Family Literacy Week* to MAACCE Board Members, Cynthia Campbell and Sonia Socha; Maryland Dept. of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Assist. Sec. for Workforce Development and Adult Learning, **James E. Rzepkowski**, Director of Adult Education Instructional Services, **Patricia Tyler**, and Deputy Assist Secretary Workforce Development and Adult Learning, **Brandon Butler**; Maryland State Senator **Thomas "Mac" Middleton** (District 28 - Charles County) with **Liz Sinnes**; State Delegate **Nicholaus Kipke** (District 31B - Anne Arundel County), U.S. Congressman **John Sarbanes** (3rd District), with MAACCE Board Members.

# Thank You!

to the following programs  
for making the GO GREEN for Literacy campaign  
during Adult Education and Family Literacy Week (September 21-26, 2015)  
such a success!

Your enthusiastic participation as shown in your photos really highlights how adult literacy education is a Maryland-wide effort.

**Allegany County Adult Education**

**Anne Arundel Community College**

**Baltimore City Community College**

**Calvert County Public Schools Adult Education Program**

**Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School**

**Charles County Public Schools Adult Education Program**

**Chesapeake College**

**College of Southern Maryland Leonardtown Campus**

**Community College of Baltimore County**

**Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation Adult Education Team**

**Frederick Community College Adult Education**

**Harford Community College**

**Howard County Library System Project Literacy**

**Literacy Council of Montgomery County**

**Prince George's Community College**

**South Baltimore Learning Center**

**Strong City Baltimore**

**The Johns Hopkins Hospital Skills Enhancement Program**

# MAACCE's Proclamation from the Governor!



## Proclamation

*From the Governor of the State of Maryland*

### **ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY WEEK SEPTEMBER 21 - 26, 2015**

- WHEREAS,** *In Maryland and across the country the week of September 21 - 26, 2015 is being observed as National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Marylanders celebrate the efforts and success of adult learners and adult educators across the State; and*
- WHEREAS,** *This week promotes awareness on behalf of more than 500,000 adults in Maryland who do not have a high school diploma, impacting their ability to work productively, and fully participate as citizens and residents of Maryland; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Together we applaud the role of the Maryland Association for Adult, Community and Continuing Education (MAACCE), in promoting awareness for adult literacy services throughout Maryland.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim SEPTEMBER 21 - 26, 2015 as ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY WEEK in Maryland, and commend this observance to all of our citizens.**



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,  
this 21st day of September  
Two Thousand and fifteen

*Lawrence J. Hogan Jr.*

*Governor*

*Robert H. Lathrop*

*Lt. Governor*

*John C. Wehner*

*Secretary of State*

## **Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford on the Importance of Adult Education**

**"Newton D. Baker, an American politician from the early 1900s, once said, 'the man or woman who graduates today and stops learning tomorrow is uneducated the day after.' Mr. Baker was right--education should be a lifelong journey. I want to thank MAACCE for their work in highlighting the importance of continuing and adult education in our state, and helping to create a more skilled workforce."**

***Maryland Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford  
October 2015***



# Post Campaign Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Caryn Sagal, 410-363-9583

[caryn@lawrencehoward.com](mailto:caryn@lawrencehoward.com)

## MAACCE Leads Maryland in Statewide GO GREEN Campaign for Adult Literacy

*6,000+ adult learners, program officials and dignitaries wear MAACCE wristbands to show their support*

**BALTIMORE** (Nov. 19, 2015) – As part of its first annual statewide “**GO GREEN**” for Adult Literacy Campaign, the **Maryland Association of Adult, Community and Continuing Education (MAACCE)** inspired learners, educators, volunteers and elected officials to wear green **LITERACY** wristbands.

The Association distributed over **6,000** wristbands to **25 adult education programs, state agencies, foundations** and the offices of

U. S. Senator **Barbara Mikulski**,  
U.S. Senator **Benjamin Cardin**,  
U.S. Congressman **John Sarbanes** (3rd District),  
U.S. Congressman **Dutch Ruppersberger** (2nd District),  
U.S. Congressman **Elijah Cummings** (7<sup>th</sup> District),  
Maryland Senate President **Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr.**,  
Maryland Speaker of the House **Michael E. Busch**,  
Maryland State Senator **Thomas "Mac" Middleton** (District 28 - Charles County),  
Maryland Senator **Edward J. Kasemeyer** (District 12 - Howard County),  
Maryland Senator **Bill Ferguson** (District 46 - Baltimore City),  
State Delegate **Peter Hammen** (District 46 - Baltimore City),  
State Delegate **Nicholaus Kipke** (District 31B - Anne Arundel County),  
State Delegate **Edith J. Patterson** (District 28 - Charles County),  
DLLR Department of Adult Education and Workforce officials,  
**Governor Larry Hogan**, and  
**Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford**, who presented a **state proclamation declaring Maryland's Adult Education and Family Literacy Week**.

"Newton D. Baker, an American politician from the early 1900s, once said, 'the man or woman who graduates today and stops learning tomorrow is uneducated the day after,'" **Lt. Governor Rutherford** said. "Mr. Baker was right--education should be a lifelong journey. I want to thank MAACCE for their work in highlighting the importance of continuing and adult education in our state, and helping to create a more skilled workforce."

Throughout the Go GREEN campaign, learners, staff and volunteers wore green and decorated classrooms and offices with green banners and signs to celebrate **National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week (NAEFLW)**.

The [MAACCE website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages now feature 125 photos of students in green from such programs as: **Strong City Baltimore, Baltimore City Community College, Literacy Council of Montgomery County, Howard County Project Literacy, Community College of Baltimore County, South Baltimore Learning Center, Calvert County Adult Education, Charles County Public Schools Adult Education Program, Allegany County Adult Education and College of Southern Maryland.**

**MAACCE's Facebook campaign reached over 2,000 people, who posted 373 likes.** The Association also distributed a manual to assist members in generating media interest in the importance of investing in adult literacy. These efforts resulted in coverage on the **National Coalition for Literacy** blog, a published letter to the editor and appearances on several public affairs shows.

“This was an excellent first effort for a statewide advocacy campaign that we would like to build on for years to come because the need is great with **approximately 500,000 Maryland adults lacking a high school diploma, 250,000 needing better English language skills and 3,418 remaining on adult education waiting lists,**” said **Heather Ritchie**, MAACCE board president.

“Literacy helps families be healthier and safer and provides people sustainable opportunities to support themselves through work and ultimately contributing to the economic growth of Maryland and our country,” she added.

#### Call to Action

Marylanders wanting to help make a difference in adult learners’ lives are encouraged to volunteer for a local program or donate school supplies or appropriate books to a local program.

People also can refer individuals who need adult literacy services to the **Maryland Literacy Hotline** or to a program listed on the MAACCE [online directory](#). Another way to assist is to donate to MAACCE or to a local adult education provider.

MAACCE also encourages people to contact their congressional and state representatives to support continued funding for adult education and family literacy programs throughout the state.

The recently implemented and rigorous **Common Core/College and Career Readiness Standards** have increased the time it takes to complete requirements for earning a Diploma. This has led to fewer seats in programs and increased waiting lists. Because of this, more funding is needed to increase capacity.

#### About MAACCE

MAACCE is a statewide membership organization that works to increase awareness and funding for adult literacy and education, and provides professional development for adult literacy educators. Its 400 active professional members from across the state teach over 35,000 adult learners each year. The organization has worked at both the state and national levels for more than 25 years on behalf of adult literacy. Over the past 15 years, MAACCE has contributed to efforts which have increased funding at the state level. For more information, visit [www.maaccemd.org](http://www.maaccemd.org).

# # #

# Photos Chosen to Accompany the Press Release



**GED® Exam Preparation Class at Baltimore City Community College, Harbor Campus in Baltimore City (Inner Harbor)**

Back Row: Krystal Wonson, Darrel Johnson, Lenear Pryor, Ronald Chandler  
Middle: Gary Walls, Kimberly Simmons, Jean White, Larry Doyle (hidden) Shantell Langston  
Front Row: Sade Williams, Shirley, McKay, Vanessa Singleton, Darryl Shaw

**Calvert County Adult Education, GED/Adult Basic Skills class held at Patuxent High School**

Left to right standing: Jennifer Youngerman, Ja'Quan Wills, Amanda Douglass and Dana Gray. Seated is Reginald Holland.

Adult learners are holding up books that were special to them as children or now. The background is a bulletin board with green with a vine symbolizing how reading nurtures growth. Continuing reading continues the growth.



**Charles County Public Schools Adult Education Program English as a Second Language (ESL) conversation class held at Peace Lutheran Church, Waldorf, Maryland. All students also attend a regular ESL class weekly.**

Left to right: Marceline Amayene, Peggy Wong, Eleonora Bianco, Carlo Danieli, Arminda Medina, Juana Caero, Anuree Pongvaramitchai, Yvette Dahl (instructor), Yan Li



## MAACCE President's Guest Blog for the Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education, U. S. Department of Education

### From Teacher to Advocate: A Guest Blog Celebrating Adult Education and Family Literacy Week 2015



Guest Blogger Heather Ritchie, MAACCE President and Professional Development Specialist, Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School

I am a teacher. I am a trainer. I am an educator. I am an administrator. These are the words I use to describe myself when someone asks what I do for a living. Then there is “I am an advocate for adult education.” This is a phrase I never used to use but find myself utilizing more often these days. It is the most powerful of the phrases and I wish all of my colleagues would add it to their titles too.

As many people have done, I did not plan a career in adult education, I evolved into it. I worked in communications and nonprofits. I loved travel and celebrated the unique nature of different cultures locally and abroad. Reading has always been one of my pleasurable pastimes; it is a gateway to information and ideas I never knew existed. Then, I learned about opportunities in my local area to teach adults. (As you’ve probably noticed, my impetus was all about me up until this point.) Then, I started teaching and year by year, my focus has been less about me and more about the students.

The students – amazing individuals who balance family with work at multiple jobs, some of whom have come from other countries and left so much behind, who have dreams of brighter futures for their children and sometimes themselves. The students changed the way I thought about our work. Instead of looking only inside the classroom to see what I could do to best support them, I began looking outside to the broader community and realized how much was hidden from the broader public – our neighbors, our politicians, and businesses.

Whenever advocacy is mentioned and volunteers are called for, the truth is, people usually turn the other way or look at their phones. Why is this? Probably, because it is an unknown experience or it is misunderstood. Most people are afraid this means talking with politicians or public speaking. Advocacy can be those things, but it is so much more! It is getting the message out to anyone and everyone, so that adult students, who are also our neighbors, can have more access to quality opportunities for education.

When I call myself an advocate these days, here is what I think of and hope that you will too:

- Wearing my literacy green wristband from my local state adult education association, so people ask me about it; and, I remember to tell people I meet about the amazing students, volunteers and educators I know.

- Forwarding messages to colleagues about what is happening in adult education and encourage them to pass these on to their networks, so more people are thinking about it.
- Talking about my work with my friends and let them know that new Americans are trying to learn English and it takes an average of 7 years; and, that our public school system is not a panacea for everyone – meaning that those who did not succeed in school were not lazy – that adult education student are trying to pull themselves up by their own bootstraps and might just need a helping hand to do it.
- Sharing a student’s or teacher’s story with someone I interact with – whether while getting a haircut, waiting in a line, chatting at a community picnic.

I have jumped on the wagon as an advocate for adult education and now have the privilege to be the President of MAACCE, the [Maryland Association for Adult Community and Continuing Education](#), and a board member with the [National Coalition for Literacy](#). Through these organizations, which are groups of colleagues collaborating together, we have increased funding for adult education, increased awareness across the state and the nation, provided opportunities for “bigwigs” and our neighbors to engage in their communities by supporting literacy, and helped colleagues become advocates for their students. Collaborating with colleagues and community stakeholders have helped us to achieve a shared vision for the success of adult education students. I smile with warmth and gratitude at the number of success stories and achievements the learners have made through their own hard work and our support.

The longer I am in adult education, which is oftentimes in the shadows of K-12 or higher education, the more I know we as a community need to be better advocates. Our work is in the shadows because we don’t have enough advocates in our midst. We need to come out of our classrooms and shout at the top of our lungs how wonderful our students are and how much they are bringing to our community. Join us for adult education and family literacy week by celebrating, advocating, and sharing with at least 7 people this week [#AEFLWeek](#) / [@NCLAdvocacy](#) or visit one of the websites above to learn about more opportunities.

Sincerely,

Heather Ritchie



# Highlights of MAACCE's First Annual GO GREEN for Adult Literacy Campaign

*By Sonia Socha, Advocacy and Communications Chair*

Thank you to all of the programs and members who participated in various aspects of MAACCE's **GO GREEN** campaign—because you helped MAACCE increase awareness of the importance of adult literacy. The pictures of our learners put a “face” on our cause and highlighted the work of programs from across the whole state.

The Advocacy and Communications Committee is very excited with the statewide response to MAACCE's first annual **GO GREEN** Campaign for adult literacy. The campaign results were quite amazing considering our short time for planning. We were not sure if there would be statewide interest by programs and members. When MAACCE received a strong response from programs requesting wristbands, the committee decided to implement a more comprehensive awareness campaign. The press release (earlier in this newsletter) covers the success of the campaign. While the campaign was a lot of work for the committee, it was well worth the time and effort due to the enthusiastic participation of the membership.

One goal our committee had this year was to expand beyond our past celebrations of National Adult and Family Literacy Week (and our previous efforts with co-hosting the annual press conference for seven years) to more statewide involvement and increased awareness for our cause. With your help, MAACCE accomplished this and more.

We were very happy to have Governor Hogan's participation with the campaign with his willingness to issue the state proclamation recognizing the same week in September as Maryland's week for adult education and family literacy. (See proclamation in this newsletter.) MAACCE was also very grateful that Lt. Governor Rutherford found the time in his busy schedule to personally present the proclamation. This gave MAACCE the opportunity to present him with his own **GO GREEN** band (and send one along to Governor Hogan). Reaching out to the new state administration about the need for adult literacy services and support in Maryland was also a goal of the campaign this year.

The committee worked this year to form the main elements of the statewide campaign. These are now in place for future years and will provide a foundation to build upon. Programs and members will now have a better idea of what to expect for the September 2016 National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week campaign. MAACCE knows this is a challenging time for most programs because of the startup of fall services, and we will be sure to send information out sooner so that programs and members will have more time to plan and to submit pictures and stories.

Learner success stories are very powerful, and this first year, we only received one story! The committee knows there are many more learner stories among all of our programs. When you have such a story during the year, please share it with MAACCE. You can email us at [maacce@gmail.com](mailto:maacce@gmail.com). (We will remind you throughout the year!) Please use any remaining wristbands to take pictures now and send them to us. We will save the pictures for next year. (Please be sure to submit a caption with details of who is in the photo and what is happening with each photo).

Thank you again for helping to make our first annual NAEFL Week **GO GREEN** campaign a statewide success for adult literacy!

# More Highlights of the GO GREEN Campaign!



Jean Van Hart, Huntingtown, instructional specialist with the Calvert County Adult Education Program, adapted the letter to the editor from the GO Mini-Toolkit. Her letter **“Support efforts to increase adult literacy”** was published by the Southern Maryland News in September!

We made the news. Read here!

<http://baltimore.citybizlist.com/article/317249/maacce-leads-statewide-go-green-campaign-for-adult-literacy>

Watch the October 12th interview about MAACCE’s GO GREEN Campaign on Comcast Newsmakers here:

<http://comcastnewsmakers.com/2015/10/12/maryland-association-for-adult-continuing-education-maacce/>



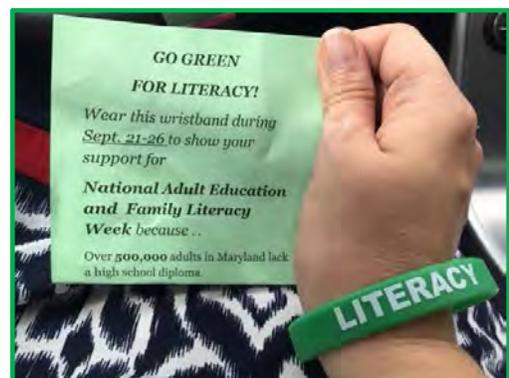
See the write up about MAACCE’s efforts for National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week on the National Coalition for Literacy’s blog here: <http://national-coalition-literacy.org/2015/09/celebrations-update-for-aefl-week-2015/>

MAACCE was also on TV with Gigi Barnett! Check it out  
<http://baltimore.cbslocal.com/2015/11/22/on-time-november-22-2015/>



**Check out all the photos from the  
GO GREEN Campaign at  
<http://www.maaccemd.org/aefl-week/>**

Also, mark your calendars, May 12-13, 2016, for our annual conference with the theme: All Hands on Deck. We are planning a slideshow of the GO GREEN photos!



**THANK YOU to the MAACCE Board, the Advocacy and Communications Committee, and Laurie Askins, MAACCE Coordinator, for all your hard work for the GO GREEN Campaign!**

MAACCE

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**We're on the web!**  
See us at:  
[www.maaccemd.org](http://www.maaccemd.org)

**About Our Organization...**

*The Maryland Association for Adult, Community and Continuing Education is a non-profit organization providing leadership in Maryland for those interested in advancing education as a lifelong process. MAACCE provides a central forum for a wide variety of adult, community and continuing education groups and encourages organizations and agencies in Maryland to cooperate in a broad spectrum of educational programs and activities in support of the lifelong learning concept.*

Join us on Facebook and Twitter:

[www.facebook.com/pages/MAACCE/135869909789248](http://www.facebook.com/pages/MAACCE/135869909789248)

and

[www.Twitter.com/maaccemd](http://www.Twitter.com/maaccemd)

**This special issue of *MAACCE Matters* was produced by Cynthia Campbell, Sonia Socha, and Jay Willets.**

**To submit articles or information for the next regular MAACCE Matters, please contact Jay Willetts at [jaywilletts@comcast.net](mailto:jaywilletts@comcast.net)**

**MAACCE Board of Directors 2015-2016**

