

## **Executive Summary**

### **2025-26 Adult Education Program Enhancement Projects**

Middletown Adult Education is submitting a proposal for continuation of funding in our second year of Program Enhancement Initiatives through the State Department of Education, Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services, and Adult Education.

This initiative comprises four programs. These are: Family Literacy Services, Instructional Innovation, Technology Integration and Expansion of Services, and Transition, Career Navigation and Support.

The following is a summary of each program:

**Family Literacy** – Family Literacy Instruction integrates four components to promote whole family literacy: Adult Education classes for basic skill development, high school completion, and English Language development, Early Childhood Education that provides developmentally appropriate programming for infants and toddlers of adult education students. Parenting education for parents and caretakers to attend parenting classes and Parent and Child Interactive Literacy Activities which include classroom activities, field trips to local community resources such as the Russell Library, community parks, and the Macdonough School Family Resource Center. The goal of this project is to increase literacy skills for the family, increase school involvement, and promote economic self-sufficiency.

**Instructional Innovation** – This project targets a specific population who will benefit from intensive contextualized learning in a STEM area. Drones will promote students' acquisition of programming coding, piloting techniques and will increase their decision making skills. Through the Approved Unmanned Aircraft Systems-Collegiate Training Initiative (UAS-CTI), they can continue to advance in this area and become gainfully employed upon graduation.

**Technology Integration** – This project increases the focus on digital literacy through digital literacy instruction for students in a contextualized environment and through distance learning. It also will provide for a digital navigator who will serve as a resource for both students and teachers to enhance the skills necessary for promoting technology competence. The digital navigator will expand contacts in the community to connect with new and innovative digital initiatives.

Transition, Career Navigation and Support – The Transition Program builds on our high school programs to improve upon student learning, critical thinking, and digital literacy, and promote transitions from our high school completion programs to post-secondary education or training. It includes promoting career research based on individual interests and aptitudes, post-secondary exploration and support for transition to training, further education, or pre-employment readiness. This project supports a designated Career Navigator to make connections with employers and the American Job Center and to guide students through this process.

These projects are in line with the needs of the Workforce Development Board and are collaborative with support agencies in our region.