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**HARTFORD COMMUNITY COLLEGE JOINS EDUCATE & ELEVATE CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT INVESTMENTS IN ADULT EDUCATION**

*Bel Air, MD* – Hartford Community College (HCC) joins more than 55,000 adult educators in a new national campaign, called Educate & Elevate, that proactively educates policy makers about the importance of Adult Education and how it is an investment in America’s future.

By 2018, 63% of all U.S. jobs will require education beyond high school. Yet, nearly half of the U.S. workforce—about 88 million adults aged 18 to 64—has only a high school education or less, and/or low English proficiency. More than 51% of Bel Air’s adult populations (18 – 34 years old) do not have a high school diploma, according to [Town Charts](http://www.towncharts.com/Maryland/Education/Bel-Air-CDP-MD-Education-data.html) latest data. Adult Education helps to close this gap and provide workers with the skills needed for the jobs of today and tomorrow. Cuts in state and national budgets threaten adult education and can have a serious impact on the vibrancy of the Upper Chesapeake area.

“Adult education is uniquely situated to address the needs of our regional employers and students,” said HCC President, XX. “Educating motivated students will support our local businesses in creating jobs and filling positions, so we are urging legislators to fund Adult Education at the $649 million level as called for in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act enacted in 2014.”

HCC offers more than 80 affordable degree and certificate programs of study to nearly 2,000 full-time and 7,500 part-time students, as well as a wide variety of noncredit continuing education courses to nearly 11,000 students a year. HCC addresses the skills gap by helping students no matter where they are in their educational and professional journey through a robust set of Adult Education courses such as English as a Second Language, remedial math and career technical education.

One of those adult learners that benefitted greatly from HCC’s Adult Education courses is Amanda Kline. Due to a variety of circumstances, Amanda became a single parent working low paying jobs and barely managing, even after obtaining government assistance. “I was without a high school diploma and had no higher education,” said Amanda. “There are not many options at this point for elevating yourself except to work at obtaining the credentials needed to get a better job and outlook on life.”

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**EDUCATE & ELEVATE**

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Amanda enrolled in HCC’s online GED® study course as a first step, and then set her sights on higher education through the CMAA certification to become a certified medical administrative assistant. This noncredit program is geared toward busy adults who are ready to elevate the next step of their education and career goals, and landed Amanda an internship at Upper Chesapeake Hospital.

Amanda said, “I am also looking forward to showing my daughter a stronger, more independent role model. None of this would be possible without the adult education programs offered by HCC. Without them there would be no hope for everyone who finds themselves without proper education. Education matters!”

The Educate & Elevate campaign seeks to empower students, educators, businesses and other advocates nationwide to raise the profile of Adult Education on Capitol Hill and in local communities throughout the nation.

The campaign website offers advocates tools and resources, infographics, videos, fact sheets and success stories to share with elected officials. Learn more about how Adult Education elevates career and college readiness at EducateandElevate.org.

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*As a proud partner in the Educate & Elevate Campaign, Hartford Community College has dedicated and decorated faculty members that encourage learning beyond the classroom. Our small class sizes help students get the personal attention they need to be successful. Whether their goal is to earn an Associate Degree, transfer to a four-year university, obtain training for a career, or take courses for personal enrichment, HCC gives students the power, the tools, and the support to define their future. More at* [*https://www.harford.edu/*](https://www.harford.edu/)