



Ready for 2022

By: Holly McCoy, Executive Director

The December issue of *The Syllabus* serves as a platform for reflection on the previous year and an opportunity to usher in the new. As we have all experienced, continuous change and transition have become the norm during the pandemic. If 2020 was solely focused on pivoting, advancing, and constantly reacting to the ever-changing unknowns, our 2021 was all about refining the process and reopening safely. After nearly two years of adaptation and courageous thinking, LSW is hitting the metaphorical “reset” button for 2022. “Holly, what does that mean for the year ahead?” Great question!

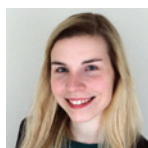
After undergoing two mergers and establishing multiple locations across Milwaukee and Waukesha, LSW has increased the scope of our service area and concentrated on adjusting and restructuring the organization to ensure consistency and efficiency. Most recently, we created revised Support Specialist roles that contribute to all sites rather than a single program or location. This allows programs to retain expert staff dedicated to specific content areas, while providing a more generalized approach to supportive services so that students receive consistent enrollment and onboarding experiences.

Amid the vicissitudes of 2020-2021, we have shared some programmatic upgrades related to both technology

see **Upgrade** continued on **page 2**



Students in our new HSED for English Learners program visited Jewish Museum Milwaukee to help broaden their understanding of global events.



Piloting the Future of ELL Credentialing

By: Patrice Vnuk, Manager of ELL Programs and
Caitlin Petersen, South Division Site Coordinator & Organizational Evaluator

During the summer of 2021, Literacy Services of Wisconsin’s English Language Learning (ELL) team piloted a brand new, one-of-a-kind credentialing program for our students: the High School Equivalency Diploma for English Learners (HSED-EL). This intensive sixteen-week course, approved by Wisconsin’s Department of Public Instruction under the PI

5.09 program, was designed to help ELL students of any language background earn a secondary credential while working to improve their English language, workforce readiness, academic, and digital literacy skills in a classroom setting. Throughout the program, students wrote essays, conducted experiments, read a

see **HSED-EL** continued on **page 5**

The Sylla·bus

Literacy Services of Wisconsin Newsletter

The Syllabus is the quarterly newsletter of the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Literacy Services of Wisconsin.

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Volunteer Photographer

Sara Risley

Founded in 1965, Literacy Services serves adult learners with quality education programs - Adult Education (AE), General Education Development (GED) test preparation, 5.09 High School Equivalent Diploma (HSED), English Language Learning (ELL), Workforce Training and Career Pathway Bridges, and integrated and personalized Functional Literacy instruction.

Literacy Services of Wisconsin is grateful for the broad support of our community, including nearly 500 volunteers and financial support from 1000 individuals; 200 foundations, corporations and organizations; The United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County; and Adult Education and Family Literacy Act. We are grateful for our partnerships with Equus, Maximus, and Milwaukee Public Schools.

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Upgrade

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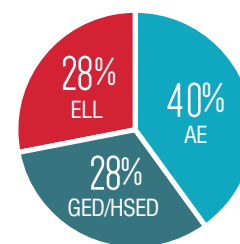
and content. For instance, you will read more about the HSED-EL in this issue. The HSED-EL is one outstanding example of what takes place when staff can collaborate behind the scenes and thoughtfully address the emerging opportunities that exist for LSW's students. There will also be additional information and updates about LSW's correctional programming and our Waukesha location in the new year. These are perhaps the two areas impacted most by the pandemic, and we have made great strides in navigating several challenges that are unique to those aspects of programming. As a result, not only has LSW been able to begin providing classes for our Milwaukee County Jail students this month, but that site was also formally approved as an official GED Testing Center. LSW previously had to refer students to other community-based organizations when they needed to take GED and civics exams. We are grateful to the Department of Public Instruction for their support and guidance throughout the application process.

This is admittedly a high-level recap and I am sure that some of you may have some additional questions about these notable developments. To that end, I will be hosting virtual Q&A sessions on Thursday, January 13 at 9am and 5pm, with an in-person option Downtown Milwaukee on Friday, January 14 at 9 a.m. and Downtown Waukesha on Tuesday, January 18th at 5:30 p.m. Registration for the in-person offering will be capped at 20 and masks will be required.

We are now living in a hybrid world that requires us to always consider programming in terms of both virtual and in-person opportunities. In many ways, LSW will never be the same, but the student-first mentality has remained a constant

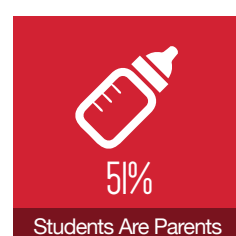
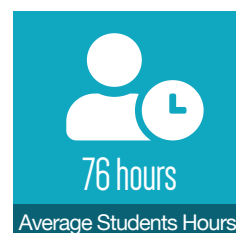
Impact Report

FY July 2020 - June 2021



Enrollment by Program

■ Adult Education (AE)
■ GED/HSED
■ English Language Learning (ELL)



throughout all of the changes and we are a stronger organization for it. LSW's rich history set a solid foundation for growth and we are currently scaffolding the lessons we have learned to contribute to the bright future of adult literacy education.

I am sending my love and appreciation to all of our friends and those who have stepped up to support us in various ways over the last couple of years. It takes a community to do this work, and we truly cherish the one that has grown around us.

Locations & Services

Literacy Services of Wisconsin provides programming throughout southeastern Wisconsin. Below we introduce you to the locations, staff, and programs offered at each site. We hope that this information helps you become familiar with the “new” Literacy Services team and operations.



Steve Barron
Manager of
Credentialing Programs



Ginger Kinyon
Racine
HSED Instructor



HSED

WRTP/BIG STEP is the home base for our new Construction Trades HSED Program. This site hosts a daytime HSED program that provides students the opportunity to earn their High School Equivalency Diploma while earning a nationally recognized MC3 certification from North America's Building Trades Unions. LSW also offers contextualized HSED programming at various YouthBuild sites around Milwaukee.

Chad Kline
YouthBuild
HSED Instructor



Charlotte Newgord
WRTP/BIG STEP
HSED Instructor



Silver Spring Neighborhood Center

(262) 755-3245

5460 N 64th St., Milwaukee, WI 53218

Students on the northside can choose to enroll in GED/HSED preparation, Adult Education (beginning to intermediate reading, language, and math), English language learning, digital literacy programming, and workplace readiness training.

Mikelle Bloechi
Silver Spring Neighborhood Center
Site Coordinator



Betsy Kerns
Silver Spring Neighborhood Center
Program Support Specialist



Charles Bradford
Manager of Community
Corrections Programs



David Peters
Milwaukee County Jail
Program Coordinator



Waukesha Center (262) 547-7323

831 N. Grand Ave., Suite 200, Waukesha, WI 53186

Our office is centrally located in downtown Waukesha at the "five points" intersection. This location offers GED/HSED preparation, Adult Education (beginning to intermediate reading, language, and math), English language learning, digital literacy programming, and workplace readiness training.

Carol Josten
North Division High School
Site Coordinator



Caitlin Petersen
South Division High School
Site Coordinator
& Organizational Evaluator



MPS Family Resource Centers

LSW partners with Milwaukee Public Schools to engage parents as they pursue their continued educational goals. Sites offer reading, language, and math instruction, GED/HSED preparation, English language learning, and basic computer classes.

South Division HS (414) 902-8388

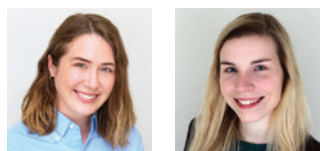
1515 W. Lapham Blvd. Room 111, Milwaukee, WI 53204

North Division HS (414) 267-5171

1011 W. Center St., Room 158, Milwaukee, WI 53206

Corrections

LSW partners with the Milwaukee County Jail and the Department of Corrections to provide educational opportunities to incarcerated individuals in Southeastern Wisconsin and bridge access to re-entry services.



HSED-EL

Continued from Page 1

novel, and learned about United States and world history— all in a new language!

The 11 students who participated in the pilot program brought a wide variety of knowledge and experience to the cohort. They worked together in small groups to complete projects and assignments and always encouraged each other to do their best. By the end of the summer, our students considered each other to be friends rather than just classmates. The positive effect of the classroom cohort is not to be understated; the supportive atmosphere and determination of our learners definitely played a role in the pilot's success, and every single student was able to complete the program and earn their high school diploma. That is quite an accomplishment, folks!

The curriculum we created adhered to both Common Core State standards and English Language Proficiency standards, which meant that lessons and assessments were designed with both content and language outcomes in mind. We strongly emphasized reading and subject area vocabulary comprehension while simultaneously building background and cultural knowledge that ELL students typically do not have beforehand. By maintaining a small and tight-knit cohort, we were able to give learners one-on-one attention and allowed the class to learn, grow, and build a community together.

A sixteen-week program might not sound very long, but we packed a lot of memories and highlights into one summer. Even though the HSED-EL was conducted in an online format, we were able to accommodate a few in-person (and masked) class days. On one of those occasions, students partnered up to apply what they had learned about the greenhouse effect and climate change in a hands-on science



experiment. On another occasion, the whole class took a field trip to Jewish Museum Milwaukee to tour the collections and hear a speaker presentation, putting into context our social studies unit theme of the Holocaust and World War II.

We are already looking toward the future.

Early next semester, we will pilot two new classes: HSED-EL Foundations, which is designed to prepare students for the formal HSED-EL program, and a college writing class aimed at bridging the gap between graduation from the HSED-EL and pursuing higher education, a goal held by many of our students.

Consider Volunteering!

There is nothing quite like accompanying a student on their journey to obtain a high school diploma and witnessing what he or she goes on to accomplish after graduation. Programs like the HSED-EL would not be possible without the support of our community. Volunteer tutors are an essential component of the HSED-EL Program and others like it. If you are interested in donating your time to our program and our students as an HSED-EL tutor for the next cohort, please contact Caitlin Petersen through email: caitlin@literacyservices.org.

Thank You!

The following donors made gifts or pledged support between July 1, 2021 and November 30, 2021. Thank you for empowering adult students to read and write their way to a better future. We promise to put your gifts to good work! It is our commitment to recognize every donor based on the donor's wishes. If your name does not appear as you would expect, please contact Chad Knezel at (414) 226-5357 or via email at chad@literacyservices.org.

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In honor of:

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In memory of:

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In tribute to:

Marilyn Daniel - Ellen Winterburn • **The Entire LSW Organization** - William & Jan Severson • **Ted Schulte** - Theresa Meyer

Volunteer & Community Member Info Sessions



**MORE
INFO**

Literacy Services welcomes you to join us in the new year to learn more about all of the exciting things happening at LSW. Bring your questions. Following a short presentation, Executive Director Holly McCoy and Associate Director Aaron Goyette will open up the meeting for a Q & A session. Your thoughts are welcomed.

January 25, 2022

Virtual: 9:00-10:00 am & 5:00-6:00 pm

January 28, 2022

Downtown Center: 9:00-10:00 am

February 1, 2022

Waukesha Center: 5:30-6:30 pm

Visit literacyservices.org/info to register!

*COVID-19 is still a very real and present threat to the health and safety of our community. Masks will be required for both of these events regardless of vaccination status. If you or anyone you know is interested in the COVID-19 vaccine please visit <https://city.milwaukee.gov/CovidVax>.

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Your gift today will keep the momentum going.

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<https://bit.ly/gilbertandcecilia>



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- Gifts of cash
- One-time or recurring online gifts
- In-kind gifts such as furniture, books, or office supplies (check out the wish list on our website for current needs)
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The Syl·la·bus

Winter 2021

Literacy Services of Wisconsin Newsletter

In this issue:

- Gearing Up for 2022
- New HSED Program Launches for English Learners
- Upcoming Events
- And more!



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JOIN THE CELEBRATION ON MAY 17TH!

2022 FUNDRAISING DINNER



BY LITERACY SERVICES OF WISCONSIN