

Adult and Family Literacy Today

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

Institute Updates

ISAL Collaborates in an International Workshop on Language Basic Education for Adults in the U.S. and Germany



ISAL recently collaborated with [The German Institute for Adult Education- Leibniz Centre for Lifelong Learning \(DIE\)](#); [The Department of Educational and Social Science at the University of Cologne](#); and the [Adult Literacy Research Center](#) in the College of Education and Human Development at Georgia State University to co-host a two-day research workshop on language basic education for adults in the United States and in Germany.

The workshops explored current research interests and challenges in studies carried out in both countries. Twelve research sessions took place related to the effectiveness of learning in ABE programs, ABE policies in the classroom and in larger organizations, teacher-learner interactions, the appropriateness of text for low-level adult learners, and the role of differing identities in adult learning. ISAL's Associate Director, Anna Kaiper-Marquez, presented her research on English language literacy for South African domestic workers in a presentation entitled [Interstitial Glimpses: The Linguistic Agency/Oppression of South African Domestic Workers](#).

Researchers agreed that while there are many differences in adult education cross-culturally, there are also numerous similarities in issues of research, policy, and practice in both countries. This workshop has led to burgeoning possibilities for future cross-cultural collaborations to expand research on adult basic education and literacy in global contexts.

Career and Family Pathways Success Story!



We are so proud of Meryem Kurt, an English language student of instructors Lisa and Emily in our Career and Family Pathways programs, who, along with her husband, recently opened an international food store in State College, PA.

Meryem, mother of three, moved with her family from Turkey to the United States in 2019. She began taking classes with Career and Family Pathways to build her English language skills and support her children with their education. While living in State College, Meryem and her husband, Mehmet, realized there were many people in Centre County who were interested in international foods, but few places to buy these foods. During the summer of 2021, they started their own business—an international grocery store that specializes in Mediterranean foods. The store also has fresh fish and halal meats; Meryem even bakes Turkish pastries (which are delicious) to sell.

The grocery store, Global Foods, has been opened for less than a year, but it is becoming a staple of the State College community! Meryem now uses her English skills every day and enjoys talking with her customers. Check out their website here: [Global Foods-Mediterranean Grocery](#)

ISAL and Goodling Faculty Present at the Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE) Conference

ISAL and Goodling faculty made five presentations at the COABE conference in Seattle on April 17th through the 20th. ISAL and Goodling Co-Director, Carol Clymer, offered a pre-conference workshop, [Down and Dirty: Contextualizing Instruction for Integrated Education and Training \(IET\)](#), which provided hands-on activities to help instructors plan and develop contextualized basic skills, English language learning, and workforce preparation activities to support occupational skills development in the IET. Clymer also co-presented a session, [Using WIOA Title II and Other Funding to Support Family Literacy](#), with Goodling's Assistant Teaching Professor, Elisabeth McLean, and Elizabeth Severson-Irby, (Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center). This session examined how states are using their WIOA Title-II funding and other resources for family literacy programming. McLean and Clymer presented another session, [Using Family Literacy Programs to Combat the COVID-19 Slide](#). This session provided strategies on how to support adults as they continue to navigate their children's and their own learning in a digital world. Additionally, Assistant Teaching Professor, KayLynn Hamilton (ISAL) was included in a team that offered two COABE sessions. *Designing IET Programs: Train-the-Trainer*, a full-day pre-conference workshop, provided participants with training materials developed through the US Department of Education Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE) three-year IET Design Camp project. Hamilton has served as a subject matter expert throughout the project. This team also presented another session focusing on the work of the OCTAE project. The *Designing IET Programs: The Single Set of Learning Objectives* session focused on the single set of learning objectives, a required element of IET programs.



*Photo above is from the [Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum in Seattle](#)

Program Resources



Summer Programming Resources for Family Literacy Programs

Often, K-12 students return to school after summer break, they go through the "summer slide," or a loss of literacy and math skills that takes several months to redevelop. A recent study ([Atteberry & McEachlin, 2020](#)) found that the average student lost up to 34% of the prior year's learning gain during the summer months. Providing family literacy programming throughout the summer is a great way to prevent "summer slide".

Family Literacy programs implementing summer programming can...

- Help children and adults practice their language and literacy skills
- Provide resources and learning opportunities
- Encourage families to read books during the summer
- Promote reading and writing something every day
- Use everyday activities to practice skills

Goodling has developed a [resource guide of summer programming resources for family literacy programs](#) that can be used to combat the summer slide and promote the growth of literacy and numeracy skills year round!

Announcements



Goodling and ISAL Offer Summer 2022 Courses in Family Literacy and Adult Basic Education

Goodling and ISAL collaborate with Penn State World Campus to provide [Family Literacy Certificates](#) and [Adult Basic Education \(ABE\) Certificates](#). You can use credits toward master's degree programs and other certificates while learning high-quality, research-based knowledge about family literacy and ABE. Goodling also offers [scholarships](#) for those working toward their Family Literacy Certificate!

Summer Courses connected to the certificates include:

- ADTED 457: Adult Literacy
- ADTED 460: Introduction to Adult Education
- ADTED 470: Introduction to Distance Education
- ADTED 506: Program Planning in Adult Education
- ADTED 531: Course Design and Development in Distance Education

Robert Getz Joins Our Team as the Director of Direct Service

Rob Getz recently joined the ISAL/Goodling team as Director of the Career and Family Pathways programs. Rob started in education as a para-professional in a construction trades special needs classroom for the Central Intermediate Unit # 10 (CIU10) (which eventually was implemented by the Keystone Central School District, KCSD). During that time, he enrolled in the Workforce Education program at Penn State University where he earned his teacher's certification. He then taught Construction Trades at KCSD and later became the Adult

Education Supervisor. He left KCSD to work for Penn State and while employed there, earned his director's certification. After leaving Penn State, he became supervisor for Step Inc's Youth Build Program in Williamsport and worked with young adults who were trying to earn their Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma. He later became the Project Facilitator for the Development Center for Adults in Lock Haven. He has an Associate's Degree from the State University of New York, and a Bachelor's Degree from Penn State University. He is also a graduate of Leadership Clinton County and in 2008, was awarded the Joseph B. Whitehead Educator of Distinction Award for Exemplary Dedication to the Field of Education. He is a proud father of three and grandfather of two.



[Institute for the Study of Adult Literacy | Website](#)

[Goodling Institute for Research in Family Literacy | Website](#)

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