



FRIENDS OF PORTLAND ADULT EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

PAE Partnerships create real jobs for our students

Jobs are at the heart of Portland Adult Education's efforts to improve students' lives. Whether students are working to improve their English, learn computer skills, or gain skills for a specific career, PAE collaborates with them, as well as with area institutions, to help adult learners increase their employment opportunities.

As a member of the **Portland Job's Alliance** (PJA) PAE's role has been to provide job classes to 49 participants, customer service training to 21 participants, case management services and educational development plans for 51 students, employability workshops for 66 attendees, and access to the Language Learning Lab.

The PJA provides customized job training and referral and retention support to skilled immigrants and refugees, single parents, and people with low to moderate incomes to help them successfully find and keep quality jobs while meeting the growing employment needs of Portland-area businesses.

Because of the hotel industry's job growth, the Portland Jobs Alliance's initial focus is on this industry. As part of this endeavor, **Southern Maine Community College** (SMCC) designed The Rising Stars Academy to support efforts of the PJA. Through SMCC's Business and Community Partnerships department, the academy provided 96 hours of entry-level hospitality training to unemployed and underemployed residents at no cost, giving them skills that are in demand by Maine's hospitality businesses. Many participants in the PJA and The Rising Stars Academy have found successful employment in the hotel industry.

The Press Hotel has been a key partner in the Portland Jobs Alliance and has hired 7 PJA participants to

date and is still interviewing others. The Press Hotel is a new boutique hotel that just opened in the former Portland Press Herald building at 119 Exchange Street. The Press worked very hard to incorporate local artists and vendors on the project and to continually use local products and hire local talent in their hotel.



SMCC Community and Business Partnerships Dean Julie Chase (left) with Hospitality and Customer Service Rising Stars Academy graduates: (from left) Zainab Miguel, Armand Turinyungo, Tam Thai, Gina Nzanza Kiese, Roger Kabata, Ruth Andrades, Jules Cesar

Partners in the Portland Jobs Alliance include **Catholic Charities of Maine, City of Portland Refugee Services Program, Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI), Community Financial Literacy, PAE, and Preble Street Resource Center.** The Alliance is supported by the City of Portland's *Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)* and the generosity of **John T. Gorman Foundation**

See page 2 story on PAE and Rising Star grad Gina Nzanza

Graduation: June 11 Please join us

Portland Adult Education Graduation
Thursday, June 11th at 6:00 pm
Merrill Auditorium

All are welcome to attend this joyful evening that highlights the accomplishments of Portland Adult Education students.

40 High School Diploma graduates and 136 students who passed the GED/HiSET will be honored this school year. Friends of PAE will award Wood/Mawford college scholarships and awards for student achievement and persistence.

Questions about graduation, please contact Sarah Robinson, Friends of Portland Adult Education Coordinator, at friendsofpae@gmail.com or 874-8155

Director's Update

Sometimes working at Portland Adult Education is a bit like alphabet soup. I am going to try to explain some of the acronyms you are sure to hear in the upcoming year.

The next step in our Strategic Planning process was the completion of the Career Pathways Plan (CPP) for the State. All adult education programs are required to have a CPP on file in order to receive the state subsidy and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title II funding for our Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA).

The Career Pathways Plan looks at the 11 core areas adult education provides: Partnerships and Alignment, Intake, Individual Learning Plans (ILP), ongoing assessment and learning, Career Planning & Advising, Instruction, Support Services, Data Management, Program Monitoring & Evaluation, Professional Development (PD), and Educational Programming. The leadership team has been working collaboratively on codifying our current practices and determining strategies to ensure we are aligned with the new WIOA requirements and most importantly identifying professional development needs for staff as a result of this plan.

What does this really mean?

It means that we had the opportunity to look at our programs through the Career Pathways lens and evaluate how we are performing and create a plan that helps us achieve our goals. Several innovative ideas to streamline our work and improve our services came out of this process. Our plans include:

- Developing an infographic that shows students the PAE course options with various points of entry/exit and

timeframes;

- Creating an electronic intake form;
- Creating a support services guide for teachers/advisors and providing professional development on support services.

In 2014, PAE's ESOL program was audited by the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL). We are currently working with the **John T. Gorman Foundation** to help fund work to implement the recommendations of the audit. If funded, this work will begin this summer and continue through 2016.

The priorities are:

1. Standardize curriculum across all ESOL levels and incorporate Career and College Readiness Standards (CCRS) into ESOL curriculum at all levels.
2. Provide professional development to ESOL teachers on teaching language through content, using learner input in curriculum design and in classroom activities; developing academic vocabulary; providing opportunities for student-to-student interaction and using CCRS in lesson planning.
3. Provide more intense English language learning for students through short term summer programming.

There will be a quiz....WIOA, CPP, ILP, PD, CAL, CCRS, AEFLA...this may all seem a jumble, but here is the bottom line: this work will provide greater opportunities for students and create consistency and continuity among our programs thus ensuring that our funding is secure.



Beth Campbell, Director of Adult and Community

A Rising Star in the world of pastry



Gina Nzanza, a PAE student and graduate of **Southern Maine Community College's** Rising Star Academy, has recently been hired by the new Press Hotel as an assistant pastry chef.

Gina's journey to Portland was unexpected but has completely changed her life and the life of her children. Gina grew up in the Republic of the Congo and moved to Belgium to attend culinary school. She then worked for the Argentinean Ambassador as a chef. She came to the United States on vacation and was not allowed to return to Belgium.

While living in the homeless shelter here in Portland, Gina completed the Job Class at PAE and The Rising Stars Academy.

The staff of PAE rallied around Gina to help her in her journey. Gina called her teacher Deb Breiting to find out if she could help her prepare for her interview at the **Press Hotel** because they requested a pastry sample. PAE advisor Marie Pollard came to the rescue by providing Gina with all the cooking items and presentation materials to make her desserts. She made the pastries at her son's preschool's kitchen and Marie helped transport Gina and the items to the Press Hotel.

All the staff of PAE are so glad that she successfully landed the job of her dreams. Gina is now living in her own apartment and thrilled to be working at The Press Hotel.

Visit us on facebook!

From Friends of PAE Board President

After a very successful year-end fundraising effort, the FPAE Board and Coordinator have focused on maintaining current grants while seeking new approaches to address PAE's ever-present & skills-related needs.

During the winter FPAE dispersed more than \$5,000 in scholarships to support PAE students attending job skills related courses. Thanks to the generosity of the Dara Jeanne Kaufmann Fund at MCF, two history classes travelled to Augusta where they met Portland's elected representatives.

FPAE has supported strategic efforts including:

- Outreach to Portland area businesses

- Writing PAE proposals for **United Way of Greater Portland, Simmons and Nine Wicket Foundations**

- Assisting with graduation scholarships awards

As always, FPAE is as strong as its supporters and we appreciate each and every one of you. Please follow our activities on Facebook.



Rob Wood, President of Friends of PAE

New Mainers Resource Center Becomes Newest Welcome Back Center

The New Mainers Resource Center (NMRC) at Portland Adult Education has become the newest center of the **Welcome Back Initiative**. The Welcome Back Initiative is a nationally recognized program with centers across the country. Its mission is:

"To build a bridge between the pool of international health care workers living in the US and the need for linguistically and culturally competent health services in underserved communities."

A **Betterment Foundation** grant to FPAE allowed NMRC to join this program. NMRC staff are very excited about this new affiliation and they have already begun working with their national partners.

Because it is a new center, in early April, staff of the NMRC received training from Welcome Back Initiative staff, including Welcome Back Initiative Founder and Director, José Ramón Fernández-Peña, MD, MPA.

Training covered such topics as:

- Starting a Welcome Back Center
- Educational Case Management
- Data Management and Evaluation
- Information about various courses and workshops for health professionals.

Certified Nursing Assistant Graduation



CNA Graduation took place on April 17, 2015, at Saint Joseph's Rehabilitation with instructors Catherine Eliot and Vicky Waller. Graduates included David Wright, Kaylin Wilcox, Vanessa Mutwambaka, Fabiola Kantarama, Deborah Jabar, Marie France Mbuyamba Ilunga, Nimo Hussein Ahmed, Stacy Bernheise and Alexandra Bartlett. Six students have accepted jobs with Saint Joseph's.

Farewell and best wishes to Deb Rumery

Deb Rumery has accepted a full time marketing position for SMRT Architects and Engineers. Deb started working with PAE in 1997 and has taught advanced English courses, Keyboarding, Writing for the Workplace, Workplace Communication, and Job Hunting Skills. Deb came to PAE from the business sector and has grown into a confident, skilled and talented instructor with a deep passion and caring for our students. Her business expertise has had a wonderful impact on the Job Skills Program. Her last day with PAE was April 16th. She will be dearly missed.



Graduates ready for business



On April 16th four students earned Office Skills Certificates: Rachel Chen, Wanda Tarbox, Laurie Fitzherbert and Andrea DiFillipo. They completed course work in the following certificates: Accounting Clerk, Office Assistant, Medical Office and Microsoft Office Applications. Congratulations on all their hard work, perseverance and success.

Job Skills program volunteer turns teacher



Jacques Ngaliema

Jacques Ngaliema is originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo where he received a BA in Economics and worked as a Consumer Finance Manager. Relocating to South Africa, Jacques studied at the Adult Learning and Global Change graduate program. He worked as a Learning Consultant and later in Quality Assurance and as an analyst. Jacques is living in Portland where he has requested asylum status. Jacques began volunteering in the computer lab when he was noticed for his computer expertise, initiative, organizational and problem solving skills. He assisted in the ELL Basic Computer class and has now taken over the class as the primary instructor. The students appreciate his teaching style and his knowledge.

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Summer Fun with PAE

Portland Adult Education has some fun summer classes beginning in June. Choose your fun from classes such as:

Sea Kayaking The Maine Coast

Stand-Up Paddle Boarding on Casco Bay

Stand-Up Paddle Board Yoga

Boost Confidence With Hypnosis

Wildcrafting Remedies in the Field

FPAE Board

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