



# Positive Happenings

## ADULT BASIC EDUCATION (ABE)

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

AUGUST 2016

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Scholarship helps send ABE student to St. Mary's University
- New competency based diploma offered at ABE
- 24 volunteers donated over 3,000 hours to support student learning in ABE this year!

## Helping Learners Move Forward

ABE teachers are used to helping learners prepare for college; Usually this preparation is limited to academic assistance. This year they were able to nominate one of their longtime learners for a college scholarship.

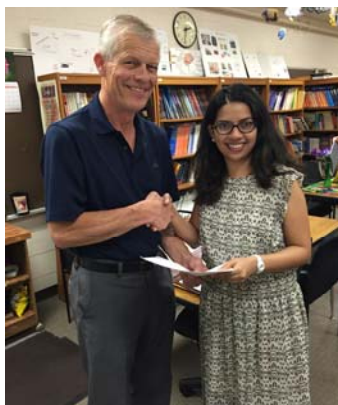
The Drolson Family Foundation in partnership with the Community Scholarship Foundation (CSF) offers a scholarship for an ABE learner. The ABE teaching staff chose Hema Shah to be the recipient.

Hema moved to the United States from India in 2013 with her husband and young son. She worked as a doctor of herbal medicine back

home, but found herself in a new land needing to work on her English skills.

She enrolled in ABE classes and perfected her English while taking part in the district's Family Learning Program. Early this spring, Hema decided it was time to transition to higher education and was accepted to St. Mary's University.

Thanks to this scholarship, she will soon start classes in a medical administration program.



Hema Shah accepting a Drolson Family Foundation scholarship from Lyle Koski of CSF.

## New Partnerships

May 1 marked a new chapter for Forest Lake Area Schools Community Education's (FLASCE) ABE program as they transitioned to the Metro East ABE Consortium.

For decades, Forest Lake had been part of the Metro North Consortium. Recent changes to the federal legislation has called for stronger alignment within county lines and within designated workforce center areas.

Given these new requirements, Metro East

will provide better local partnership opportunities and will also allow ABE to carry out the expectations required by WIOA (Workforce Investment Opportunities Act).

In addition to partnering with the school districts represented in Metro East, Forest Lake is working to create meaningful partnerships with the local libraries and workforce centers.

FLASCE ABE has been given two different

grants to support these partnerships. One grant will support all ABE programs, libraries and workforce centers in Washington County to create cross-agency referral information.

The second grant will provide seed money for FLASCE ABE to host a "Portable ABE Classroom" once a week at the Hardwood Creek Library. These new partnerships will position the program to best serve adult learners.

## FLASCE ABE Approved to Offer New Competency-Based Diploma Through MDE

This winter, the staff at FLASCE ABE began training through the Department of Education (MDE) to be able to offer the state's new adult diploma.

Forest Lake is one of only 16 ABE sites around the state who have been approved to offer this program.

This option is unique in that it focuses on allowing learners to prove they are competent in six content areas in order to earn their credential. Currently MDE maintains oversight of the program and must give final approval over each applicant's graduation portfolio.

The staff at FLASCE ABE has spent the last six months learning how to evaluate student work under these new guidelines and will be eligible to accept new students after one final training session scheduled for July 18.

The teachers are eager to begin this process and to determine if this route will become a viable path for learners to earn their high school diploma.



## Our Year in Review...

Each year it is exciting to learn about the cultures and backgrounds of our student population. Last year our site welcomed new friends from the following countries:

Bosnia - 1  
Laos - 3  
Brazil - 1  
Latvia - 1  
Cambodia - 2  
Liberia - 2  
Cameroon - 2  
Mexico - 21  
Chile - 1  
Nigeria - 1  
China - 2

Palestine - 1  
Columbia - 2  
Panama - 1  
Dominican Republic - 1  
Paraguay - 1  
El Salvador - 2  
Peru - 3  
Germany - 2  
Puerto Rico - 2  
Guatemala - 1  
Spain - 7  
Honduras - 1  
Taiwan - 2  
India - 1  
Thailand - 2  
Iraq - 4  
Vietnam - 4

During the 2015-2016 school year, our site worked with 193 students and led over 11,000 instructional hours. The site had 10 learners complete their GED, 11 learners start the GED process, and had 11 students earn their adult diploma.



We are thankful for our 24 volunteers who donated over 3,000 hours to support student learning!

If you have questions, would like to refer a student, or are interested in volunteering, please contact:

- Kara Rotramel: (651) 982-8302 or [krotramel@flaschools.org](mailto:krotramel@flaschools.org)
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**Browse all Community Education events and opportunities at [www.flaschools.org/ce](http://www.flaschools.org/ce)**