

Adult and Family Literacy Today

September 22, 2021

Updates on adult and family literacy research, policy, and practice.

Welcome to Goodling/ISAL!

To celebrate [2021 National AEFL Week](#), the [Institute for the Study of Adult Literacy \(ISAL\)](#) and the [Goodling Institute for Research in Family Literacy \(GI\)](#) are launching a bimonthly newsletter. Within this newsletter, we will share work we are doing at the Institutes, including national and international work on adult and family literacy.

Together ISAL and GI strive to advance adult education and family literacy through our joint mission of promoting the nexus between research and practice to inform the field, guide legislation and policy development, and contribute to academic scholarship. Our work encompasses family, workplace, health, and digital literacy; coalition building; distance education; volunteer tutoring; and direct service. We look forward to sharing our work with you and hope that you will share yours with us!

Institute Updates

ISAL and Goodling win Honoree Award for Library of Congress Literacy Award

LITERACY AWARDS
LIBRARY
OF CONGRESS

ISAL was recently selected as a [2021 Library of Congress Literacy Awards Program Honoree](#) for our "highly successful practices in literacy promotion." These awards recognize the need for the international community to unite in achieving universal literacy and honor national and international organizations who have advanced literacy and enabled people to survive and thrive in the world. The award specifically recognizes the Institute's development of successful workplace training and literacy initiatives.



Co-

Director, Dr. Esther Prins, invited to write international blog for UNESCO

Dr. Esther Prins, Co-Director of ISAL and GI, was recently invited by the UNESCO Lifelong Learning Institute to write a blog post on closing the digital divide in honor of International Literacy Day (September 8).

Her blog post is entitled "[Closing the digital divide: It's about more than access.](#)"



Workforce Development Specialist, Chrissie Klinger, presents work on reentry partnerships

Chrissie Klinger, a Certified Offender Workforce Development Specialist in ISAL, will present a session entitled "Building and Maintaining Strong Reentry Partnerships" at the [Region 1 Corrections Education Conference](#) on September 30th. In the session, she will share the work she has been doing across the state with adult education providers and partners to help individuals increase their education levels and find viable career pathway options after incarceration.

Recent Publications

Practitioner's Guide on the COVID-19 Slide

Dr. Beth McLean and Dr. Carol Clymer recently published a Practitioner's Guide entitled "[What we learned yesterday will guide us today: How family literacy programs can address the COVID-19 slide.](#)" This new guide explores how family literacy programs can support families as they combat the long-term consequences of the COVID-19 slide (like the summer slide) on children's learning. The COVID-19 pandemic quickly demonstrated the critical role that family literacy programs need to play to support the educational attainment of at-risk adults and children.

Affordances of Video in a Family Literacy Program for Incarcerated Fathers

Dr. Tabitha Stickel, Dr. Esther Prins, and Dr. Anna Kaiper-Marquez recently published an article in the *Learning, Media, and Technology* journal entitled "'The video is an upgrade from them all': How incarcerated fathers view the affordances of video in a family literacy programme." The article explores the Read to your Child Program, a program for incarcerated parents to connect with their child through reading, and centers on the benefits of using video in this type of FL program.

Announcements



Carol Bailey joins our staff as the Director of Direct Services

Carol Bailey comes to Penn State University with over 25 years of experience in education, three years of those years as the Director of Adult Education for the Florida Department of Education. She has been leading the way in IET program development in Florida and has collaborated with many experts to provide professional development opportunities to administrators and teachers. She hopes to bring these experiences to Penn State to support adult education and family literacy.



**Alexis Cherewka joins our staff as a
Graduate Assistant**

Alexis Cherewka is a PhD candidate in adult education and comparative and international education. Her research explores educators' roles and experiences in adult literacy and language education policy, digital equity and digital literacy, and international adult literacy campaigns. Prior to starting her studies, she taught English for speakers of other languages in higher education and adult education contexts in Burkina Faso, Germany, and in the U.S.



**Isaiah Zukowski joins our staff as a
Graduate Assistant**

Isaiah Zukowski is a 2nd year PhD student in the lifelong learning and adult education program at the Pennsylvania State University. He has previously worked as a GED teacher in North Philadelphia for youth ages 17-24, as an LGBT Supportive Service Coordinator in Allentown for adults programs, and as a Fulbright Scholar based at UPTC in Tunja, Colombia.

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