

SUMMER 2019

# Literacy Now



## Improving Our Health Literacy Lens

“My presentation was sparked by some personal experiences my dad and I had in the last year and a half. I went to a lot of his appointments and found that I was interpreting for him because the information was presented to him in a way that was way too hard to understand,” said Sheryl Scott, Assistant Professor and Chair, School of Nursing, Wisconsin Lutheran College.

This year, we came together from different disciplines to improve health and patient care at the Health Literacy Summit: “A Sharper View Through the Lens of Health Literacy.” We shared how using the “lens” of our own experiences builds connections across communities, races, genders, and income levels.

Speakers presented the latest information on improving communications through health literacy and touched on important topics like organizational

planning, tools and resources, literacy and health, health literacy improvement, and working with vulnerable populations. See agenda at [wisconsinliteracy.org/health-literacy](http://wisconsinliteracy.org/health-literacy).

“There is a lot of history here and a lot of expertise,” said Greg O’Neil, Patient and Family Health Education Manager at Christiana Care Health System, “To get to hear what other systems are doing and to hear other perspectives is really valuable because I want to bring that back to my state.”

If you think of health as a personal issue, actively listen, and implement effective health literacy tools, you can make a difference in someone’s life.

Missed the Health Literacy Summit? View a selection of presentations online at [wisconsinliteracy.org/health-literacy](http://wisconsinliteracy.org/health-literacy).

## Adults Get Ready for the Workforce

### Thanks to Your Support

"I didn't graduate just to say that I have a high school diploma. I graduated so I can have a better future for my family and me," said Mr. Jose Ciprian-Ramirez (photo), HSED graduate from Kettle Moraine Correctional Institute, member of WL (Wisconsin Literacy).

Your support helps adult learners gain workforce readiness skills. Learners statewide work on their GED credential, resume writing, and computer skills and get better jobs thanks to you.

Last year, almost 1,000 WL members' students earned their GED. With your support and the learner's hard work, more people are part of our state's workforce and have increased their family's earning potential.



## Thank you 2019 Health Literacy Summit Sponsors.

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## Thanks to the following organizations for general support of Wisconsin Health Literacy.

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“My biggest challenge was proving that I could actually do something that people said I could never do – like graduate high school,” said Sherry from Fond du Lac Literacy Services.

- **Luisa** worked with her tutor on developing a budget at Taylor County Literacy Program, WL member. She purchased her first car thanks to that focused effort.

“Having a statewide voice for adult literacy is beyond great! Helpful for the issue in general and helpful for local agencies as well. It legitimizes the issue for our communities,” said Nancy Wheeler, former ICAA Crossroads Literacy Coordinator.

Your advocacy brings important resources such as GED ready and test vouchers and test materials to learners and local literacy organizations statewide.



“Literacy is an extraordinary journey and opens up a world of possibilities for not just the individual, but for their families as well.”

## Advocating for Literacy

### Your Stories Matter

Literacy transforms lives. Your support of literacy work through donating, sharing stories, and writing to you legislators helps show how important literacy is in Wisconsin.

- **Stephanie**, a single mom with young children, enrolled in W-2 (Wisconsin Works) at United Migrant Opportunity Services or UMOS (WL member). She worked hard to overcome her weaknesses in math with assistance from teachers at UMOS and Milwaukee Area Technical College. She passed the GED math test after a couple of attempts and earned a GED.
- **Benito** drove to GED classes at Latino Academy of Workforce Development (WL member) from Evansville to Madison (45 miles round trip) twice a week for a year. His attendance was close to 100%, and he passed all of the tests on the first attempt. Benito became a role model for many peers and showed how crucial commitment is to success. He graduated in August 2018 and joined their Advanced ESL for Technical Career class. He is considering a career in the health field.

## We Welcome Heidi Frankson to the Wisconsin Literacy Team

We are excited to announce the newest member of our team - Heidi Frankson. Heidi, our new Fund Development Manager, joins us with more than 20 years of experience as a nonprofit fundraising professional. She served in fundraising positions for the Charlotte Symphony, the Marilyn Horne Foundation, and the WonderLab Museum of Science, Health and Technology.



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"The support we receive from Wisconsin Literacy is so important. From the basics like tutor training and GED vouchers to board development suggestions and ideas, it's all so critical! I hope we can continue to grow and take advantage of all the services you offer."

Leeanna Shultz from Stateline Literacy Council

*Beth Gaytan, Southwest/South Central Regional Literacy Consultant, prepares materials to give to her members at her regional meeting. Help us support local literacy through a gift at [wisconsinliteracy.org/get-involved](http://wisconsinliteracy.org/get-involved).*