

Adult and Family Literacy Today

Volume 5: June 14, 2022

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

Institute Updates

Family Literacy Certificate Students Create Early Math and Language Initiative

In the summer of 2020, Mary Goodie and Jayashree (Jay) Sonti crossed paths in [the Family Literacy Certificate](#) program through the Goodling Institute for Research in Family Literacy. Mary worked as a Family Literacy Coordinator for a nonprofit-school partnership at the time, and Jay, retired from Penn State's Office of Investment Management, had founded an early learning math program for families visiting Café of Life soup kitchen in Florida. Soon the two realized they not only shared a strong belief in the predictive power of early learning on later academic success, but they also shared a deep desire to help families from under-resourced communities.



Within a year's time, Jay and Mary joined forces to create the Early Math and Language Initiative (EMLI), a Maine-based nonprofit. EMLI is an attempt to mitigate social, cultural, and economic barriers and to prepare children for the academic rigors in later years. EMLI's flagship program, the Kindergarten Mathematics Readiness Program (KMRP), pilots in Head Start classrooms this fall. Jay and Mary credit the Goodling Institute's Family Literacy Certificate program for providing a firm foundation for their current work, particularly for using research to inform practice.

More information on EMLI can be found here: <https://www.emlius.org/>

Family Pathways Student Success Story!

Expelled from high school two months before graduation, Sierra Myers found a job and successfully worked her way up the career ladder over the next 10 years. She did not feel that it was necessary to finish her education since she was so accomplished. However, life has a way of changing things!

Sierra, a mother of 2 children, enrolled in the Family Pathways program in Williamsport in March, 2022. She was a model of consistent attendance and participation in class. Despite being out of school for 18 years, Sierra quickly recalled subject content and was motivated to earn



her high school equivalency diploma. She was able to obtain her HiSET® diploma by the middle of April. Further, Sierra, was enthusiastic and particularly enjoyed the parent education component of the Family Pathways program.

Sierra is currently employed full time at Brodart in the Customer Care Department. She is training to move into the department lead position. She is also starting classes in August at Pennsylvania College of Technology to earn a bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

She gives the following advice: "DO NOT GIVE UP, no matter how hard it may seem, there are resources available, just ask! They WILL NOT give up on you, but you can't give up on you either!!!"

ISAL's Workforce Development System Liaison Project Team Present Online Trainings on Workforce Development

KayLynn Hamilton and Chrissie Klinger, with the Pennsylvania Department of Education, (PDE) Division of Adult Education, Workforce Development System Liaison Project, attended the Pennsylvania Workforce Development Association Conference from May 4 to 6, 2022 in Hershey, PA. Hamilton and Klinger shared information and materials related to the statewide online workforce staff training courses offered on workforcestafftraining.com. The online trainings were developed through a partnership between the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry. Hamilton and Chrissie, along with other experienced staff from all four WIOA title programs, contributed to the content development of the first course, *Introduction to the PA CareerLink® System*.



Hamilton, with Shirley Moy of Temple University, also presented a session at the conference entitled "*Integrated Education and Training (IET): A Career Pathways Workforce Development Strategy.*"

ISAL/Goodling Staff and Faculty Present Work at PAACE



Chrissie Klinger, Michael McCarty, Steve Linnes, Beth McLean, and Anna Kaiper-Marquez presented their work at the [2022 Pennsylvania Association for Adult Continuing Education Conference \(PAACE\)](https://www.paace.org/conference) in Harrisburg from May 15 to 17. Klinger, in "*Building a Better Workforce by Improving Adult Learner's Self-management and Self-care Skills*," presented self-management and self-care strategies for Adult Learners. McCarty and Linnes, presented "*eData Access Template: Performance Reports in Depth*" which centered on efficiently using the eData Access Template. McLean described various tools to implement Interactive Literacy Activities (ILAs) in family literacy programs with her presentation, "*Interactive Literacy Activities: Making Learning Fun.*" Finally, Kaiper-Marquez presented "*Emerging Equity in ABE/FL Classrooms*" that explored negative effects of deficit-based approaches to adult basic education and family literacy programs and suggested asset-based teaching and learning approaches to address deficit frameworks.

ISAL Faculty Presents at National Association of Workforce Development Professionals

KayLynn Hamilton participated in the 2022 National Association of Workforce Development Professionals in Las Vegas, NV on May 16-18,



2022. Hamilton presented an informational session, “Integrated Education and Training (IET): A Career Pathways Workforce Development Strategy”. This session provided attendees with information about the intersection of adult education with the rest of the workforce development system and how IET strategies can move forward the integration of these services

Announcements

Goodling and ISAL Offer Online Family Literacy and Adult Basic Education Certificates for Fall 2022

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!

[Click Here](#) for more information on the classes offered for Fall 2022!



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

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