

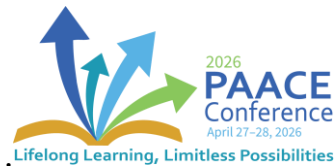
September 2025 Newsletter



Field Notes

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US AT THE CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars for our 2026 Conference



- **Call for proposals** - we are searching for presenters for our 2026 conference and will be sending out our call for proposals soon. Be on the lookout!
- **2026 PAACE Award Nominations** - do you have an educator in mind that has gone above and beyond in the 2025 school year that you would like to nominate an award?! Nomination forms will be coming out soon - be on the lookout!

Membership

Membership renewals are right around the corner!

As a reminder, your memberships will renew with the new year, at the beginning of January. Please be on the lookout for PAACE communications surrounding your membership and don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions!

In case you missed it...

During Pittsburgh Literacy's open house, state senator Jay Costa was presented with an Adult Education Champion award for his continuing support of adult education programs





Dear Senator Jay Costa,

On behalf of COABE, the national professional association representing more than 82,000 adult educators across the country, I want to thank you for your leadership and support of workers and learners in the state of Pennsylvania.

We are pleased to inform you that you have been nominated to receive the prestigious **Adult Education Champion Award** in recognition of your commitment to addressing the career, technical, and educational needs of adult learners in Pennsylvania.

As you know, adult education equips learners with essential skills including literacy, numeracy, digital literacy, work readiness, soft skills, high school equivalency preparation, and a range of wraparound services. Nationwide, more than 1.5 million adults are served each year.

Historically, during times of economic crisis, enrollment in adult education programs increases as workers seek to upskill and strengthen their career pathways. We anticipate a similar trend as today's economic challenges persist. Your ongoing support, visibility, and investment in Pennsylvania's adult education programs are essential to ensuring that learners have access to high-quality opportunities to advance their skills, careers, and futures.

To honor your leadership, COABE would be delighted to recognize you during **Adult Education and Family Literacy Week (September 14–20, 2023)**. We respectfully request that you consider pre-recording a brief video message (five minutes or less) reflecting on why adult education matters to you and how you have championed this field in Pennsylvania. Your message will be shared as part of our national recognition event.

Additionally, we invite to you join us at our **Open House on Thursday, September 18th at 8:30 AM** where can present the award to you among our guests.

Thank you again for your leadership and partnership. We look forward to celebrating your contributions and continuing to work together in support of Pennsylvania's adult educators, students, and programs.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Bonney".

Sharon Bonney
Chief Executive Officer
Coalition on Adult Basic Education

Lori Como

Lori Como
Chief Program Officer, Literacy Pittsburgh
President, PAAACE



Dear Governor Josh Shapiro,

On behalf of COABE, the national professional association representing more than 82,000 adult educators across the country, I want to thank you for your leadership and support of workers and learners in the state of Pennsylvania.

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Additionally, we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you in person to discuss the ongoing impact of adult education in your state and the ways in which additional investment can further strengthen Pennsylvania's workforce and communities.

Thank you again for your leadership and partnership. We look forward to celebrating your contributions and continuing to work together in support of Pennsylvania's adult educators, students, and programs.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Bonney".

Sharon Bonney
Chief Executive Officer

Lori Como

Lori Como
Chief Program Officer, Literacy Pittsburgh



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