

Adult and Family Literacy Today

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

Institute Updates

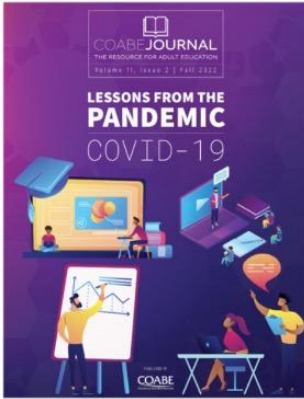
Goodling Institute Awarded an Institute for Museum and Library Services Grant



Family Place Libraries™ (FPL), Smithsonian Institution's Office of Education Technology (OET), and the Goodling Institute for Research in Family Literacy have been awarded an Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant. This two-year project, entitled "[Enriching Library Family Programming Using the Smithsonian Institution's Talk with Me Toolkits](#)," is focused on adapting, evaluating, and disseminating the Smithsonian OET's free, online Talk with Me Toolkits (TMTs) for use in libraries' family literacy and engagement efforts. The project will ensure Family Place Libraries in Hillsboro TX; Cuyahoga County, OH; Centereach, NY; and York, PA are successfully using the TMTs to help diverse families access and use digital resources. It will also help librarians learn how to build their own TMT collections for use in family literacy programming. The Goodling Institute will lead the evaluation and help adapt the TMTs. Project staff include Carol Clymer, Co-Director for ISAL/GI; Elisabeth McLean, Assistant Teaching Professor for ISAL/GI; Esther Prins, Co-Director for ISAL/GI and Professor in the Lifelong Learning and Adult Education Program; Heather Toomey-Zimmerman, Professor of Education in Learning, Design, and Technology Program; Kristen Todd-Wurm, National Coordinator for FPL; and Darren Milligan, Acting Director of the Smithsonian OET.

COABE Journal Article on "Lessons from the Pandemic" Recently Published

Carol Clymer, Anna Kaiper-Marquez, and Elisabeth McLean recently published an article for the Fall 2022 Edition of the COABE Journal, "[Lessons from the Pandemic](#)." Their article, entitled "Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Family Literacy Programs in Philadelphia: Lessons from a Multi-Year Evaluation," outlines the Goodling Institute's findings from a William Penn Foundation-funded evaluation of five family literacy programs in Philadelphia. The article is based on qualitative evaluation findings from



2019 to 2021 and details the creative ways programs implemented remote instruction during the pandemic to continue providing family literacy services to families. It describes how communication between instructors and families changed; and highlights the increased focus on technology needs of programs and learners, internet access and digital literacy challenges of families, and mental health concerns that emerged during this unprecedented time. The difficulties that programs, instructors, and families faced, and the innovative ways they were handled by family literacy programs, are also featured.

Lee and Kaiper-Marquez Present at 2023 CIES Conference



Jungeun Lee, Assistant Teaching Professor for Goodling/ISAL, and Anna Kaiper-Marquez, Associate Director of Goodling/ISAL, will present at the [2023 Comparative and International Education Society Conference \(CIES\)](#) in February 2023. The conference, taking place in Washington D.C., brings together educators and researchers from around the world to discuss ways to improve education globally.

Lee's presentation, "The Determinants of Participation in Lifelong Learning Activities Among Older Korean Adults," draws from the 2020 National Survey of Older Koreans to examine participation of lifelong learning activities (LLL) among Korean adults over 65 years of age. Lee finds that while about half of older adults have no interest in LLL participation, the other half have participated in LLL or wish to do so. Further, through her data analysis, she finds that while health is a factor in participation, gender, age, and higher education attainment level are not significant predictors for older adults' LLL.

Kaiper-Marquez's presentation, "Language and the Global South/s," stems from her recently published co-edited handbook entitled "[The Routledge Handbook of Language and the Global South/s.](#)" Both the handbook and this presentation explore the intersections of literacy, language, and education in globally South settings. Drawing on issues of decolonization and global language scholarship, the presentation takes a focused look at language in nonformal, informal, and formal education settings and highlights the necessity of decolonial theories in adult education.

Success for a Career Pathways English Language Learner

When Karo Chacon arrived in State College in January 2022, she spoke very little English and felt isolated. Karo came to the area to work as a nanny, and the mother of the children she cared for referred her to our Career Pathways English as a Second Language program. Karo worked hard, accruing over 230 hours of instruction, and met her goal of feeling confident speaking English and making new friends. "The first month was super hard. I didn't understand. People spoke so fast. With the class, I got better at speaking." The cold Pennsylvania weather started to wear on this Colombia native who wore snow pants to class, so she began searching for employment in warmer states. We wish Karo the best of luck in her new job in Dallas, Texas – where the snow pants will not be needed.



Career and Family Pathways Welcomes Two New Staff Members



Sarah Swartz recently joined our team as an Education Specialist for Career and Family Pathways and teaches Advanced ESL and GED® classes in Centre County. She has over ten years of experience in public schools, where she taught Kindergarten, 4th grade English Language Arts, and 5th grade. Most recently, she was a school district librarian. She is very excited to transition to adult education. Sarah received her B.A. in Communications at Susquehanna University in 2005 and completed her Teacher Intern Program in 2011. When she is not teaching, you will find her gardening, working on crafts, or taking walks with her husband and their Weimaraners, Leisl and Jasper.



Shannon Frey, who joined our team as Tutor Coordinator for Career and Family Pathways, coordinates the volunteer tutor program at the Institutes. She works with Penn State students and community volunteers who are matched with adult learners in Centre and Lycoming counties. For the past decade, she has worked with adults in educational settings for the past decade in ABE classrooms, adult distance education, correctional settings, and with university students. Shannon holds a Ph.D. in Adult Education from Penn State. As an adult education practitioner and researcher, her interests focus on tutor-learner interactions, building learning communities, peer-led instruction, and student perceptions of success in educational settings. She lives in State College with her wonderful family and active puppy and spends as much time as possible outside.

Announcements



Reminder of Hart Van Horn Scholarship

This scholarship is available to a student enrolled in either the Goodling Institute's Adult Basic Education (ABE) Certificate or the Family Literacy (FL) certificate offered online through Penn State's World Campus.

Recipients of this scholarship will receive a \$1200 towards tuition to use during the academic year at Penn State's World Campus.

To learn more, go to the [Hart Van Horn Scholarship application](#).

Library of Congress Opens Applications for the 2023 Literacy Awards

The Literacy Awards — established by the Library of Congress and Rubenstein — were first conferred in 2013 to honor and support organizations working to promote literacy both in the United States and abroad. The awards encourage the continuing development of innovative methods for promoting literacy and the dissemination of the most successful practices.

This year, the Literacy Awards Program staff will host an [applicant information webinar](#) on February 2, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. EDT. During this session, Literacy Awards staff will review application requirements and respond to questions about the application. [Register here](#) to get your questions answered in real time!

To read more on the awards, [click here](#).



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

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



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