



Literacy Network Hires Deisy Escobar in the role of First-Generation College Coordinator

Lee, Mass. (September 13, 2023) – The Literacy Network (LitNet) announces the addition of Deisy Escobar to its staff as the organization's First-Generation College Coordinator. In this newly created role, Escobar will serve as a community ambassador for LitNet by helping to develop programming, outreach, and partnerships centered around supporting and educating first-generation college applicants and their families about the college application process and related opportunities. With Escobar's support, LitNet hopes to launch its first First-Generation College-Goer Fair in spring 2024.

Escobar, a second-generation immigrant and first-year student at Westfield State University, graduated from Mount Everett High School in June of this year. The daughter of a Mexican immigrant and Colombian immigrant, Escobar is Spanish-English bilingual and has served as a LitNet volunteer tutor since 2021. Escobar has independently hosted a bilingual workshop for first-time college-goers and is active in the community as a co-host for the radio show *Mundo Latino* with her mother, Martha Escobar, with whom she also hosts an awards ceremony for community individuals and organizations who have provided outstanding support to Berkshire County immigrants.

LitNet's Executive Director, Leigh Doherty, says: "Deisy has been steeped and active in service in the Berkshire Community for many years now. She is a perfect example of one we can call 'wise beyond her years!' As a new college student herself, Deisy is well-informed about the process, the challenges, and the excitement of it all. I look forward to having Deisy's first-hand, direct experience to guide us."

LitNet currently serves more than 200 individuals, the majority of whom are immigrants from South and Central America who are working on their English language skills. In 2019, LitNet launched Berkshire County's first scholarship program for prospective U.S. citizens, the Matthew and Hannah Keator Family Scholarship for New Americans, which supports recipients financially and legally and provides English and civics tutoring in preparation for the citizenship interview.

About Literacy Network www.litnetsb.org

Literacy Network is a volunteer-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that for 32 years has been providing free individualized reading, writing, and English language instruction to adult learners, both U.S. and foreign-born, in Berkshire County, MA. The mission of Literacy Network is to transform the lives of adult learners through the power of literacy, education, and advocacy. LitNet believes everyone has the right to access high-quality education and that a connected community is a stronger community.