



## **Literacy Volunteers of East Bay, a Celebration of Students' Success**

*By Maggie Laurianno, Communications Specialist*

A night of celebration for students and tutors of Literacy Volunteers of East Bay (LVEB), a division of East Bay Community Action Program was held Tuesday, June 19, 2018. The celebration marked the end of an academic year, and featured a potluck dinner, awards presentation, and a reading of essays by students.

Elizabeth McDowell, LVEB Director, served as emcee. Awards were presented recognizing students for their many and varied accomplishments. Students were acknowledged who had gained a full academic level as well as those who had met a significant milestone. One major accomplishment: a Providence County man in his forties earned his OSHA Safety credential which he can use to earn a higher salary at his construction job or to start his own business. This is the culmination of three year's work, as he came to LVEB unable to read at all.

A highlight of the evening was the student reading portion of the celebration. Students who had submitted essays for publication in LVEB's "Celebrating Progress: Our Families, Our Jobs and Our Communities – a Collection of Student Writing," voluntarily came to the podium to read their work aloud to the audience of fellow students and their families, tutors, EBCAP staff, and LVEB supporters. One student shared strategies she had used to learn to speak, read, and write English. These included: downloading a dictionary on her phone, watching television, making flash cards, watching YouTube videos of English tutors who speak her native language, and keeping a positive attitude.

Steve Spaulding, LVEB's Academic and Career Coordinator, will be leaving the organization after seven years due to an upcoming move. Spaulding's parting words of encouragement: that each and every student would discover his/her own special talents and abilities—and— "don't give up on learning!"

Stanley Brown, LVEB's Newport-based Academic and Career Coordinator, and Board member Phyllis Seeba, a reading specialist, addressed students and tutors briefly about Digital Challenger, a new online reading program that puts students in the driver's seat for their learning while building digital literacy. Eight student-tutor pairs are already using it, and they are reporting good results. Brown and Seeba invited students and tutors who are interested in Digital Challenger to contact them to get started.

Literacy Volunteers offers one-to-one tutoring for: reading, writing, math skills, speaking English, GED preparation, basic computer skills, and citizenship. People who are at least 18 years old, and live or work in East Providence, or any town in Bristol or Newport Counties, and who don't have a U.S. college degree (and aren't enrolled in college) are eligible. To learn more call LVEB at 401-247-2177.

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