



Michigan's  
Children

Public policy  
in the best interest  
of children



Good Morning,

*proudly present*

My Name is Robert Smith and I would like to tell about my experience at Novi Career Prep. I'm a 37-year-old without a high school diploma; I decide back in August that it was time for me to go back to school to finish the classes I needed to get my diploma. I was a little nervous at first because it had been so long since I was last in school. But I found that it was not as hard as I thought it would be so easy from the beginning. It has been a great experience for me. The teachers are very helpful and

# FAMILYSPEAK:

*"Building Family Literacy Through Adult Education"*

Since I have finished more than 60 classes attending the Novi Career Prep school than I have in the 3 years that I attended High School. I wanted to come back to school not only to better myself and eventually be able to go out and get a better job later on in life but because I have two kids who I wanted to make proud of me for never giving up on anything in life. I am an example that you are never too old to go back to school and because of people like you who fund great programs like Novi Career prep I'm able to have this great opportunity to graduate this year. So I would just like to thank you all for making it possible for me to have this chance to be able to attend a program like Novi Career Prep Adult Education program. I would like to thank you all for making it possible for me to have this chance to be able to attend a program like Novi Career Prep Adult Education program.

## TESTIMONIALS ~

*Determination, Hard Work & Success*

Thank you and Good Afternoon  
Wednesday – February 15, 2017

ONCE YOU LEARN TO READ, YOU ARE FOREVER FREE.  
— FREDRICK DOUGLASS



**DOMINICAN LITERACY CENTER**

DOMINICAN LITERACY CENTER  
5555 CONNER AVE., SUITE 1414  
DETROIT, MI 48213

My name is Odell Baldwin I am 48 years old. I came to Dominican because I wanted to finish my High School education to help better myself and my family. I dropped out of school when I was in 12<sup>th</sup> grade. I had a baby and I started working to take care of my child. I was in a car accident and couldn't use my arm and lost my CNA certification while I was recovering. When I went to recertify they didn't want to take a chance on me because they didn't want to put patients in danger.

I have a wife who has been a CNA for 20+ years. We have 9 children from 33 years old to 6 years old; 2 boys and 7 girls and one grandson.

I love the environment at DLC. The people are always here to help. They sit down and show you and help you and support you through the good and the bad. And they will not let you quit. I've been working on DLC for a year and a half. I plan to be finished by June. When I started the program I needed Earth Science, Biology, Physical Science, Government, Algebra and US History and Spanish. I've finished Biology, Earth Science, Government and I've been half way through US History.

When I finish I want to go to college to become an RN and maybe be a spokesperson for Dominican. My family encourages me to keep going they help me study. We sit down and all study together. It is a good feeling when I can help my children with their homework.

OVER →

I think the state should continue to support Adult Education programs because it gives them a chance to finish and better their lives and socially, to deal with other people. Dominican brings us together. It helps us to learn and interact with different cultures and we learn how to treat each other. Race, Color, Gender don't matter. Whether you're young or old everybody is a helper one to another.





# Novi Community School District

Career Preparation High School

<http://www.novi.k12.mi.us/ms/>

25345 Taft Road, Novi, Michigan 48374 (248) 449-1717 • Fax (248) 449-1719

Good Morning,

My Name is Robert Schultz, I'm here today to tell about my experience at Novi Career Prep. I'm a 32-year-old without a high school diploma; I decide back in August that it was time for me to go back to school to finish the classes I needed to get my diploma. I was a little nervous at first because it had been so long since I was last in school, but the staff at Novi Career Prep made the transition so easy, from the staff in the office, to the teachers, they all have made it a great experience for me. The teachers are very helpful and knowledgeable in everything they do for the students. I can honestly say that I have learned more in the 6 months attending the Novi Career Prep school than I have in the 3 years that I attended High School. I wanted to come back to school not only to better myself and eventually be able to go out and get a better job later on in life but because I have two kids who I wanted to make proud of me for never giving up on anything in life. I am an example that you are never too old to go back to school, and because of people like you who fund great programs like Novi Career prep I'm able to have this great opportunity to graduate this year. So I would just like to thank you all for making it possible for people like me to have a second chance to be able to attend a program like Novi Career Prep. Adult Education programs provide everyone an opportunity to try again.

Thank you and God Bless

*Developing Each Student's Potential with a World-Class Education*

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Linda M. Cianferra, Coordinator of Alternative, Adult and Continuing Education

[lcianferra@novischools.net](mailto:lcianferra@novischools.net)



Together...educating with excellence, inspiring learners for life.

A+ English Language School

1120 S. Harrison Rd. East Lansing, MI 48823

(517) 337-8353

Fax: (517) 337-3195

February 8, 2017

**Yasmeen Alderhally**

**Okemos Adult Education: A+ English Language School**

I'm Yasmeen Alderhally. I came from Jordan in 2014. I started learning English in A+ English Language School from 2016 to now.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to give you some examples of difficulties I faced while I have no English skills: to communicate with my children's teacher, going to the library, shopping, getting my driver's license, listening to TV news and understanding it, answering phone calls I received at home for something important, and so on and so forth.

Now I am attending the A+ English Language School studying English. I am thinking deeply about continuing my education in LCC or MSU to get my teaching license to become a math teacher as this was what I was in Jordan. I have learned many things including how to communicate with others, how to drive and locate things on a map, information about health and public education. My communication and listening skills have improved greatly.

Education is very important to my family, especially my children. My daughter Salma attends the International Preschool at my school. Since she started she has grown and developed so much.

She began in the preschool when she was two years and a half. At that time she could only speak a few words in Arabic. Now she is able to spell her name (S-A-L-M-A), she knows many letters, and colors (such as white, red, blue). And she can count from 1 to 15. She knows how to ask for a drink of water and when she needs help.

Adult education is very important to me and my family in helping me and my children in the American life. I have learned survival English to make a better family, community and society. Thank you.





# Plainwell Community Schools

Today's Learners Tomorrow's Leaders

## Superintendent

Matthew J.M. Montange

## Administrative Offices

600 School Drive  
Plainwell, MI 49080  
Phone: 269.685.5823  
Fax: 269.685.1108

Special Education  
Phone: 269.685.2095  
Fax: 269.685.1108

## Operations & Transportation

680 School Drive  
Plainwell, MI 49080  
Phone: 269.685.6338  
Fax: 269.685.2018

## Plainwell High School

684 Starr Road  
Plainwell, MI 49080  
Phone: 269.685.9554  
Fax: 269.685.9064

Athletic Department  
Phone: 269.685.2096  
Fax: 269.685.0551

## Plainwell Middle School

720 Brigham Street  
Plainwell, MI 49080  
Phone: 269.685.5813  
Fax: 269.685.2099

## Cooper Elementary

7559 N. 14th Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
Phone: 269.349.2674  
Fax: 269.345.5111

## Gilkey Elementary

707 S. Woodhams Street  
Plainwell, MI 49080  
Phone: 269.685.2424  
Fax: 269.685.9742

## Starr Elementary

601 School Drive  
Plainwell, MI 49080  
Phone: 269.685.5835  
Fax: 269.685.2027

## Community Education

422 Acorn Street  
Plainwell, MI 49080  
Phone: 269.685.9531  
Fax: 269.685.1564

## Adult & Alternative HS

422 Acorn Street  
Plainwell, MI 49080  
Phone: 269.685.1573  
Fax: 269.685.1564

## District Web Site:

[www.plainwellschools.org](http://www.plainwellschools.org)

I'm here today to talk about the adult education program and why it's important to have. Any education program is important and should be fully supported, but adult education is especially important.

It is the adult education program that has given me and others better opportunities in life. I started my adult education endeavors when I was faced with the possibility of having to be the sole provider for my family. I didn't know how I was going to do this since I had no high school education, and in order to get a good job a GED or diploma is needed.

Faced with this situation, I found myself searching for a program to attend. There was nothing for me in my county. I found a program in the county next to mine, but that made attending classes difficult. Eventually, the program expanded and opened a campus in my county, which made attending adult education classes possible for me.

I enrolled in Plainwell Community School's adult education program. I'm back in school to get my diploma even though school was never easy for me. The program that they offer allows me to learn at my own pace, and they have wonderful teachers like Charlie Wynne and Heidi Huizenga.

I'm 4 ½ credits away from graduating. Even though I no longer have to be the sole provider for my family, I am still continuing my education, and I plan to go on to take some college classes. So, please, it is very important for you to keep supporting this program, so other people like me have the opportunity to go back and get their GED or diploma in order to improve their lives a little. Thank you for your time and for this opportunity to speak with you today.

Sincerely,

Colleen DeBres



16888 Trinity, Detroit, MI 48219 (313) 532-8404 [www.sienaliteracy.org](http://www.sienaliteracy.org)

February 9, 2017

Hi, my name is Ms. Patricia Bates.

I have attended Siena in Detroit for the last 5 years. I started reading at a second grade level. I thank God for giving me a second chance to go back and learn. My determination was very strong. To make it, this time, in my life.

The staff at Siena was very helpful and professional. Most of all I would like to thank my tutor, Mr. Peter Dale, for having patience with me for those last 5 years. I know I have a ways to go. If I keep studying hard I will continue to tear down that wall in my life. It reminds me of that little mustard seed when it is sown in the earth. It is smaller than all the seeds that are in the earth, but when it is sown it grows up and becomes greater than all.

The reason the State of Michigan should keep the program open is because of people just like me. It helps us to get to the next level in our lives. We all struggle with something in our lives. My struggle was my education. I'm asking to please keep the program open for people like me to go forward in their education. It's never too late.

For those who are going back to learn I leave this word with you: Keep hope alive and always have faith in God and in yourself. Never let your past define your future.

Thank you,

Ms. Patricia Bates

Effective January 1, 1994, the Internal Revenue Code requires us to acknowledge your contribution in writing and to state that we provided no goods or services in consideration of your gift.

Siena Literacy Center does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, gender, religion, age, or disability in employment or provision of services.







## Troy Continuing Education

N I L E S C E N T E R

201 West Square Lake Road • Troy, Michigan 48098  
(248) 823-5100 • Fax (248) 823-5133

My name is Alix. I came from France with my husband and children last year. We spent one year in Boston for my husband's studies, but then he found a job here in Detroit in October.

I just started going to the ESL program this past January. Last year, I couldn't take English lessons for financial and family reasons. I encountered a lot of difficulties when trying to communicate with the teachers of my children, students' parents, my neighbors, workers at the supermarket, our physician and dentist, and even with the friends of my kids!

With time, I have improved my comprehension and added some vocabulary. I can follow discussions more easily, however it is still difficult for me to speak and to express my thoughts.

I love the program because it's been so helpful in improving my English. It's the perfect place to speak freely, to be corrected, and simply to learn! Our teacher teaches us grammar, vocabulary, comprehension, and pronunciation. These skills are essential for me to feel socially integrated here! For example, since I've started taking this ESL class, I have dared to do volunteering in my children's classes at school, speak more with people, and had an appointment with my dentist, which feels much easier now. Furthermore, the ESL program will allow me to start searching for a job with more confidence in the future.

Finally, I would like to say that I think it's fundamental that the state continues to fund these programs. It has allowed a better and faster social integration for me.



Lapeer County Intermediate School District

**ADULT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

690 North Lake Pleasant Rd Attica, Michigan 48412-9303  
810-664-1124 Fax: 810-724-7600

Taylor O'Connor

Good afternoon, my name is Taylor and I'm very honored to be here to speak about adult education. June of last year, at the ripe old age of 27, I received my High School Diploma from the Lapeer County Intermediate School District. I never intended to graduate high school in my late 20's, then again I never thought I would be a drop out in the first place. I left school before the start of my junior year to get a job and help my family pay the bills.

For a while I tried homeschooling and was able to get through a few credits, but after so long school was put on the back burner and eventually given up on all together. After that, my life seemed to move too fast for me to catch up. I had 2 baby girls, got married, and moved into our first home all by the age of 22. For the next 3 years I stayed home and raised my daughters. Money was tight and as much as I wanted to get a job, the only ones that seemed available to me without a High School Diploma or GED were minimum wage and wouldn't have even covered our child care costs. My life had essentially stalled, and I was frustrated.

I always felt like I was capable of more, and after years of living with the shame and embarrassment of not having graduated High School, I decided to sign up. Going back ended up being one of the best decisions I have ever made. Meeting the other students there and learning their stories was interesting and enriching.

The teachers were caring and encouraging, they not only wanted to see students graduate but to expand their minds, and learn to try harder in all aspects of life. Many of my teachers worked full time at other schools during the day and would still come to night classes and be enthusiastic and patient even though they must have been exhausted. I will always look back and admire and appreciate their dedication.

1.

OVER →

Lapeer County Intermediate School District

**ADULT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

690 North Lake Pleasant Rd Attica, Michigan 48412-9303

810-664-1124 Fax: 810-724-7600

Achieving my Diploma has had an extremely positive impact on my life. I've decided to further my education and pursue a career in public service. I want to make a difference and give back to the community that has given me so much. When I look at my future now it looks a lot brighter, and that's because I was fortunate enough to have access to an adult education program.  
Thank you.





**Washtenaw**  
Community College

**Adult Transitions**  
**GED Pathways Program**

Hello my name is Marisol Warunek. I am a graduate of the Washtenaw Community College (WCC) Adult Transitions GED Pathways Program in Ann Arbor, MI.

I grew up in Southwest Detroit. As a small kid in a rough neighborhood I was subject to bullying that began in elementary school. Over time the bullying caused me to lose interest and fall behind. My teachers did their best to encourage my interest but by the time I reached middle school they were unable to help me deal with the three girls who were harassing me every day. I found myself avoiding school, attending just enough to not be dropped. By the time, I reached the 8<sup>th</sup> grade I was 16 years old and had no hope of being successful in high school. Against my parents' wishes I dropped out with the promise of earning my GED. Like many of my peers' I enrolled in several different GED programs but never managed to finish.

I worked in a series of low paying mostly waitress and clerk jobs for many years. Until a friend saw potential in me and gave me a chance for a great job as a Manager in her music store. We were in business for four years and over that time I also became the music buyer and the bookkeeper. When the recession came, we could no longer afford to stay in business and I found myself unemployed without an education. So, I decided to go back to school to earn my GED and move onto college.

I came to the WCC Adult Transitions GED Pathways Program in the winter of 2011. I was a 35-year-old single mom with an 11-year-old boy who was struggling in school. How could I tell him that working hard and finishing school was important if I had not done it myself? My desire to set a good example for my son was one of the biggest motivations for me to follow through and finish this time.

Walking into the classroom for the first time in over ten years was scary for me. I felt worried that I would be the oldest student in the class and that I would fail. I was pleasantly surprised to discover that there were students of all ages and that I was not the only one who felt that way. The thing that made the biggest difference for me was the faculty and staff in the Adult Transitions program. Everyone from my teacher to the program manager was invested in my success and supported me every step of the way.

I discovered that the test I had been afraid of for so long was not as hard as I thought. I earned my GED with high honors in one semester. It was such a life changing experience to finally conquer that scary GED test. Now I had the confidence to know I could do anything I set my mind to. I was the student speaker at my graduation ceremony. When I transitioned to college I was no longer intimidated and I excelled in all of my classes earning honors in every semester. I graduated from WCC with an Associate's degree in Liberal Arts and am now working on a business degree with WCC and Eastern Michigan University.

In my second semester of college my counselor from the Adult Transitions program called me and asked if I would like to become a mentor for the program. I said yes immediately I could not wait to help other students earn their GED and move on to their next best step like I did. While I was working as a mentor, I was offered a job in the college counseling office. This job afforded me the ability to continue to work on my Associate's degree and care for my teenage son. About a year later a full time position opened up in the Adult Transitions department for an Administrative Assistant/Data Technician. I was excited about



**Washtenaw**  
Community College

**Adult Transitions  
GED Pathways Program**

the opportunity to work once again for a program that makes such a difference in people's lives. I applied and after the interview I was offered the job. I found out that one of the deciding factors in hiring me was my previous commitment to the students in the Adult Transitions program. Now I come to work every day to a job I love, working for the program that changed my life.

Without this program who knows where I would be today. Probably working several low wage jobs still feeling fear and shame that I did not go back to school and finish my education. Instead I have high hopes for my future. My son is now 16 and a junior in High School earning good grades. My goal is to finish my Bachelor's degree at Eastern and then I would like to find a position in my local government or state legislature to help improve the lives of others that may face the same challenges I did.



# DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT

## *Adult Education West Campus*

16164 Asbury Park

Detroit, MI 48235

Principal: Dedria Willis

Phone#: (313) 852-1089 Fax#: (313) 852-1088

My name is Kristian Wynn and I am currently a freshman at Wayne State University. Prior to attending college, I was also a straight A high school student. I was slated to graduate from high school with my peers in 2014 until I was forced to drop out of the Detroit Public Schooling system altogether due to the onset of a mental disorder. Having always planned to attend college and struggling with my mental health, I spent over a year in uncertainty of whether I would ever be able to continue my education again.

It wasn't until the summer of 2015 that I found out about DPS Adult Education West Campus. Eager to get my diploma and with the encouragement of my parents, I applied for the school's High School Completion program where I met my teacher and future education counselor of sorts, Judi Dent. It was with her help that I was able to complete the final credits I needed to graduate by January of 2016, walking across the stage in June of that same year. I can truthfully say that had it not been for my finding my way into this program, I might not have become an Honors student at one of the top research universities in the state.

# DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT

## *Adult Education West Campus*

16164 Asbury Park

Detroit, MI 48235

Principal: Dedria Willis

Phone#: (313) 852-1089 Fax#: (313) 852-1088

Good morning honorable legislators, education committee members, adult education staff and students,

I am truly honored to speak before you today. My name is Jacklyn Perkins and I am 58 years old. I want to let you know how important my school is to me. I enrolled in Adult Education classes at Detroit Public Schools Community District – West Campus about four years ago. These four years have not been easy for me, but with the help of the teachers and staff, I am where I am now.

I stopped attending high school in the tenth grade. I had just found out that I was pregnant, and I was too ashamed to go back to school. I went through most of my life without a high school diploma. I completed a CNA program and became a doctor's assistant. When I went to renew my license, I was told that I needed a high school diploma or GED. That's when I enrolled back in classes.

I started at a seventh grade reading level and a third grade math level. Ms. Fletcher and Ms. Macon got me through the basic math skills. Then, I had Ms. Walters for two years. She drove me like a bus and often made me cry, but she never gave up on me. With her help, I successfully passed three parts of the GED – Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science. That year, I was also inducted into the National Adult Education Honor Society. Mr. Roe has been my math teacher for the last two years. He makes me cry too, but I feel like I'm getting there slowly but surely, and I hope to pass my math test and receive my GED before graduation in June. I can honestly say that it hasn't been easy, but when things got hard, my teachers stepped up and literally held my hand.

I love my school. Everyone is caring and understanding and has the students' best interest in mind. At the end of last year, I had gotten so frustrated and I told Principal Willis that I was done and won't be coming back to school. Ms. Willis said, "Jackie, you only have one subject to pass. You can't quit now. You've come too far. I don't want to hear. it Go to class." I love her for that, and anytime I feel like quitting, I think to myself, "No, Jackie, you have come too far. You can't quit now." My school offers free lunch, bus tickets for students who need transportation, and even free vouchers for testing when you're ready. My school also has a clothing closet. One day I came to school and the weather had changed. My teacher directed me to the clothing closet and helped me pick out a warm coat that fit me. I still wear the coat when the weather gets cold.

I am the only person in my family that doesn't have a high school diploma, and I won't stop until I reach my goal. I must admit that I've thought about quitting too many times, but the teachers and staff of the West Campus didn't let me. They are my inspiration. I have everything that I need to be successful at no cost to me. I know that there are many people in the city that are in a similar situation as me, and I know that they would benefit from this program.

Thank you for letting me share my story. I am grateful to have this opportunity to further my education and create a better future for myself. I have seen so many students and people from my community benefit from this adult education program, and I hope that this program will continue to be funded.





## Troy Continuing Education

N I L E S   C E N T E R

201 West Square Lake Road • Troy, Michigan 48098  
(248) 823-5100 • Fax (248) 823-5133

My name is Rafael. I'm 34 years old, and I'm from Brazil. I've been in the US since last October when I received an offer of employment from the same company I worked for in South America, and today I'm going to share with you how ESL classes have made an impact on my day to day life.

Moving to another country is not the easiest decision to make, especially when you are married and your wife cannot even order a meal or go to the supermarket alone. Nonetheless, we have accepted this new challenge believing it would be a remarkable opportunity for us as a couple, and in a professional sense, as well. Everybody knows how important it is to know how to speak English!

As soon as we arrived in Michigan, we started looking for good English schools for the two of us, focusing on vocabulary and accent for me and English basics for her. We heard about several good options from some friends. ESL classes for foreigners are a must! This is not my first time taking English classes abroad. I was in Canada in 2012 for a month. It was a great experience, however, I spent a lot of money and did not learn that much considering the tight schedule and the routine and focus of those English classes. But, I'm not here to say who is better than who. My wife and I decided to take English classes at Troy Continuing Education, and we are so glad to be a part of this new family. I'm really impressed with how the program can make people committed and excited about coming to class. You know, it isn't easy going to school after a busy day at work. We are often exhausted being "forced" to speak a foreign language, like my wife does twice a week and I do on a daily basis. It can be very frustrating when you try to express your thoughts by yourself but can't do it accurately in a new language. It's so important to learn formal English, but it's also necessary to speak informal English in casual settings. We watch TV shows and movies and hear informal English every single place we visit, and that's exactly what I'm learning at school. We learn English for daily situations and for professional uses. I've seen improvement in my speech day after day!

In summary, one of the things I like most about our ESL class is the synergy between us. It doesn't matter which country you are coming from. When we do group exercises, you learn how to socialize, and it's a really good thing. You can practice your listening, writing and vocabulary, considering that everybody in your class is learning English as a **Second Language**.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my experience!



ADULT EDUCATION

2/15/2017

77 Capital Avenue NE - Battle Creek MI 49017  
Tel. 269-965-9514 Fax 269-965-9545

Good Morning,

Thank you for having me and everyone else here today.

My name is Miriam Vilchis and I am a wife and mother of two girls ages 9 and 14. I was unable to finish my middle school education in Mexico. Thanks to the Battle Creek Public Schools Adult Education Program I have the opportunity to follow my dream of getting my GED, going to college and becoming an Early Childhood Education Teacher. Being a teacher is important to me because I want to make a difference in my community. I want to get books into the hands of young children and teach their families that reading is important. I also want to be an example for my friends and other women from the Mexican culture. I can show them that there is value to women having an education. Women need to know that they can do whatever they set their minds to.

The Adult Education Program is the best opportunity I can have to reaching my dream. The teaching staff is most important. My teacher has made the difference for me; it's because of her that I decided this is my year. She is flexible with my schedule, teaches me in different ways until I understand, and she is always encouraging. It is good that the program and books are free; it makes it possible for me to attend school without putting a financial burden on my family.

Anyone in the community can come to the Adult Education Program. As long as you want to get an education – you can do it, especially with help from the Adult Education Program staff.

Thank you.



Good Morning **ASHERSCHOOL**  
SOUTHGATE, MICHIGAN

I would like to start off by thanking all of you for allowing me to be here today to speak about the importance of adult education and the impact it has had on my life.

My name is Samantha Neubacher and I am a 24 year old student at Asher Alternative High School in Southgate. Going back to being a teenager, I loved school. I had friends, I played sports, and my grades were good. It wasn't until high school when I started to decline academically. I had a hard time paying attention. I was never completely focused while in class. I began getting awful migraines that left me sick in bed, not being able to make it to class some days. I was confused how I ended up this way, while all of my friends were enjoying their high school years, I was miserably hating mine. I became so behind in school, I was told I wouldn't be graduating with my class in 2011. I was devastated; I became awfully depressed and eventually I stopped going to school.

Shortly after I stopped attending school, I became sicker. The migraines continued and I started having seizures, later finding out I have a rare brain disease called MoyaMoya. MoyaMoya is a cerebrovascular disease. It constricts the blood vessels making blood flow to your brain minimal. It all started making sense to my family, why I was getting the migraines, seizures, and the reason for my lack of attention and downfall in school. After finding my diagnosis, I tried 2 more times at getting my diploma, but I still wasn't able to pay attention and grasp

West Bloomfield School District

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# Community Education Department

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Office of Adult Education

WEST BLOOMFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NATIONAL EXEMPLARY SCHOOLS



Family Speak Letters

February 15, 2017

Soraya Dalloo (Brazil)      ESL Student

West Bloomfield ESL programs give students a way of connecting to American life. I've been here (at West Bloomfield ESL) for almost two semesters and my English is getting much better. I am learning many different expressions, idioms and words.

My communication and my capacity of understanding is improving, and I have made friends. I feel more confidence each day. I am studying for my medical exams and, because of the English classes I have been taking, it is much easier for me to communicate with and understand American people and people of different countries.

**ADULT EDUCATION OFFICE**

7071 Orchard Lake Road, Suite 100 • West Bloomfield, MI 48322 • Telephone (248) 539-2390 • Fax (248) 539-2398



West Bloomfield School District  
**Community Education Department**  
Office of Adult Education

WEST BLOOMFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NATIONAL EXEMPLARY SCHOOLS



Family Speak Letters

February 15, 2017

Wei Lu (aka David) (China) ESL Student

West Bloomfield ESL classes are important for new immigrants. The school shows hospitality and welcomes us. Learning English will help us and our children see success. We learn about U.S. culture and traditions like holidays, customs and history. We also learn about current events, politics and news. With better English, we learn how to do better in our work.

ESL classes help us prepare to pass the citizenship test so that we can be citizens who are a positive contribution to the community. ESL helps us express our ideas of our culture so we can avoid cultural conflicts or misunderstandings as we learn to live in the U.S.

**ADULT EDUCATION OFFICE**

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February 9, 2017

Hi, my name is Angela Wilson.

I have a story about how I desired to go back to school. It had been on my mind for a long time but I did not know how to make that decision for myself. I had kids at a young age, got married and that was my life. Time was hard with no education, but I did all I could to keep my head on straight. People did not see how unhappy I was, but I kept going and doing my best for my family. I did not know how to read or spell. Today I'm doing so much better. My girlfriend told me about Siena Literacy Center. The best information someone gave me in a long time. I'm so happy to be a part of that school. I have an opportunity to work with the best teacher as my tutor. I can tell you how lucky and humbled I am. I'm so happy to be a part of a great school.

This school has:

1. Provided me and other students with opportunities to better our lives with an education.
2. Many good teachers who are patient and nice to help each individual at their own pace.
3. Opened so many doors for myself and other people to believe in ourselves; so we can continue our education at any age.

I believe this school should not be closed because it is such a great opportunity for many people in the community and surrounding areas to help with success in their lives.

There are so many places that need to be closed, but this building— my school—doesn't need to be because it gives me and other people a second chance.

Thank you,

Ms. Angela Wilson

Effective January 1, 1994, the Internal Revenue Code requires us to acknowledge your contribution in writing and to state that we provided no goods or services in consideration of your gift.

Siena Literacy Center does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, gender, religion, age, or disability in employment or provision of services.







# **Novi Community School District**

**Career Preparation High School**

<http://www.novi.k12.mi.us/ms/>

25345 Taft Road, Novi, Michigan 48374 (248) 449-1717 • Fax (248) 449-1719

Hello, my name is Debra Malette,

I would like to take a moment to say "thank you" for this opportunity to share my story with all of you here today.

I am currently enrolled in Novi Adult Education, located in Novi. I spent many years feeling like a failure for not having my high school diploma, worse yet because I did not have a college education. I was told about Novi Adult Education through a friend of mine; his daughter had graduated from Novi Adult education. He knew I wanted to go back to school and gave me the push I needed to start my journey.

Life is not easy on any of us, it is all about how we handle what comes our way. I left formal education when I was younger to help supplement my family's income after my parents were laid off from work. There were six siblings in the house and I was the oldest. I couldn't let my younger siblings go without a Christmas or school supplies. Once I had left school, I tried a few years later to do the pay for school stuff you see on TV, but working full time and trying to do that became expensive, so I had to stop.

Few years later I had my son. He sure was a very cute baby. By the time he was three he was diagnosed with autism. I have spent considerable time helping him with his school and provide all the home support that I can.

I am very grateful for this program and the ability to finally get my diploma. Programs like this should be available to everyone, young or older like myself. Adult Education programs provide an avenue for adult's to be more than they thought they could be. These programs allow individuals to change past mistakes, resulting in a brighter future with endless opportunities.

I came back to school for myself, but now I realize I am also here to represent all those people who felt like they couldn't or that they are too old to come back and finish my high school curriculum to obtain my high school diploma.

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*Developing Each Student's Potential with a World-Class Education*

**Linda M. Cianferra, Coordinator of Alternative, Adult and Continuing Education**

[lcianferra@novischools.net](mailto:lcianferra@novischools.net)





Director: Mary Murphy

Hello, my name is Deonte' Long. I am a twenty-two year old student, originally from Detroit, MI and now living in Mount Pleasant. Today I will be sharing with you my journey as a non-traditional student as well as the goals I have set for myself when I become a college student.

As a young student I was not completely aware of how important it was to stay on track and take care of business in school. My transition from middle school to high school was nothing as I imagined it would be. In middle school I enjoyed being in school and I received a 4.0 on a report card and a 3.8 on another my last year in junior high school. The capacity of my high school was about seven times the size of my middle school and I soon found out that the pace of learning was much faster as well. Every time I thought that I had adapted to the environment something new came along that unbalanced me as a student.

I continued to struggle with assignments and with my attendance throughout most of my high school years and never made any academic achievements. I even stopped playing football my sophomore year because I was distracted by my social life instead of focusing on my education and extra-curricular activities. I promised myself to never make that mistake again and I realize now that being active in school and after school is a big part of becoming successful in class and it will affect a student's grade level.

My goal when I become a college student this fall is to be extremely active in class and when it comes to putting that work in my assignments, to achieve better grades. I feel that in order for me to never get distracted on the social aspect of school, I need to surround myself with students who have same desire to graduate at the top of their class. I feel that my friends should be beneficial to me instead of being a distraction in my life. Especially since we're all going to college to further our education, I feel that I should have friends around me that can support me in earning a bachelor's in mechanical engineering.

At the moment I attend Mount Pleasant Community and Adult Education in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. I would like to thank that school very much and the agencies who fund that school. I moved to Mount Pleasant from Detroit in September 2016. When I arrived it only took me a week before I was fully enrolled in Mount Pleasant Community Education. The much needed assistance the school gave me put me on the path I needed to be on in order to graduate with my diploma any this June.

#### Public Schools Working for You

3480 S. Isabella Rd., Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858 Phone: (989)775-2370 Fax: (989)775-2374  
Michigan Relay Center: 1-800-649-3777 Voice & TDD

Mt. Pleasant Community Education is an equal opportunity organization. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request of persons with disabilities.





Director: Mary Murphy

Seeing that I had absolutely no money to my name the first month after I moved to Mount Pleasant the support I received from family and my school was enough to get me through that month. That program offered food, a safe learning environment, friendly and very smart teachers to work with and most importantly for me, the teachers are available twelve hours a day four days a week, making it easier to go to school even after I got a job. This is why it is important for our schools to continue to get funded, so that more non-traditional students like me can put their selves in a position to graduate and receive a diploma or GED. This makes it a lot easier to find a job and work around your school schedule having day and night school.

In the long run, this has become a very important year for me. I will be graduating in June this year. I have applied to Mid Michigan Community College for Fall 2017 and I plan on studying math, science, and graphic design. Five years from now my goal is to have my bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, associates degree in graphic design and I have a deep desire to become a mathematician. So please wish me success on all my ventures. Once again, my name is Deonte' Long. Thanks for having me and may God Bless.

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