COABE Welcomes 2023 State Advocates for Adult Education Fellows

Washington, DC, March 2023—The Coalition on Adult Basic Education’s State Advocacy Fellowship focuses on the development of leadership, advocacy skills, research capacity, and network of influence for adult educators, educational staff, and/or administrators. The purpose of this fellowship is to help build a robust network of leaders and advocates focused on the advancement of adult literacy across the country.

During the part-time, year-long fellowship, fellows will engage in national and regional policy discussions and join a growing number of peers dedicated to building advocacy. The COABE State Advocacy Fellowship comprises a series of federal- and state-related training sessions focused on building advocacy and leadership skills.

“This program has proven success increasing funding and visibility at the state level”, said Sharon Bonney, Chief Executive Officer for the Coalition on Adult Basic Education. Bonney cited the recent Collective Impact Report that was published by COABE noting the outstanding accomplishments of the Fellowship.

“I am thrilled for the 2023 SAAEF Fellows as they spend the next year learning how to become better advocates for adult education across the country and better leaders, with the ultimate goal of providing the best adult education systems for our students. We are mindful that legislators do not make policy, the stories of our students and our teachers do,” says Jeffrey Abramowitz, Chair of the SAAEF Fellowship Program.

Special thanks to program sponsor, Essential Education, for supporting this effort.

Congratulations to the 2023 Fellows who have been selected for the State Advocate for Adult Education Fellowship (listed on next page).

For more information about the SAAEF program, visit https://coabe.org/legislative-center/state-advocates-for-adult-education-fellowship/.

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About COABE

COABE’s mission is to inspire educators so adults succeed and communities thrive. The Coalition on Adult Basic Education exists to provide leadership, communication, professional development, and advocacy for adult education and literacy practitioners to advance quality services for all adult learners. COABE represents the field of 79,000 adult educators and provides a variety of services, including professional development through annual, state-of-the-art national conferences, more than 50 webinars annually, and a peer-reviewed journal. Learn more at COABE.org.
2023 State Advocates for Adult Education Fellows

**Alabama**
Stuart Lee
Alabama Association for Public Continuing and Adult Education

**Arizona**
Ana Bedoya
Pima Community College / Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning

**Arkansas**
Wakesha Clay-Williams
Arkansas State University Mid-South Adult Education Center

**California**
Philip Villamor
Huntington Beach Adult School

**Colorado**
Traci Cullins-Clark
The Learning Source

**Connecticut**
Christine Valdez
Middletown Adult Education

**Delaware**
Joyce Warrington
Organization of Adult Alumni & Students in Service

**District Of Columbia**
Luis Chavez
The Family Place Public Charter School

**Florida**
Miranda Cole
Gadsden Technical College

**Georgia**
Debra Tavaras
Atlanta Public Schools

**Idaho**
Sarah Strickley
College of Western Idaho

**Illinois**
Heather Martin
Elgin Community College
Indiana
Daniela Mancusi-Shreve
Center of Workforce Innovations

Iowa
Abby Zegers
Des Moines Area Community College

Kansas
Karen Ulanski-Swank
Paola Adult Education Center

Kentucky
Dustin Grooms
Maysville Community & Technical College Adult Education

Maine
Cassidy Christine Marsh
Maine School Administrative District #54

Massachusetts
Darla Lamanna
Northern Essex Community College

Michigan
Marisol Adelmann
Michigan Association of Community and Adult Education

Minnesota
Anton Jones
Literacy Minnesota

Mississippi
Chelia Thompson
Holmes Community College

Missouri
Dana Downs-Kuritz
Independence School District

New Hampshire
Tammy Gluck
Exeter Adult Education

New Mexico
LD Lovett
The University of New Mexico - Gallup

New York
Karen Dispo-De Boos
Literacy Volunteers of Clinton, Essex, and Franklin Counties
North Carolina
Nicole Worley
Richmond Community College

Ohio
Cori Lupton
Cuyahoga Community College - Ohio Options

Oklahoma
Beth Williams
Essential Education

Oregon
Genevieve Halkett
Chemeketa Community College

Rhode Island
Bonnie Taylor
Genesis Center

South Carolina
Donna Hill
Newberry Adult Education and Continuing Education

Tennessee
Synnamon Taylor
HopeWorks

Texas
Marissa Teager
Austin Community College

Utah
Robert Prince
Garfield County Adult Education

Vermont
Karen Harker
Vermont Adult Learning

Virginia
Marilyn Macdonald
Virginia Association for Adult and Continuing Education

Washington
Kerry Urquizo
Centralia College

West Virginia
Lucy Lester
Southern Educational Services Cooperative
Wyoming
Michelle Smith
Laramie County Community College

Thomas Lear
Laramie County Community College