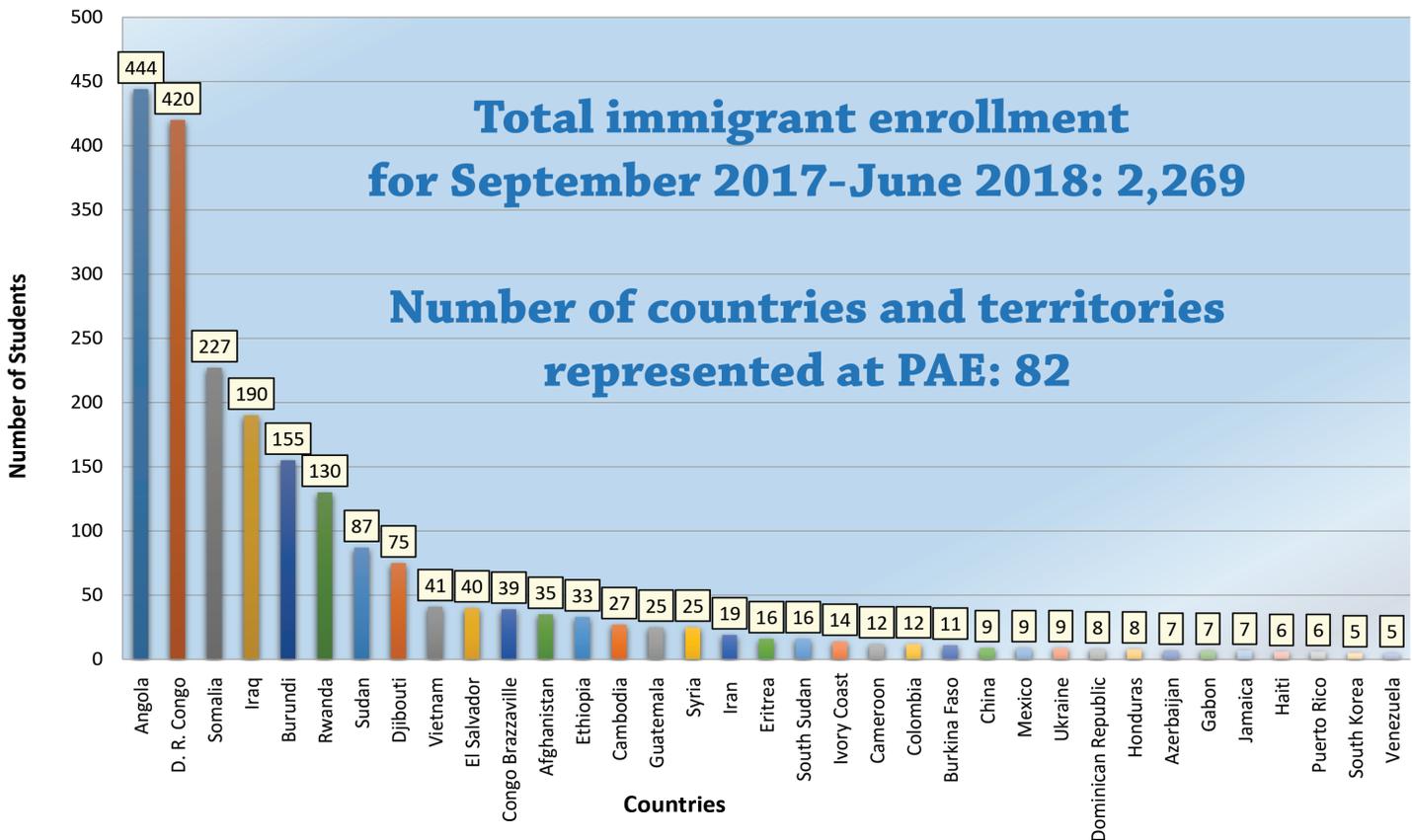


Friends of Portland Adult Education

NEWSLETTER FALL 2018



From the Executive Director – Anita St. Onge

On behalf of the students and staff at PAE, I wish to express my deep appreciation to FPAE for their ongoing support. FPAE has allowed us to give many scholarships to our students, pay for credential evaluations and translations, and support additional teacher opportunities such as field trips and professional development.

Over the past several years PAE and FPAE have sought support for a computer lab to assist students needing support as they prepare for their high school equivalency or to enter post-secondary education. Last year we received funding from FPAE and the Sam L. Cohen Foundation to launch the Learning Lab (see separate article). This funding was instrumental in allowing us to apply

to the United Way of Greater Portland where we were successful in receiving funds for the Cumberland County Adult Education and Career Development Hub to improve marketing to Cumberland County residents without a high school diploma and to increase access at all Adult Education programs in Cumberland County to alternative resources for students who are not able to attend our traditional classes.

FPAE has recently dedicated funds for PAE to hire a consultant to work with us to become a more data-informed organization. Working with the consultant, we were successful in our application for a Research Assistant from the Muskie School's Data Innovation

Project. She will be working with us next year, looking at issues related to student success. We continue to work with FPAE to locate grant opportunities for increased technology and to increase funding for the New Mainer Resource Center, our program focusing on helping foreign-born professionals to overcome employment barriers in order to resume their professional careers. A meeting with the newly renamed Foundation for Portland Public Schools (formerly PEF) holds promise for an increased collaboration affording new opportunities for PAE and FPAE.



Recent Events

FPAE Designates Two Funds

Beata Vest Scholarship Fund

Established in 2016, The Beata Vest Scholarship Fund was created to honor the life of a bright young woman who was full of love, compassion, intelligence, humor and imagination. During the past year this Fund has swelled to more than \$30,000 and will be used to support PAE graduates as they enter college.

Jane Cleaves Vision Fund

A new fund has been established to honor the wonderful work of Jane Cleaves, a PAE volunteer and a member of the Yarmouth Lions club. Jane had worked with both organizations to establish much needed free eye exams and needed prescription eye glasses for students who were not covered by any insurance.



Beata Vest

PAE's New Learning Lab Off To A Strong Start

With funding from FPAE and the Sam L. Cohen Foundation, Portland Adult Education was fortunate to launch a Learning Lab in March 2018. The lab serves students whose prior experiences, schedules, or learning styles have prevented them from obtaining high school credentials or preparing for college.

The Learning Lab offers online tools, academic support, and one-on-one relationships that help students feel a sense of community and stay motivated to achieve their personal learning goals. Since March, over 85 students have visited the lab to study at their own pace for the HiSET and ACCUPLACER exams and to talk with staff about planning for the future. FPAE is thrilled to announce that since the Lab's opening 4 students have passed the HiSET, 4 students have passed the ACCUPLACER, and even more students are getting closer to passing these tests! Thanks to funding from FPAE, the Learning

Lab was was able to offer consistency of service to students by remaining open for six weeks this summer, a time when most students do not have access to summer classes.

The Learning Lab staff is currently working on improving goal setting and individual learning planning offered to students, building an online community where students can share information, and expanding volunteer matching for students who wish to have one-on-one support while working in the lab. Additionally, as part of a grant through United Way Greater Portland, PAE staff will work with adult education providers across Cumberland County to share ideas, professional development opportunities, and marketing strategies to improve lab offerings county-wide.

For more information contact Erin Krivicky at krivie@portlandschools.org.



Recent Events

PAE Retirements

A group of dedicated, long time teachers retired this year: Marie Pollard, Valerie DeVuyst, David Sherman, and Kate Butler. Together they contributed more than 100 years to educating PAE students. During their time, they led and assisted the transition from a tutorial based Adult Basic Education Program to a curriculum based language acquisition model and a high school completion/ college readiness program. They deserve our gratitude and we wish them well.



Student Spotlight *Annette Ngedi*

Annette Ngedi first came to Portland Adult Education in September 2018 as a volunteer in our computer lab. She came to the US from Botswana, and is originally from Democratic Republic of Congo with a degree and 15 years of experience in hospital management.

While waiting for her work authorization, Annette did everything she could to be prepared for jobs that could take advantage of her previous experience. She continued to volunteer which helped her with her customer services skills and also provided her with a reference; took PAE classes to work on her English, medical terminology and computer skills; and worked with NMRC on her job search strategies to be prepared to apply for jobs when she was finally able to work. Annette was very lucky to be offered the first job she applied and interviewed for at Greater Portland Health as an Administrative and Clinical Assistant, but she also did everything she could to make herself a very competitive candidate for this position.

PAE Volunteers Make Things Happen!

197 volunteers completed
6,529.35

volunteer hours this past academic year.

Whether assisting in the classroom, tutoring individually, or working with a committee, our volunteers make our school great. They add flexibility, individual student time, and creativity.

At \$20 per hour (which is what organizations estimate for volunteer time contributions) that is \$130, 587 worth of people power!



PAE Alumni Do Us Proud

Executive Director Anita St. Onge revealed that two former PAE students spoke at the commencement ceremonies for SMCC and USM.



History Classes Visit Augusta

More than 15 students boarded the Portland School bus in early April and traveled to Augusta to visit the legislature. Portland legislator Eric Jorgensen acted as host and Representative Rachel Talbot saw that our students were recognized during the House session. The legislative bodies were busy so students witnessed votes, procedures, and debates. It was a great introduction to our democracy for many of them. The trip has been supported by a generous donation from the Dara Jeanne Kaufman Memorial Fund.



Newsletter Fall 2018

Vision for PAE Students

Portland Adult Education (PAE), Eyecare Medical Group, Maine Lions Club and Friends of Portland Adult Education provided free vision screenings and eyeglasses to PAE students on Saturday, June 23, 2018.

Approximately 30 adults who do not have health insurance or other resources were screened by volunteer doctors at the Eyecare Medical Group at 53 Sewall St., Portland. Students were able to get free glasses thanks to the Jane's Vision Fund, established in memory of past Yarmouth Lions Club Maine president, Jane Cleaves.

PAE provides English and job skills classes to more than 2000 immigrant

adult students each year. Vision problems affect about 20% of PAE's student population. With proper vision, students are able to more quickly acquire English skills needed to participate in the Portland community and find jobs.

Results of screening 30 students

Readers	9	
Eyedrops	6	
RX	13	
Free follow up	1	
Cataracts	2	1 surgery paid by volunteer

C. LOVE COOKIE PROJECT partners with FPAE

It was her experience serving the refugees on the island of Lesbos, Greece in 2016, and a lifetime working in the pastry arts, that led Katherine Slevin to found the C. LOVE COOKIE PROJECT, L3C. She has always believed in 'butter and humanity,' and with Portland's growing refugee and asylum-seeking community, she knew there was valuable work to be done here.

Katherine founded the C. LOVE COOKIE PROJECT to empower the human being and realize the potential of

every individual. The project, a mission-driven business (L3C), gives back 21% of its sales to three local Portland organizations chosen for their direct impact on the international refugee community at varying stages: Way of Life Mission (welcome), Portland Adult Education (education), and the Root Cellar Portland (community).

You can find C. LOVE's cookies throughout shops in Portland, including Coffee By Design and Standard Baking Co. Slevin is collaborating with PAE

FPAE



Scholarships Soar

During the 2017-2018 school year, FPAE gave 116 scholarships enabling students to register for 279 PAE courses. The vast majority of these courses were in the job skills area. The recipients were primarily asylum seekers who are not allowed to work and who cannot receive government scholarship assistance. FPAE appreciates support from both the Evergreen Foundation and Scholarships for Maine Immigrants (SMI).

to establish an intern-like opportunity for immigrant students. For more information on the project go to www.clovecookieproject.com.

