



## Joan M. Allesee AWC Detroit Literacy Heroine



Joan Allesee, a Troy resident and member of AWC Detroit, has over 25 years of experience creating learning solutions and facilitating training. She has used this expertise to help the Oakland Literacy Council (OLC) in its mission to provide basic literacy and English language instruction to adults.

Joan first got involved with OLC as a tutor five years ago. As her commitment grew, she volunteered to facilitate the tutor onboarding workshop and coach other experienced tutors to facilitate training.

In 2016, she developed an e-learning course that brought the Council into the digital learning space and reduced in-classroom training time. She was appointed to the OLC board of directors in 2018. Recently she represented the Council at the 2019 Conference on Adult Basic Education in New Orleans as an impact partner of Detroit Reading Works.

She says she wants to “continue learning, raising awareness and advocating to develop Metro Detroit’s workforce and improve people’s life circumstances through literacy.”

**Read about why she became an advocate for literacy on the [Member Insight blog](#).**

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“I made sure my children grew up with books all around them and trips to the library were part of our life routine. I couldn't image how anyone could grow up not reading, so I decided to pitch in on the war against illiteracy.”

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The [Oakland Literacy Council](#) provides basic literacy and English language instruction to adults in Oakland County in order to facilitate lifelong learning, employment skills and personal well-being. Literate students are able to achieve both personal and educational goals. They can do things like vote, increase their workplace productivity and pass on the gift of reading to their children. The most important benefit is the improvement in overall quality of life.