Literacy Council of Northern Virginia

English Education Empowers Me

Annual Recognition Ceremony 2022
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A Message from the Executive Director

Wow – sixty years!! It was five years ago when I attended my first Annual Recognition Ceremony only a few weeks before I began my role as Executive Director. I am extremely proud of what we have accomplished in the past five years, but it is one of many chapters of the story of the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia: a story full of care, community, perseverance, and courage.

The history of LCNV began when a woman named Mid Allen Ries made the unsettling discovery that an estimated 5,000 adults in Alexandria were illiterate and began tutoring adults in her neighborhood. She enlisted others to join her efforts and together they planted the seeds of a grassroots organization that would become a model for other literacy organizations and nonprofits. More than thirty volunteers stepped forward, combining their knowledge, creativity, experience, and passion to form an official council dedicated to teaching the English language.

Over the years, LCNV has played an integral role in our community, transitioning from a corps of volunteers who provided one-to-one tutoring for predominantly native-born residents to creating larger-scale classroom programs as the number of foreign-born residents rose dramatically. LCNV has now served 60,000 adult learners. Our dedicated volunteers played essential roles as teachers, trainers, tutors, and testers. They ran community literacy events, such as RAFA (Reading is a Family Affair) and did outreach about our programs while gift wrapping at the holidays. In the past ten years alone, 2,242 LCNV volunteers gave 200,000 hours of service to this community.

Jean Sweeney became the first paid staff member at LCNV, serving as Executive Director from 1980-1989. She launched a legacy of dedicated staff, who continue to pursue excellence even during times of limited resources, conflicted political climates, and even a global pandemic. The years of advocacy, leadership, and camaraderie of LCNV staff and board members are humbling. We are honored that so many still work with us as partners, donors, volunteers, and cheerleaders, even when they are done with their official roles.

But the true heroes of this story are those whose words this book features: the adults who diligently work to learn a new language, who take classes around busy work and family schedules, who offer support and encouragement to their classmates, and who use what they learn to share their voices and talents in their workplaces and community.

Recently, LCNV was recognized by Leadership Fairfax for the 2021 Nonprofit Leadership award for our passion for service and positive change in Northern Virginia. This is an honor I want to share with you all: those of you who went before us, those of us who are working now, those of you we honor today. We are so happy to celebrate sixty years with you.

Guest Speaker: Alma Amaker

Alma Amaker is well-known to those who have walked the halls of James Lee Community Center, home to one of LCNV’s class sites and its main office. She has been intertwined with its history since its inception. A fourth grader at the time, Alma attended the then-named James Lee Elementary when it was a segregated school in 1947. She spent her career as a teacher in Fairfax County, becoming one of the first African American teachers to work at an integrated school, and moved to adult education after retirement. Now back at James Lee, she works towards strengthening the community with her positive attitude and wonderful smile. “I do a little of everything here,” Alma said, “but I consider my biggest role as an ambassador of goodwill.” Alma is particularly proud of her work with The Urbanites, the third iteration of the community group that seeks to keep seniors in the area engaged and social. Speaking about it, Alma said “A lot of us are children of the members of the older version, so it’s been sort of a family thing. We reach out to seniors in the surrounding area and try to strengthen the community that way.” LCNV is honored to have Alma as our guest speaker.
About the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia

The mission of the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia (LCNV) is to teach adults the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking, and understanding English so they can access employment and educational opportunities and more fully and equitably participate in the community.

Staff

Roopal Mehta Saran  
Executive Director

Jeff DiMeglio  
Finance and Operations Manager

Joshua Gilmore  
Development Coordinator

Thiezue James  
IT Database Administrator

Xavier Muñoz  
Associate Director of Teaching and Learning

Eiman Nimer  
Coordinator, Intensive Program and Site Operations

Soo Park  
Instructional Design Manager

Juan Perez  
Student Services Coordinator

Nada Raja  
Manager, Academic Operations and Digital Literacy

Marizol Rojas  
Office Administrator & Student Liaison

Amy Tristan  
Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

Lisa Vaughn  
Community and Donor Relations Coordinator

Jean Ku, President  
Senior Vice President Marketing, Interfolio

Michael Rees Gavin, Vice President  
Management Consulting, Managing Director, Accenture Federal Services

Seema Jain, Secretary  
Virginia Career Works – Northern, Deputy Executive Director

Nathan Telaraja  
Senior Program Manager, PricewaterhouseCoopers

Sonia Aranza  
Global Consultant on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Aranza Communications

Janet Zoe Barys  
Supervisory Attorney-Advisor, Office of the Assistant General Counsel for International and National Security Programs, U.S. Department of Energy (Ret.)

Jennifer Galloway  
Founder, Fundraising Consultant, Wolcott Hill Group

Tom Gilbride  
Director, Acumen Solutions, a Salesforce Company

Kyle Grieser  
Director, BlackRock

Adam Grimm  
COO, KIHOMAC Inc.

Carisa Pineda  
Management Specialist, Arlington County Child Advocacy Center

Nisha Kumar  
Attorney, Office of the Assistant General Counsel for General Law, Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Department of Energy

Karen Scott  
Federal Marketing Executive, Denodo

Margery Leveen Sher  
Author & Speaker, self-employed

Tiffany L. Taber  
Chief Speechwriter and Managing Writer, U.S. Department of Education

Board of Directors
Community Partnership Awards

Each year, the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia recognizes a number of its partners for their consistent support of our programs and mission. This year, LCNV is proud to recognize three outstanding partners.

The James Lee Community Center (JLCC) has been home to LCNV offices and classes since 1987. Formerly a segregated elementary school for black students, JLCC is now an essential hub of community service and activity, housing a senior center, daycare, gym, afterschool program and summer camps, teen center, food distribution center, computer lab, theater and so much more! When COVID-19 prevented students from taking class in-person, JLCC offered extra space and resources for LCNV to safely register students on site to provide access for those who needed assistance enrolling online. They continue to be a collaborative partner, supporting LCNV as we welcomed students back in person and providing space for our trainings and events. JLCC staff and volunteers are the first faces our students see as they enter the building, and we all benefit from their service and hospitality.

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) has partnered with LCNV since 2018, providing critical funds, leadership, and peoplepower to support English language learners. Their Reimagine grant funding makes it possible for us to continue to innovate by using technology to allow greater access to language education and pairing digital literacy with language skills, jumpstarting our students who urgently need new or better employment to reach their goals. PwC provides impactful leadership via Board membership, contributing to LCNV’s fiscal management and ensuring that LCNV’s critical programs are financially sustainable and affordable for our learners. In addition, PwC employees have volunteered more than 700 hours, assisting with class registration, acting as interpreters and translating outreach materials, and helping new students learn to access online classes. Their service has a true impact on reaching underserved populations in Northern Virginia.

Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) works to serve, empower, and offer opportunities for brighter futures, promoting the well-being of families and communities statewide. In 2019, VDSS granted LCNV funding to serve non-literate Northern Virginia TANF clients with a highly intensive literacy and work readiness English class. These classes serve students, most of whom are refugees, by preparing them with language and technology skills, and offers the opportunity to gain a Guest Service Gold® hospitality credential. In 2021, VDSS provided LCNV with additional funding to loan laptops to students, giving them the means to access virtual sessions and to increase student familiarity and expertise with technology. Since receiving this funding, LCNV has served more than 300 adults through this program. The students who attend these classes are not just learning how to communicate, but to be self-sufficient. VDSS helps LCNV fill this gap and give these services to those who need it most.
Volunteers of the Year

William Meara

A retired Foreign Service Officer, Bill spent his career working in Spanish-speaking countries. On his return to the US, he met a gentleman who had studied at LCNV, and knowing his wife had practiced English at a similar program, he contacted LCNV. Volunteering since 2019, Bill has enjoyed helping to improve the lives of his students through language learning. Bill says, “I am always pleased when the students tell us that they have been using English outside the classroom – they are using it in the supermarket, at their children’s school, at the doctor’s office – it is really helping them. As they use it, they improve. Practice really helps.” His patience and charisma in the classroom have helped numerous students reach their goals. Bill pulls on his career experience to understand students, saying, “As a teacher, it helps a lot to have struggled with foreign languages yourself. This makes it easier to empathize with the students, and to understand their struggles. You can tell them, ‘Hey, I’ve been there. I know this is hard! But don’t get discouraged.’”

Naila is an Afghan refugee who moved to the United States as a permanent legal resident in early 2020 and holds a Bachelor’s in Law and Jurisprudence. She attended LCNV’s intensive ESL class in fall of 2021, where she received help in preparing a professional resume and obtained a Guest Service Gold Certificate®. She then offered to volunteer assisting Afghan women refugees with limited or no English language literacy. She dedicates many hours each week to supporting students, from helping them register for classes and teaching them the computer skills they would need to access their online classes, to providing ongoing support and encouragement throughout the semester. She especially enjoyed working with team members who demonstrated compassion and commitment toward helping English learners overcome the language barrier and integrate effectively into society. When asked about her experience, Naila said, “Working as a volunteer with LCNV helped me to explore my hidden abilities, learn new skills, and most importantly utilize my skills and abilities for helping others on a daily basis. This volunteer opportunity LCNV provided me also gave me the opportunity to achieve self-esteem and confidence in my abilities, and it opened the door in front of me to realize my dream of building a professional career in the United States.” Naila is dedicated to focusing her future career efforts on empowering other vulnerable and deprived members of society to reach their full potential, helping them achieve independence in their social life with the goal of eventually becoming more active members of society. She is thankful to her instructor and mentors who have been helping her to reach her career goals.

Naila Amiri

Maura Sleevi

While working as a middle school math teacher for Fairfax County Public Schools, Maura discovered the world of ESOL through the personal experiences of other teachers. After her retirement, she continued her service through the Ignatian Volunteer Corps and math tutoring, before starting her tenure at LCNV in 2019. Since the spring of 2021, Maura has been a virtual lead teacher. When asked about what she enjoyed most about her work with LCNV, Maura said, “I experience proud, impactful moments in almost every single class! Every time someone gets a new job opportunity, achieves well-deserved recognition, or overcomes an obstacle – it is like a ‘love pat’ from above! One such ‘love pat’ that stands out came during the spring semester of 2021 when our entire class went through the pregnancy of a cherished student and classmate. When her adorable son was born, we all became honorary aunts and uncles! He was then a surprise in-person guest at last year’s Annual Recognition Ceremony, where his ‘aunt’ Maura couldn’t contain her joy!” Maura has made a career of uplifting learners, whether they are learning polynomials or color vowels. Maura would like to express that “All the support and encouragement that comes from the dedicated staff at LCNV makes all these moments possible! Your efforts are appreciated - thank you!”
Volunteer Milestones

25 Year Anniversary
Anne Jillson | John Thomas

20 Year Anniversary
Stephen Cristofar | Rebecca Shaw

15 Year Anniversary
Paul Byrne | Gail Vogel

10 Year Anniversary
Diane DePallo | Anupam Kumar | Lisa McKnight
Fran Perros | Valerie Sutter | Mindi Weisenbloom

5 Year Anniversary
Rafa Abdalla | Savannah Alshaikhli
Molly Bensinger-Lacy | Elven Boyter
Gabrielle Bulgari | Sallie Casto | Annette Come
Madeline Delahan | Vaishali Deshpande
Sandra Mejia Diaz | Mary Ellen Feldcamp
Eileen Foxwell | Jennifer Galloway | Michael Gavin
Daniel Goodman | Adam Grimm | Jean Hellwege
Susan Jacob | Steve Johnson | Sarah Krisher | Jean Ku
Gyana Lopez | Kathleen McCleary | Jane Michaels
Kelly Midura | Jamila Mohamed | Jane Neubig
Janet Pauling | Anita Raghavan | Bruce Saul
Patricia Stewart | Maria Velez | Debra Willen

400+ Hours of Service, 2021-2022
Molly Bensinger-Lacy

300+ Hours of Service, 2021-2022
Margaret Breen | Krista Carlson | Linda Johnsen
Kathleen McCleary | William Meara | Maura Sleevi

200+ Hours of Service, 2021-2022
Ann Anderson | William Angley | Jan Auerbach
Stacey Becker | Marie Cavanaugh | Glen Finland
Meena Ghulami | Jane Michaels | Sally Nedelcovych
Pamela Schmoll | Karen Schroth
Anuradha Srirangarajan | Debra Willen | Loren Zander

100+ Hours of Service, 2021-2022
Naila Amiri | Oana Antony | Sarah Bock | Stan Citron
Sherri Coles | Ida Draim | Lori Farnsworth
Linton Favours | Nicholas Gabrovsek | Laurie Hayden
Diane Jensen | Azad Khan | Ayuko Kimura-Fay
Gyana Lopez | Robin Lundgren | Mary Anne McDonald
Maria Monteagudo | Elizabeth Nelson | Stacy O’Connor
Sandra Olson | Debra Pfaff | Margery Leveen Sher
Anne Spear | Jody Sweet | Nathan Telaraja
Marie Tibor | CK Tong | Gwen Villarreal

Want to learn more about volunteering with LCNV?  
Contact volunteers@lcnv.org or call (703) 237-0866 x116.

Lead Teachers

We would like to offer our appreciation to LCNV’s Lead Teachers. The positive influence they have on our learners and our community at large is immeasurable. Thank you to all of our wonderful instructors!

Ludette Agura
Nadin Al-Attar
Yuri Alvarenga
Dr. Banhi Bhattacharyya
Kobi Carter
Stan Citron*
Jackie Corkins*

Vaishali Deshpande*
Darlene Fahrenkrug
Amante Fajardo
Nancy Flores**
Adrienne Grossman
Laura Hayden**
Susan Jacob*
Cassandra Kramer

Elizabeth Magee***
Linda Mancini
Wafa Misellati
Jackie Park*
Janet Pauling*
Jennifer Pryor-Abraham
Elizabeth Quillin
Cynthia Sadur

Patricia Sawyer
Mirna Solis***
Lisa Trangsrud*
Maria Velez-Jaramillo*
Dr. Lisa Vermette
Mary Wilson
Sheila Weiss***

*5 or more years of service  **10 or more years of service  ***15 or more years of service
English Education Empowers Me: Student Essays

LCNV learners were invited to submit writings around our theme for this year’s Annual Recognition Ceremony, English Education Empowers Me. Learners worked with instructors and classmates to formulate ideas, construct drafts, and edit their writing in order to create the final products contained here. The ideas and opinions contained in the publication are those of the learner and do not necessarily reflect those of LCNV or its partners. It is our hope that these essays give you a sense of how learning English has helped LCNV learners provide for their basic needs, create connections, and find opportunities to thrive within their communities.

Student Readers

Milton Antonio Torres
El Salvador

Sobeida Valle
Nicaragua

Masooma Jowhary
Afghanistan

Milton Antonio Torres

When I came to the USA in 2002, I came with the intention of being able to help my parents. I am from a very poor place in El Salvador. Years later I finally built a house for my parents and was very happy with the achievement. I worked very hard to be able to help my family so I did not have time to focus on learning English. I knew that learning English would open better doors in life so I decided to learn English at LCNV.

English Education Empowers. I worked as a roof installer (Roofer) for 19 years. With the English classes I have taken, I have a new position of Roof Inspector. Recently, I went to my tool bag and saw what I used before, a nail gun, hammer, level, and a machine to cut wood. I saw my bag today and now I have a laptop, an iPad, and a thermal camera.

I felt very blessed by God and to have the 3 most beautiful teachers. The teachers have patience, creativity, observation, dedication, discipline, wisdom, patience, and humility. Each of the 3 has something very nice. Ms. Maura has patience, Ms. Melissa is kind and Ms. Robin the diva, her smile that we saw her go through very difficult times and her smile never lost. I love them - all 3! (Thank you for all teachers).
Sobeida Valle

Learning English helps me communicate with people who speak English, like my doctors and neighbors. If there is an emergency, I can ask for help in English. In addition, if a person approaches me and asks me for help in English, I can help them. Also, knowing English gives me more opportunities when looking for jobs that require English fluency. I can read books in English to my grandkids too! Finally, I was able to pass my citizenship interview because I knew how to speak, understand, and write English, so studying English helped me to become a United States citizen!

Masooma Jowhary

Before I started learning English, I had many problems in my language. I couldn’t communicate with people when I went outside, and I liked to talk with my neighbors and to go shopping to buy groceries. It was hard for me to understand and solve my problems without learning English. I didn’t have confidence, I felt shy to face someone because I couldn’t speak. For this reason I stayed far away from people and was sad.

One day I made a decision and told myself to get up right now and move, because there is no tomorrow. The decisions of today make my tomorrow and tomorrow will make my future. Don’t wait for another day, because life is too short and every second of time is worth more than a diamond. Finally I decided to search on Google. I found English language classes close to my house. I had a good feeling about that. I started in that direction and followed it. It took about 35 minutes to arrive at my destination. I went to the office and talked to the receptionist; she was very polite and kind. After that she gave me the information for registration day, and I came and registered myself.

Fortunately, I started classes, studied hard, did my homework, and tried to talk to my classmates. I had a good feeling, because my dream was coming true. I can communicate with people and I can solve my problems a little. My husband always supports me and gives me courage to do my best in this way.

I am very grateful to God; He gives me the opportunity to live. I struggle to improve myself, succeeding with education.

In addition I am thankful to all my excellent teachers; they patiently teach us, kindly listen to us and are very polite with us. I appreciate them and I pray they have a long life with their lovely families.

Because of our best teacher now I can write and speak English. Now I’m better than yesterday. Tomorrow I will be better than today, God willing.

English education gives me courage, confidence and the ability to speak better.

It’s the beginning of my education; I will continue and complete my education as soon as I can. I have a plan to graduate from college. I have many hopes and wishes in my life. The biggest is to increase my knowledge and in the future to be a successful lawyer and serve successfully in society. I’m sure English language will empower me to reach the peaks of success and be an English speaker.

My future is bright like a light (God willing).

In the end, I want to say thank you so much to the professors of the LCNV community, who have made this golden education center of teaching English for us.
Afra Abaker

The reason for learning English is to relate from one person to another according to the needs and goals of each individual.

It is the most important tool in this regard. It gives us the ability to read, listen and write.

Another important reason to learn English is to increase your chance of getting a good job. In this way I find that speaking English can make my career.

Learning English made me able to build my self-confidence when communicating with others and it breaks down all barriers of fear or shyness.

Learning English is a brain exercise, and the use of words or sentences makes it easier to fix them in my memory in a strong way, and my mind retrieves them in the right way.

Last, the professional and educational future has become dependent on a person’s proficiency in the English language.

Ricardo Acosta

English helps me to work in construction.
It helps me to get more money.
It helps me to get a better job.
It helps me to get more education.

Marie Adei

My name is Marie Adei. I am from Benin. I didn’t understand English before I came here. Now I understand and I can speak with my neighbors. I like to learn English in my class.

Nana Akoto

The English class will help me read and write. English will help me speak with neighbors. English class has helped me learn to read. English makes me more confident to speak at my job. English helps me to teach my kids to read. The English class will help me to do things by myself.

Aysha Al-Ameri

I am Aysha Al-Ameri. I am 42 years old. I have five children. Since I was young, I loved the English language and one of my biggest goals was to be a fluent English speaker.

I traveled with my husband to Kuala Lumpur 15 years ago and they spoke English with a British accent. I learned a little at their university and I came back to my country and did not practice the language, and I forgot a lot of it.

I came to the USA 7 months ago. My main goal was to learn the English language in order to benefit myself in the hospital and know how to talk with the doctor.

One of my major goals is to learn English so that I can help my children in school. This is the most important thing for me. I feel happy now because I entered the LCNV class. I learned a lot of English.

My teacher is very beautiful. She uses the technology power point while teaching. She is a really great teacher and I loved learning with my teacher, Cassandra Kramer.
Hawa Ali

English empowers me by helping me out in life. English is something people use on a day to day basis. People use English for all sorts of things. For example, you go to a restaurant and the server asks you what you want. You use English to answer. Another example is when you go to the store and you have a question. We use English everyday. English is very important to me for whatever I want to do in life.

Ruth Alvarez

English is helping my kids.
English helps me get to medical appointments.
English is important for my life.

Fadi Alyosef

By learning English, I can help my kids. Also I don't have to struggle as much. I can just say it. I don't have to think about how to say it.

Also, I can spell better. I am a good reader now. I am doing better at work. I can also teach my family and my friends how to read, speak, spell and how to write because if someone is speaking English I can talk to them.

Luciana Androvic

My name is Luciana Androvic and I’m from Brazil, and I arrived in the USA in December 2021. I recognize that learning different languages opens a world of opportunity to all. As I am learning English in the USA I see this happening to me. I feel empowered and encouraged to work and have everyday activities such as shopping and going to the pharmacy and stores in general. I enjoy visiting museums, parks, going to restaurants and bars. I also feel able to listen to the radio, and to watch tv, videos and movies. I love to bake, so now I am able to follow a recipe! With my improved English skills I can now read the news, and above all, talk with everyone.

I thank, first of all, my family for their support and encouragement. I appreciate LCNV for the opportunity and the teachers Anne, Jennifer, Dana, Marie, Sarah, Steve and James for their patience and dedication, which I will never forget.

Flor Marina Arguello

English helps me to get better communication with people and helps me to get better work.

Johana Arias

I want to speak English very well. I have two babies. One is five years old and she is going to school in September. My other child is 5 months old.

Right now, I work at a restaurant, but I don’t really like it. I would like to work in an office. I need to learn English to understand people at a better job.

I want to learn to speak English for my daughters so I can understand the teachers. I would also be able to talk to other parents during parent meetings at school. So I may help my older daughter with her school work.

Alcira Ascencio Amaya

My goal of learning English is because of my work. My daughter also encouraged me to study, because she will not always be with me to help me.

Since I have taken English classes now I can communicate a little more with my bosses, with the child I take care of, and with his grandparents.

I also need to practice English at home, watch movies and programs only in English. With perseverance and patience, I think I will achieve my goal.
**Shinyue Bang**

When I first arrived in the United States, I had many difficulties communicating with people. It was not easy for my son to try out for the soccer team because it was hard for me to understand the coaching staff’s words. Especially when talking on the phone, I couldn’t catch up with the coach’s speaking. What I often said at that time was to resend the details by an email instead. In fact, this English class is the only time to communicate in English for me. So it is very precious to me.

Since taking English class, I gained courage to speak to others more comfortably. Of course, I am still afraid to talk to someone in English, and I am worried they will not understand my words, but learning something is changing my attitude little by little. One of the reasons I like this class is that I can meet various people from different cultures and also learning together makes me keep studying steadily. In the future, I hope to make many friends without fear and to talk to others more easily in English. I think it will take a long time and effort to speak English well but someday I hope that I can talk to my neighbors comfortably. There are people who study with me here, so I can learn English steadily without letting go of the string of study.

**Pashton Baraki**

I am learning English. Now I can write, read and talk. I can help my children in school. Speaking English is good for my communication with everybody. I am learning English to get a driver’s license and for a job. By learning English, I can be involved in my community and help other people at the mosque and talk to my neighbors.

**Blanca Beatriz Flores**

The English class helped me learn more. By learning English, I can be involved more with my children [and] people at work. This class is a blessing for me because I need a better job [and to] become a US citizen. In the future, [I want to learn] more English [in order to] help people. Thanks to my teacher, Elizabeth Magee.

**Erick Benitez**

Since I started taking English classes, I am a more confident person, for example, in expressing my way of thinking at work. I have had more opportunities to hold a position and something very important that improves my self-esteem, which is important to achieve your goals.

Another very important example is when you go to meetings with your children or to medical appointments or any other paperwork you need to do. It is no longer necessary to go looking for an interpreter. “You are already an independent person”, which is the best thing that could have happened to me.

Thanks to all my teachers who have supported me, especially teacher Anne, who teaches us new and important things every day to learn English. Thank you very much!

**Elizabeth Berryman**

English has helped me read books to my nephew and nieces. English helped me understand what movies are about when I watch them. English helped me understand how to do my homework. English helped me to understand. English helped me to do store videos.

**Teodecia Blas**

English is important for me to get a better job.

**Milenko Bogajcevic**

I’m from Serbia. I came to America in 2020. My English isn’t very good, but everyday I am working on it.

Speaking English helps me for everything. It helps my social life and everyday communications with people. For my job it is necessary to be able to speak to my client and explain to him what I’m
I live in America, the most important thing is to be able to speak English with other people so that I can take care of myself. The first time I registered for English classes at LCNV, I had to get vaccinated for COVID-19. When I finished registering for class, I started in Level 1 because my English was not good. In my country, we only speak Thai, so I never practiced speaking English. Taking English classes has allowed me to meet people from different countries that speak different languages.

When I came to America, I have to practice speaking English so that I can communicate with people. After I studied Level 1, I was able to move up to Level 2. Studying in Level 2 has helped me improve my skills in listening and speaking English.

Right now, I am trying to learn more English online. I am happy to be part of the class and meet new people. Thank you teachers at the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia for helping me learn English.

**Deysi Bueso**

I need to learn English to earn more money and for better communication with my daughter from school.

**Teresita Canales**

My name is Teresita. I am one of the students at the James Lee Community Center. I am proud of myself. I have learned to speak more English. It has helped me in my daughter’s school and to be able to communicate better with my husband and my daughters. They don’t speak Spanish very well. Now I can communicate a little better with other people also. I have lost the fear. I feel more comfortable to speak English now. Thank you to my teacher, Loren Zander and all the staff.

**Armida Carballo**

When I went to the interview for my first job in this country, it was to work as a manager. The owner of the company told me my resume had exactly what he was looking for, but I had to know English. He agreed to try me out for two weeks. He hired me and I worked there for three years until I started my own business.
I never wanted to learn English because I never liked it. When I studied in my country, I fell asleep in English classes. The day I went to the county to process the licenses I needed to start my business I was in about five offices. Even with my bad English, that day I left there with the license in my name to be able to start my business. Now I understand that everyone is very good at knowing one language, but if we know two languages we will be twice as good.

I have run my business for 17 years and thank God they have been very good years. But one of the things that has motivated me to study English is because I need to grow and have new products. All my work meeting are in English and if I knew better English I could participate better. Another thing I want is to get more licenses for more products that would be good for the business.

All the travel tours that the tour guides carry out are in English and I want to enjoy the history that each country has. But one of the biggest reasons why I want to know English well is because the church I attend is English speaking. My passion is teaching and I want to teach the word of God to people who only speak English. I support a mission in India.

Manoon Chanabut

English education empowers me. When I first arrived in the USA, at that time, I was not good at the English language. But I had my friend. She drove me to the Hilton Hotel in Dallas, Texas. The next day, she and I went sightseeing in Dallas. We went to Reunion Tower. At the top of the tower we could see for miles. After sightseeing, we went to a restaurant to eat. I had fish for lunch, but it was difficult to order because I didn’t know English. I felt bad, but my friend helped me.

I am now living in McLean and I like to go to school very much every week at the James Lee Community Center. I am getting better at speaking and writing English. I can talk to my classmates so I can make international friends. I have been studying English for 2 years. I feel better speaking. Now, I can order food in the restaurant by myself. [That makes] me happy. I have been learning massage therapy for 2 months because I have a plan to open a spa in the future.

Gilbert Chavez

My name is Gilbert Chavez. I am from Peru. I am very grateful for the English program. It helps me a lot in my development as a person and professional. The classes are very dynamic and effective. I like the methodology very much and I feel that I have been advancing well since the classes began.

Sulma Chávez

I thank the teachers because I have learned a lot, and above all I have lost the fear of talking with other people. I ask if I can have the same teacher in my next class. God bless you, and thank you.

Berta Alicia Cruz

I like English, and that’s why I have changed my life and continue studying English. It’s good to start doing what you like. All your dreams can come true if you have the desire to pursue them. Studying motivates me everyday!!

I don’t like discrimination. It is better to speak many languages.

Thank you to all the teachers who care about us. I hope to learn the English language well. God bless you!!
Tsige Desta
Since taking English class I have explored the world with confidence and it opens doors to the job market and understanding English better. Since taking English class, I have improved my communication skills.

Marcos Diaz
It helps me understand a little more at work, to be able to mention the tools and speak more words in English.

Ebthal Elbashir
I am study learning English and it helps me very much.
[I can] help my children study from home and it helps me talk to my children’s teacher.
[It] helps me to talk with the people and write the email.
I need to study more English.

Santiago España
The statement English Education Empowers Me is absolutely true. English is the principal language of the world.
I did underestimate the necessity of English for many years. If I had realized the importance of learning earlier, I would have done it sooner. Now I love to learn English and I understand that to know a new language will make me a better person, will open my mind, and improve the possibility of employment. It also helps me have more relationships with others.
Now I practice and learn everyday. I take class with the wonderful teachers of LCNV. I read articles and news. I follow three YouTube channels, one for grammar, one for vocabulary, and one for pronunciation. When I drive my car, I listen to news radio stations in English at a high volume level.
Actually I feel that my understanding is better and I am ready to talk in basic form anywhere. I don’t feel scared but I still feel a little nervous.
I need to continuously learn so I can have new job opportunities. In Ecuador, I accumulated 20 years of experience in the banking and higher education sector, developing more than 30 projects, in positions such as head of the claims department, customer service manager and call center manager with up to 80 employees under my responsibility. In my studies, I have achieved a postgraduate Master in Quality Management.
My new challenge is to master the English language, because I need my skills in Spanish to be equal to my skills in English in order to be able to serve people, which is what I am most passionate about. At the same time climbing in the workplace and ensuring the necessary income for my family.

Lilian Flores
One of my goals was to go back to school and I was given the opportunity to do it. It is something so important for me to be able to make new friends, get a better job, have a more sociable life and better communication. Helping other people is something that changes your life.
Learning English I am able to go to a store, go to a restaurant, go to the doctor, and go for a walk with the family. Above all, learning English gives you opportunity in a better job field, whether it is to support other people or yourself.
Going back to study recreates your childhood - it is something new that you are learning that makes you happy and that motivates you to be able to move forward. You know that if you have your children here in the future you will be able to communicate excellently with them in both
languages. This is a privilege that many people do not have.

It is something that gives you purpose and is something that satisfies when you achieve it. It brings happiness that your family can support you despite these difficult times that we are going through - studying is something so beautiful.

Maryam Foushanji

Hi my name is Maryam. I want to write about how learning English has helped me. When I came here it was very difficult for me to go anywhere. Always I went with my husband or my sons. Because I could not drive, I was very afraid for how can I talk to people or drive some where. When we had guests, I was just saying sorry I cannot speak English. But now, I can write and read and talk to people much better. I can talk to our teachers. They teach very well and they have a lot of patience with students. Now I can understand the utility bills. I can go to restaurants with my friends. I can talk about the culture of my country to my classmates or learn about my classmates culture. I can talk to my neighbor and my daughter-in-law who only speaks English. I can read books to my grandchildren. I want to learn more English for my near future because I want to eventually help women who cannot speak English.

Sandra Gaitán

Learning English helps me establish my home and family in a new country. First of all, learning English lets me know procedures to manage my house, like how to pay bills, how to use devices, and how to make appointments with experts who do inspections to do necessary things in the house, such as heating and air conditioning. Second, it allows me to be a more social person, because I can be more friendly and know the condo schedule. And in conclusion, learning English makes me a useful leader to my family and reduce loads in our new home.

Samrawit Gebrehiwot

When I came to the US two and half years ago, it was difficult for me to speak or to explain my whole idea in one sentence. But even [though] I couldn’t speak fluently, I was able to comment. I had a job at Bed, Bath, and Beyond as a cashier. Then one day, I was on my break and I saw a paper posted. It said free English class. And I was thinking to enroll at that time. Unfortunately, I wasn’t able to [because] I was working two jobs. Finally, I got pregnant and stayed at home, so I enrolled.

Now thanks to Miss Elizabeth and Miss Sandra, I’m getting better at grammar and vocabulary. But still I need more time to be more familiar with English.

I promise I will write an interesting essay for next time with a good grammar, vocabulary and punctuation for next class

Thank you for your help my teachers.

Abdul Jamil Ghafori

English is an international language. My name is Abdul Jamil Ghafori. I’m 28 years old. I’m from Afghanistan and I’m now in this country. I’m going to write about the English language. As I said, English is an international language. Everyone should learn English. English is the most useful language in the world.

I came to the United States 6 months ago. In the first month, it was hard for me and my family because we could not speak English. When someone doesn’t know English, life is hard - you can’t go to shop, or to work or anything. When I came here that time was really hard for me. When I went shopping I used Google Translate, but this system was hard for conversation with others. I got a job in a restaurant in Reston and working was hard and so boring to me and my coworkers because I didn’t know the language.

After this I decided I should learn English. After a few days, one of my brother’s friends got information about LCNV classes at the Herndon Neighborhood Resource Center and said I should go
there to take an English class. Two of my brothers and one of my sisters and I made an appointment to join. After one month of studying English, day by day my English got better and now I can converse at my job with others and customers. I am hoping to speak English in my neighborhood.

I want to especially thank my teachers and all the HNRC staff. Thank you, Miss Jackie.

Abdul Shahab Ghafori

Hi, my name is Abdul Shahab Ghafori. I am from Afghanistan. My goal in learning English is to make progress in life, because today English is a necessity in my whole soul. We need to know and I want to learn English so that I can have a better job in the future and help my family in the future. Now English slowly changes my life.

Abdul Walid Ghafori

English day by day improves and allows me to speak with people at work, class, home and in the community.

I am working at Grill Kabob. By learning English, now I can answer the phone and get an order.

It supports me to speak English in the community. In an American community you should speak English better to understand, listen and say your ideas.

So I decided to improve my English and start English class at the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia. Now English slowly changes my life. Now I can write an email, or speak with customers in my job.

Now I have decided to start GED to have my diploma in this country, and also I am searching for a new job to support my family and have a nice job.

I am sure that when I have a nice job I can buy a car or a house. So learning English is the first step. To be successful in life, we work and study together and we will achieve our goals and make a beautiful life for our children.

Samya Ghafori

English education empowers me. I can talk with people and I can find a good job. I need to learn English because I want to have good communication with people.

When I get a job, the first rule or condition is I have to speak English. For that reason, I must learn English. I want to go to college because I would like to graduate from college. The first step is that I have to speak and read in English. Another reason is I want to find friends. I live in the United States, so in the US all of the people speak English. The last reason is that I like English.

Noe Godinez

English helps me to get to the hospital and school. It helps me work and use my phone. English is helping my kids get more education.

Seyner Godinez

English helps me to work. It helps me to get more experienced. English helps the family. It helps me get more money.

Dalila Gomez Hernandez

Learning English is important because it helps me a lot in communicating with others. For example, it helps me to talk to the people at my work and also to talk to the teachers at my kids’ schools. When I go to the store it helps me to ask for food and it helps me talk to my doctor. I like my teacher Ms. Banhi, so I want her to keep teaching me; she explains very well and is patient.
Jose Gregorio Perez Juana

I can confidently state that learning English has given me many broad opportunities for development in two areas: in my professional life and in my personal life. In my professional life, it has allowed me to be a commissioner in an international organization outside my country. In my personal life, it has allowed me to travel to the United States of America and visit very interesting places. Particularly, with the increase in the learning of the English language, it has been possible for me to interact with other people. In everyday life, it is possible for me to understand more words with my interlocutors, for example, when shopping, in restaurants to order food, at doctor’s appointments, etc. The support with the translator application has been reduced, however, I still need it, as I need to increase my vocabulary further. Like any process, learning requires time, and I consider that I have made progress, and I know that with perseverance, over time I will continue to increase my knowledge of the English language. Finally, the knowledge of the English language has given me many benefits that I value.

Nelly Guaman

Since I started English classes, I have been learning many words and that is helping me to communicate much better with my daughter’s school, with my daughter’s pediatrician, in the supermarket, at work or when I am walking and when someone speaks to me in English I can communicate. For me to be able to speak in English is very important because that way I will be able to communicate and express myself much better. I want to continue going to English classes because I still need to learn much more and I would like my teachers to continue teaching.

Lewis Leonardo Guanca Gonzales

English helps me to work.
It helps me get more money.
English helps me travel.

Zarin Gul Jafari

English is very important to me. Today, comprehensive learning of English is essential. English language grows my life. English language can solve the problem in the supermarket and hospital. By learning English I can help [with] my daughter’s lessons [at] school. By learning English, I can have many friends. With English I can find a good job. I can achieve my goals with English. I like English music because I can learn new words and improve my language.

Astrid Gutierrez

When I came to this country nearly one year ago, my luggage arrived full of dreams. In my beautiful country I studied Business Administration. I worked in a bank for a few years and I have always been interested in topics such as new business models, social networks and digital marketing. Now that I have a real idea about what it is like living in this country, I need to improve my English. I need to communicate with my current job as a babysitter. In the future, one of my goals is to get a new job, specifically, I want to start a new business, focused on helping women owners of their small businesses in their growth and success through strategic sales campaigns on their social networks.

But, for now, I have an awesome boss, she is a great person, and she speaks English. I would love it if she spoke Spanish, but I would be in my comfort zone, and I am a woman of challenges.

I have been studying English every day. It is difficult because I work as a babysitter and I feel tired at the end of the day. My motivation is my children and myself, because if I feel good, they will be fine. Now I just need to feel confident and forget about the embarrassment of talking to another person. Now I realize that when I make a mistake, it makes me want to learn more English. I am in God’s hands and for him the impossible is possible.
**Diana Hafizi**

Why am I learning English? There are so many reasons. First of all, I need English for communication in daily work. For example, when I arrange a doctor appointment for myself and for my family. Also, I need English for shopping because when we go shopping we need to know all the information about things we want to buy. So English helps us to communicate and talk and solve all these questions, talk with neighbors and make a good relationship with all our neighbors. The second reason is to help with finding a good job. We need to know English because it is needed in written tests and interviews for every position. The third reason why I want to learn English is that the US and the UK are two powerful and developed countries in the world. If I want to become a good business woman, I need to know this language. Finally, I can say this language is one of the most important languages of the world and we need to know this language.

**Nasima Halim**

By learning English, now I can communicate better. With people like my kids’ teachers or doctors (to make an appointment) it helps me a lot now. I know words that I didn't know before. Before knowing English I didn't know what people would say in English. Now I understand more. I am so happy now I can help my kids with their homework. English helped me get a driver’s license and start driving. I like to read books.

**Kubra Hedayat**

Why do I need to learn English? When I learn English, I should learn four skills: writing, reading, listening, and speaking. They all come together now to open doors and give me more job opportunities. Most jobs will require me to speak English all the time. First of all, I am working at JCPenney’s in the jewelry department. If I can’t speak English, how can I communicate with my customers?

Second, I am a mom so I have to learn English because when my daughter goes to school, I have to help her with her homework. English is very important to me because I am my daughter’s first teacher.

I will go to university again when I learn English. Finally, I would like to say thank you to my dear teachers because they took their precious time for us and opened the way for us so that we can go a few steps further towards a beautiful life.

**Anne Nguyen Huynh**

My English is better than before. I’m learning, speaking, listening and making new friends. It is easier to go to the bank, to go to the supermarkets, to see doctors and to talk with neighbors.

When I applied for a job, I spoke English very well. I can help at my children’s school and I can pay my bills. I can go to the DMV and talk around with neighbors.

My life is changing now because my English is getting better and more experienced. Now I have become a US citizen and I can go to vote for the president.

I’m grateful for the community and there are all the teachers and volunteers that help us with English. Many nations are in the world because we are refugees and arrive in America. So I’m grateful to America. They have a good heart and open big hands to accept all the refugees. That’s my second language.

**Eman Khatib**

I am able to speak to anyone when I want to buy things from the mall, read the recipes for cooking, speak with my new friends from different countries and different cultures. I can speak to my son’s teachers and doctors. I am able to connect with people better than before.

I hope to start working soon. So I am focusing on my language so I am able to communicate with my coworkers easily. Therefore I will become more confident in any situation. That will make me more happy and comfortable.
I enjoy learning and education is important to me, so I want to keep learning new things and add to my knowledge and the English language empowers me to do that.

**Piyamas Khuprasert**

Learning English has helped me in many ways. It helps me make new friends. Also, I can speak English with other people with confidence and I can understand when I watch the news. Most importantly, I can understand when my son talks to me. In the future, I might plan to take a more advanced English course and probably other courses related to medical care as I was a registered nurse when I was in Thailand.

**Inayetilla Kohy**

My name is Inayetilla Kohy. I’m from Afghanistan. My native language is Dari. I came to the United States four months ago. I had problems speaking English, so I started to learn English at LCNV. I have studied English since February 14, 2022. Now I can solve more problems by learning English. Now I can get a house for rent from the leasing office. I need food and more things from the supermarket. I can buy anything. I can take an Uber for transportation. I can read or send an email or message. Watching and listening to the TV and radio is easy for me. Now I can solve more problems by learning the English language. Now I search for a good job. By learning English, I can find a job. Of course, English language is very important to [do] a job. I say thanks a lot for LCNV because I am learning English here. My teacher and volunteers are kind. I will continue with my English class at LCNV.

**Qudsia Kohy**

My name is Qudsia Kohy. I am from Afghanistan. I recently arrived in the United States. My native language is Dari. When I came here I did not study English so I faced problems in speaking and communicating with people who are in the mall or grocery or other places. I couldn’t solve my problems so I enrolled in [classes at the] James Lee Community Center about three months ago. I have learned English so I can speak, write and read English and I can solve my problems. So I’m thankful for LCNV and our kind teachers because they are helping me now.

**Marina Lainez**

Learn to speak better English for work, for a better job. English can help me. I need to practice more.

**Hoa Le**

My name is Hoa Le. I have been in America with my family since 2007. I was working as a babysitter to earn money in order to take care of my children. The reason I came to American is because I wanted a better education and bright future for my children when they go to college. Now I am retired and I have free time to study ESOL and I hope to improve my speaking, writing and listening in English.

This is my second semester to study English with LCNV and I have an opportunity to meet wonderful teachers because they have helped me to understand how to read, write, speak and listen in English at level 1. I am currently studying English at Level 2 with Loren Zander who is warm and caring about her students. Thanks to her, I feel more confident to communicate with others and my English is getting better everyday. I am very happy because now I can understand English by
reading newspapers and watching TV. Also, I can communicate easily with my nieces and neighbor. I would like to give very special thanks to the excellent ESOL teachers for spending time and teaching me how to learn English. I am looking forward to studying other classes with you in the future.

**Xing Li**

My name is Xing Li. I’m from China. Since talking English classes, I have learned many new words. I can read sentences now. I can order food by myself. Now, I can also communicate at work. By learning English, I am more confident. So, I will keep on learning English.

**Xing Li**

*My Goals*

I have many goals for the next five years. Right now, I am studying at James Lee Adult School. These are my plans: first, I want to learn English well. Next, I want to do well in my job. Then, my girlfriend and I are going to get married. Finally, we plan to create a brand called Dream Tea Cafe.

**Adriana Lopez**

Is very good teacher is good practice thank you very much.

**Jorge Lorenzo**

English helps me to get more money.

English helps me to converse.

English helps me to buy.

**Ruth Lozano**

I’m Ruth Lozano. I am 33 years old. I am from El Salvador. I have one child. I live in Falls Church. I am very happy I’m learning new things. In English, I can understand more things. Thanks, teacher Jackie.

**Felicia Luciana Floriani de Otero**

I used to say that immigrants need to participate and be involved in our communities. We need to improve communication skills to be able to reach our goals and dreams.

I have taken English class for more than two years at LCNV. Since taking English class I have made friends from different cultures and I have participated in my community’s activities. I can be involved in more conversations and can state my opinions and thoughts.

Teacher Stan Citron has given and gives us tools to improve our daily life. The activities are meaningful and he helps us to speak like American. All the volunteer teachers helps us (Margaret, Richard, Alberta, Ashley, Al T) or have helped (Mike, Maryam Bill, Nicoleta).

Thank you Teachers!! Thank you all the people of LCNV!!

**Chitra Magarati**

*My Goals*

My name is Chitra Magarati. I have many goals for the next five years. Right now, I’m studying in the LCNV community center. These are my plans: first, I will study English and get a high school diploma. Next, I plan to get a better job. My plan is to buy a house. My plan is to have a child. I hope to become a citizen. Finally, I want to keep a job and I hope to spend time with my family. I hope I will be able to reach my goals.

**Gabriela María Hernández**

Since I started taking English classes, I feel emotionally more confident about myself. [I can] help my children in their school. This language is very important because it helps you grow.
emotionally as a person. Live together in the best way and help others to be encouraged to learn it and be able to find a better job option.

Zuhel Mayar

I am Zuhel Mayar. I’m from Afghanistan. I came to the United States six months ago. At that time, I did not understand English and could not speak English, but I understood very little English because I had studied in Afghanistan. Later I decided that I needed to learn English and be able to solve my own problems; And I enrolled in an English course. Now I feel that my English has improved and I can solve my own problems and I will continue to learn English until I learn it completely.

Carlos Mayorga

The English language is not easy to learn, but it is a very necessary language because it has been empowered worldwide for all communications.

English in community communications is necessary to make the proper personal and family presentation, to interact in meetings with the neighborhood, to request and attend to the services required, such as pharmacy services, firefighters, hospital, forest services, etc.; also for communications by emergency electrical networks or to communicate with the postal mail service.

English at work is essential for an excellent interview, to understand and assimilate the internal work regulations, to establish a good work relationship and communication with co-workers, and communication with bosses, to present suggestions; also for external communications in the business world.

English in the family is essential to be integrated into daily activities between family members such as health issues, sharing journalistic views, helping children with homework, requesting services in pharmacies, sharing plans and reviewing past events and making lists of markets with healthy foods.

In addition to the usefulness that learning the English language offers to be able to interact in daily life, I think that it is a great step that is achieved because it is the universal language. In conclusion, this allows me to feel more secure when I act before financial, banking, cultural, commercial sectors and in the health sector.

Maria Mejia

My Goals

My name is Maria Mejia and I’m married. I hope this new year to continue learning English and I want to get my English learning diploma in adult school. My plan is to get a new job and help other people with English, as my teachers have done with me. It does not matter what country. Let’s be neither race but help each other. That is my biggest wish, hope and plan. Thank you very much. I appreciate it. I love English.

Dora Menjivar

I have 5 children. Sometimes my children’s teachers call me and I can’t always understand everything they say. English helps me to communicate easier with other people.

I need to talk English with the doctor when I need to make an appointment for my daughter. I also use my English when am at the store and am paying .

When I am at a place I don’t know I use my English to ask someone where to go or where I am.

Iman Mohamed

English is one of the most widely spoken languages. It opens doors to job opportunities. It also makes me able to express and talk about anything fluently. Of course, it helps me when I go to the airport and when I talk to my neighbors. English also helps when I make an appointment with the doctor or do an interview and or go to a meeting. I can also talk to my children at home.

Ana Monge

I need to talk, write, listen and read in English. Thanks.

Litzi Montano

English helps [me] apply [for a] new job.

English helps [with the] children’s school.

It helps me to communicate in programs.

It helps in more conversations.
Elsa Navla

English helps me to work.
It helps me to get a better job.
It helps me to help my son.

Yen Nguyen

This is a short essay about me, when I started learning English and some changes in my life.

For me learning English is very important. It helps me with many things in my life. Since taking English class, I got a new job, made new friends and I felt more confident.

By learning English, now I can state my opinions, communicate at work better and share my traditions with my friends.

By learning English, I can be involved in more conversations with more people at work and with my neighbors around me.

Bahar Niazi

First of all, I want to say that English is an international language, the language which is important around the globe. Nowadays, almost everyone’s top priority is to learn English and speak it fluently.

Not in just the real world, but if we look at the virtual world, every bit of online information is available in the English language. Yes, some translations are available in other languages, which solves the problem to some extent, but these translations are not 100% accurate. English is the language of technology and technology is life.

I want to say, more specifically, how English empowers me. Back in Afghanistan, I used to attend English classes. So in university, I was able to do my assignments because I could take information from the internet. So English helped me to shine in my academic life. When we moved to the USA, my English level was not sufficient to run my life normally. Then I started learning English with self-study. After that, I heard about English classes which I joined and they helped me a lot. Now I can solve my problems. I even take my mom to doctors, go shopping and help other Afghans in my community. In the end, I want to thank you and I appreciate all your help!

Prakash Niraula

Hi, my name is Prakash Niraula. I came to the United States from Nepal in December 2021. My English was not good when I came here, but now it is getting better. This is because I have studied the English language here and I am studying at the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia. The place where I studied English has a good atmosphere. Our classroom has all the amenities. The classroom teacher is Loren Zander. She reads well. She teaches us in new ways. Here we learn the required subjects so it is easier for us to understand and talk here. The assistant teachers are also very helpful. What I have learned is that it is now easier to buy in the market. This makes it easier to talk to friends. This has made it easier for me to work. Now it is getting easier for me here. Learning English is a very necessary and good subject.

Edina Nolasco

Knowing another language is like opening new doors. Being able to understand what they are saying to you and have a conversation is important to me not only at school but also at work. I still haven't fully learned it yet, but I think knowing English will always be very important wherever I go.

How has learning English changed your life? It is important to study English to stop feeling ignorant, it is necessary to understand and speak it either for
work or school. Learning English positively changes all aspects of my life.

How does learning English make you feel? Since taking English classes, I can opt for a better job, better opportunities.

**Dulce Oliveros**

In addition to improving my self-esteem, learning English will open up more job opportunities for me, let me interact with people, and help me participate and apply for courses. Also, English is the most widely spoken language. It is fundamental in our education. Big companies hire professional staff after they make sure the people they are hiring are good at English.

**Oneyda Marisol Ordoñez García**

I want to listen more. To understand more. To speak more words.

**Ynes Padilla Alvarez**

Learning English has changed my life for the better. It gave me many opportunities.

Since taking English classes, I have found communicating with staff and coworkers easier. I can say the same about the students because now I can help them more.

Also, now I can communicate better with my neighbors. Although not 100% yet, but I can really understand them better than before.

Now with what I’m learning in my English class, I can engage in activities that occur without having to worry about not understanding something. So far I can say that I can understand and communicate more fluently with people so that makes me feel more confident.

**Radhika Pandey**

My name is Radhika Pandey and I am from Nepal. I came here in 2017. In my country, I speak just the Nepali language. I have a family, my husband and my 2 small kids. When I came to this country, I had lots of difficulty when I spoke. I needed to learn to speak in English.

Before, I could not make any doctor appointments and I had a problem with my kids in school. I could not go anywhere; it was a problem for me.

Now I am learning English in classes. I am happy and I can communicate with other people. And now I can teach my son to read and write and help with his homework. I can talk to my neighbors and I am very happy with my neighbors. I can easily make appointments at the doctors, and now I can go anywhere and I can talk to people openly.

I am lucky to meet great teachers and LCNV. Thank you very much!

**Hyejung Park**

By learning English, now I can have confidence in speaking English. When I arrived at the US at first, I felt scared by English conversation. I couldn’t make friends. And I couldn’t ask for help, or ask a question. So my life in the US was difficult at first. But after I learned English, my life changed very much.

First of all, my English increased my communications. I met many people in many situations before I learned English, and I could only say “Hello.” But by learning English, I improved my ability to communicate. I can talk to my children’s teacher, to my neighbors and to my children’s doctor. I can explain details and expand more conversations.

Second, I have seen improvement in my cultural opportunities. I enjoyed watching “Netflix” in my country. But I couldn’t enjoy American movies in the US. By learning English, now I listen and read better. So now I can enjoy watching American movies. Also, I can watch American news, websites and social media.

By learning English, I can understand about the US very well. English is a good tool for connecting me and my community. I am not afraid of English
anymore, and I can enjoy my American life. I want my English to continue to improve and get better.

Hyejung Park

When I first arrived the United States, I was scared about talking with others. I couldn’t completely understand conversation and make friends. I couldn’t talk with my children’s teachers. I couldn’t tell the other people [what] I thought all about it. In many situations, my husband translated for me from English to Korean. My family spent a difficult time learning English. Before I arrived in the United States, I didn’t think English was important but now I realized English’s importance.

Now, I have learned English for 9 months, so I can speak more naturally than before. In emergency situations, I can [speak] by myself without my husband’s help. For example, when my daughter was sick, I could call the hospital and make an appointment. My daughter met the doctor and he cured the cold. We passed the difficult situation and improved my English conversation. I felt more comfortable and more confident.

In the future, I hope to enjoy the U.S.’s culture and make more friends. I want to watch movies, read books and newspapers without translators helping. I expect to enjoy my life the United States.

Ivan Parra Giraldo

English empowers me because it has been a challenge in my life. I have been in this country for 2 years. I saw it as very difficult because of my age, but studying every day has helped me overcome the fear of learning English. In my country they say an old parrot never can learn a new language.

English has empowered me because my children feel very proud of me. My goal of learning fluent English at my age has been an example for them that it is never too late to learn. Thanks to my effort my children are studying today English also.

Chitali Patel

When I came to the U.S one things made me unhappy When I listened to the peoples I had trouble to translate them they were spoke very
fast. With my neighborhood, doctors, schools, playgrounds, shopping centers everywhere I had difficulty communicating with them wherever I went. I needed to find someone to translate them for me. I felt myself depended.

Then I decided to do something and I searched for opportunities to take English classes.

Since I joined LCNV I feel like I got my life back. I feel confident. Now I communicate with people without any fear. I go out without anyone helping. I won't be alone. Soon I will get my job. This is my goal.

**Bahubring Perez**

I need to learn English because I live in the US and it is the language spoken in this country. When I came to this country in 2003 I got a job working in a kitchen and I liked it. After 10 years, I became a Sous-chef. In my job as a Chef I need to speak English to communicate with my boss and our suppliers to place orders. I also need English to communicate with my co-workers.

At home, I need to speak English to communicate with my children's teachers. I need to speak English to make an appointment at a clinic as well as to find an address. I need to speak English. I must speak English.

**Jose Gregorio Perez Juana**

I can confidently state that learning English has given me many broad opportunities for development in two areas: in my professional life and in my personal life.

In my professional life, it has allowed me to be a commissioner in an international organization outside my country.

In my personal life, it has allowed me to travel to the United States of America, and to visit very interesting places.

Particularly, with the increase in the learning of the English language, it has been possible for me to interact with other people.

In everyday life, it is possible for me to understand more words with my interlocutors, for example when shopping, in restaurants to order food, at doctor's appointments, etc.

The support with the translator application has been reduced, however, I still need it, as I need to increase my vocabulary further.

Like any process, learning requires time, and I consider that I have made progress, and I know that with perseverance, over time I will continue to increase my knowledge of the English language.

Finally, the knowledge of the English language has given me many benefits that I value.

Thank you very much.

Best regards.

Gregorio Perez.

**Maria Perez Linares**

Since taking English classes I have become confident when speaking to other people because I understand more about what they say. In the work environment, I have improved my conversation with some coworkers, and I can help customers when they ask me about some items they are looking for. I can interview in English for new jobs and I can get training in English for new positions.

In a family environment, I can help my uncle with his visits to the doctor, do banking transactions with him, pay the bills, make appointments, etc.

I think that by improving my English I could get better opportunities for jobs, study for a career, become a citizen, learn about finances, buy my own house, and, most important, help my family.

**MariJan Rakazada**

My name is Mari Jan Rakazada. I like to read and study everyday English because English is important to learn everyday.
Gloria Ramirez

My Goals

I have many goals for the next four years. Right now studying English at LCNV adult school. First, I will travel to my country Bolivia to be with my son and family, since February 7th, it will be a year that my mother died. Then I’ll go back to studying English until I can speak and write. Next, I plan to bring my son Diego so that he can have his papers that we are all together as a family. Other goals I have are being able to start my own restaurant and help my son to become a citizen.

Thais Ribeiro

I came to live in the USA because my husband is in the military and he is in the Brazilian Army Commission. We will stay here for two years and after he finishes his mission, we will go back to Brazil.

I need to learn English to help my children with their homework, and I need to buy clothes, food and many objects for my home.

I really like to talk with my neighbors and to make new friends.

I want to improve my communication because I want to watch movies and to travel to other countries.

Filomena Rivas

Hi, my name is Filomena. I am from Guatemala. I’ve been in the USA for 2 years and now I’m studying English. I really like it because English is very important to me and the teachers here are very good people. If you don’t understand, the teachers help you to understand.

Wendy Rivera

Learning English has changed my life every day because it’s very important for my family and me. In the past I didn’t understand anything and it was very hard. People would talk to me and my answer was “Sorry, I don’t speak English.” I felt ashamed.

At my children’s school, I had meetings and I did not understand anything. Right now I understand a little and I feel better when my child’s teacher questions me - I have an idea what they are talking about and I can answer them.

In 2018 I wanted to find a place to learn English, and finally I found LCNV. In fall 2020 I started to take English classes. It’s the best experience. I started in level 2 and in Fall 2021 they evaluated me and moved me to level 3. I am happy and excited because it means that I am learning more English.

By learning English, I can communicate with other people and understand more. My goal for the future is to learn, write, read and speak English. I want to get my GED and get a good job.

Luis Rodas

I need English to be able to communicate at work and to be able to function better and to be able to help my son at school.

Manuela Rodriguez

When I started English classes, I didn’t know any English. Now that I have been going to English class, it has been helping me talk to my kids a little bit more.
Nilab Rozbeh

By learning English, now I can read write and speaker nicely. Also I can do my daily needs lonely. It helped me make foreign friends in everywhere. I hope one day I become like a native English speaker by learning it.

On the other hand want to become an English teacher at American University.

Ileana Saavedra

My Goals

I have many goals in my life. Right now, I live in the United States and I am studying English. Some of my goals are: First, I am going to learn English very well and I know this is the key to get my other goals. Next, I hope to get my G.E.D Equivalent. This could be so near, like January 10th of the next year. Then I am going to have my driver license. Finally, I want to be ready for a new opportunity and a new job. I know it will not be easy and the time is very fast, but I will never give up and I will achieve what I have written here.

Jhovanna Saavedra

My name is Jhovanna. I came to the United States from Bolivia a long time ago and my priority since I arrived was always to work immediately which was not the case. It took me about six months to find a job. When I finally found it, there was not only one but two different jobs which I took and worked a lot of time, waking up very early in the morning. I used to start at seven am and end at 3pm. Then I had to change my other uniform in the car to get to my second job on time to start at 4pm until 11pm.

That was my routine from Tuesday to Sunday. The only day I had free was Monday which I used to do my personal things.

Now, my life has changed. I have two wonderful children that I have to move forward. I left my two jobs to dedicate my time to them. My plan now is to learn English to be able to communicate more with my children, and help them with their homework and doubts.

It is the first time that I am taking these writing courses, and honestly I am learning a lot with my wonderful teachers. I really recommend that you never give up because I will try to never give up myself.

Shazia Sabery

English education empowers me. I study a lot and put in as much effort as I can. It helps me to find a good job and to meet new people and learn about new cultures.

Having a good job is very important to me. To have a good job, I need English. Without English it is impossible to have a perfect job.

One of my problems is that my listening skills are a little weak. Also, the accent of people in America is different. When people speak in English it's hard for me to understand.

Because of all these things, learning English motivates me to study hard and achieve good results and arrive to all my dreams.

Maryam Sadeqi

I can learn English at work and in the community with people.

I am learning English and speaking is important to me, and I am very interested in trying to learn because it solves many of my problems and troubles in society.

My goal is to learn English since I live in this country. I realize that English is influential in finding a good job. So to help myself and my family and live better I should try to learn English.
Nazira Sadeqi

My goal is to learn English to talk to people and because I live here and I want to solve my problem when I go to the doctor.

I can talk and I like to have a conversation in class and talk with others.

Kyoko Saita

I have been living in America for six years now. I was really shy to communicate with people. And I didn’t even want to go to the grocery store because the shop clerk always asks “How are you?” I was not sure how to answer. So I realized that I had to change my life to live in America, and I decided to stop running away from reality. First I started studying English at LCNV. Fortunately, I was able to learn from good teachers here, and I could make some friends. It was so fun and exciting with the classmates. I really had a great time, and I gradually became more confident.

Francisca Sanchez

English helps me to [teach] my son.
It helps in my work.
It helps for driving.
It helps for my car insurance.

Fahima Satar

I am student. I have been in the United States for 4 months learning. English will empower me to get a job it will help me when I go shopping and find more friends. I find more friends when I go to job, and also can find more friends in Gym because I will can talk with them in Gym.

Gabriela Schmidt

When I arrived in the USA, I didn’t have an idea how important it was to speak English. Even though I studied the language in my country when I was at school, I didn’t practice enough. It sounds like I haven’t studied it before. I remember the first few months here, I couldn’t understand some traffic signs and other things that are important when you are in a new country. To mention something, I always needed a translator in my son’s school to communicate to his teachers. It was because I couldn’t speak and understand them perfectly.

I heard about English classes at the community center in the city where I live. I didn’t hesitate to register and take them! Now, I have about six months studying and learning the language. I feel good about myself and grateful to my teachers for helping me to improve my English skills. Since I’m learning the language, I have improved my self confidence and although I still have a lot to learn, I know that I’m giving my best and one day it will be much better. To be honest, my favorite part is writing class. I am aware of the importance for learning grammar, sounds, spelling, pronunciation, practice, conversation and other things so that learning is complete.

My plan for the future is to have a formal job that I like in this country. I would like to work in Human Resources for a company where I can help people feel motivated and appreciated for what they do and give to the company. I want to make a difference wherever I am. My goal is to continue studying and learning the language. I know that I learn everyday. I learn by reading a book or magazine in English, listening to music or a podcast, watching a movie or news on TV, making the effort to speak to someone in English and so on.

Finally, I’m just saying that we don’t have to give up because nothing is impossible and no one is
born knowing everything. It is never too late to learn something new. Although the English language isn’t my native language, learning it can give me many opportunities. Nelson Mandela said, “education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” It can empower us and improve our self-confidence to know that we will be able to fight for a dream and achieve it. It’s totally up to us.

**Nazilla Seddiqi**

English is an international language. When we live in America, we should learn English. First of all, I can talk with everyone. Second, when I work in a company, learning English helps me know my responsibilities. Third, I can meet teachers and help my child with homework and be in touch with the school. Furthermore, I can go shopping. Finally, learning English has helped me in many ways.

I came back again in the United States in 2019 and I am living here. I have my three grandchildren here as well. We cannot communicate with each other. I can’t go to the mall, store, hospital or restaurant without help. I am the oldest person of my family but it seems like they got older. Because they (my family members) taught me everything. So I got younger.

I needed to learn English language anyhow. So, I admitted to English class in literacy council of northern Virginia. I got the golden opportunity to read and learn English Language. I learned the simple knowledge of English language from the level one class. I am now a level two student. We have a skillful teacher who teaches well.

Now I can speak English little bit for survival. I can talk with my grandchildren and other people. I am try to participate in each conversation.

In my experience, our life will be better because of English language. English language can make a quality of life better. It is a part of our life.

Thank you Literacy Council of Northern Virginia.

**Wendy Segura Blanco**

My English class has taught me a lot for my education in a second language. Now I can read and speak English better. I need to study more to help my children [with their] homework in school. Thank you for helping the community.

**Janak Sharma**

Everyone knows that the English language is a popular language in the world. The language influences us in many ways. Many of the countries’ governments do management with the English language. To know the English language should be compulsory for all people. It plays a major role in everyone’s life. We need the language to live, to eat food and to wear clothes, as it is important for our daily life. So, simple English is enough for all.

I came to the United States in 2016. At this time I faced many problems inside and outside of home. I knew nothing about the English language. I had to go back after 6 months.

When we arrived in the US we faced the problem of communicating and building ourselves again. So how can this be without language? And there were several difficulties that we faced because of that.

Starting at home, this is an essential part of learning and teaching at the same level to be able to understand what my child learns at school. This helps me to participate in his education and build his personality.

And the other reason was communicating with neighbors in the neighborhood and the community through our understanding of each other.

**Rania Shrayedeh**

When we arrived in the US we faced the problem of communicating and building ourselves again. So how can this be without language? And there were several difficulties that we faced because of that.

Starting at home, this is an essential part of learning and teaching at the same level to be able to understand what my child learns at school. This helps me to participate in his education and build his personality.

And the other reason was communicating with neighbors in the neighborhood and the community through our understanding of each other.
And there is another very important reason: How can I communicate and understand what is required of me at work, and how can I serve, advance and build myself?

So when I learn English well I will feel confident in myself and I am looking forward to getting to a higher and higher level in my educational, social and work life.

Marta Sorto

English education empowers me. When I arrived in the US I felt nervous because English was my new language, and it was hard to understand especially when I was shopping. But now I feel more comfortable because my English is better every day. My communication with my boss and my coworkers has improved, and also the communication with my kids’ teachers is better. If I continue studying I will have a better job and I want to have new friends. Some day I want to go to Disney World. I want to travel to many countries with my children. I hope all my dreams come true.

Kishwar Sultana

I have made new friends. I have helped my child learn from home. By learning English now I can share my traditions, pay my own bills. By learning English, I can be involved with my neighbors in my community.

Lima Taraki

When I came to the United States, I was a little worried about speaking English. Then I decided to study English, and fortunately I joined an English class and learned a lot.

The reason for learning English is to empower myself so I can express myself better and share my knowledge and experience with others. This will also help me to understand better when I am learning something new.

I have confidence when I’m speaking in English. Before I studied English, I was a very timid person. However, after studying English in the United States, I’m not a timid person anymore. I have confidence and I can speak English very well. And I want to speak English even better now.

Learning English makes me an intelligent person. Thanks to my teachers who helped me to learn English, I can speak four languages: Dari, Pashtu, Urdu and English. I think someone who can speak many languages is fantastic. So, I think learning English is great for my future. I’m happy that I can speak English.

Finally, learning English makes me a better person and learning English can raise my competitiveness when I find a job. So, I’m happy and I keep trying to speak English better.

Lan Phuong Thi Pham

I think English is very important in my new life. I’m from Vietnam and have been here for 3 years. With English, I can control everything I need. When I am sick, I can call to make an appointment and talk with my doctor. I don’t need the help of my husband. When I go to DMV to change [my] driver license. He helps me talk and with everything they need.

My daughter helps me when I register [to] study English and when I go to get vaccinated.

English will help me get a new good job. I want to work in a market either Aldi or Lidl. I work in a Vietnamese restaurant now. In Vietnam, I worked as an accountant, but I don’t speak enough English to do that here. I try because I need to learn more English every day for good life.

Liem Tran

I came to the United States from Vietnam in 2007. I used to study English in Vietnam. I can speak English, but not very well. When I came here, I had to work hard 8 hours a day and seven days a week in the Vietnamese restaurant for 15 years, take care of 2 children and go to high school. And now I retired one year ago.
In my family, there are 4 people: my wife, two daughters, and me. My two girls graduated from George Mason University 5 years ago and now they are working in an accounting company. I have free time in my life now. I recognize I must study English as soon as possible because it is a very important language and popular in the world. It helps me read the news, talk with people and enlarge my knowledge.

During the fall semester last year, my reading comprehension and pronunciation have greatly improved. My self confidence when I meet American people is much better. I can read and understand English newspapers and watch English television news. Thank you so much to my teacher, Loren Zander.

**My Goals**

I have many goals for the next five years. Right now, I have to study English at a community college. These are my plans: First, I will study accounting at a school. Next, I plan to get a job in an accounting office. Then, I will buy a new house and get married. Finally, I hope to have two children in my family.

**Fernando Urquizo Durán**

My first step to move forward in this country is to learn English, and to be able to achieve many goals that I have for my future.

I have limited knowledge of the language - that is why I decided to take English classes. I know that it will help me both at work and in my social life, and to be able to have a better conversation with people.

Since taking English classes I have improved my pronunciation, I can understand more clearly what people say to me, I am in contact with more people, I feel more confident about what I say and it makes my life easier.

I will continue to learn more every day to be able to meet all my goals and be able to achieve success.

**Deysi Valladares Vanegas**

English helps me to work.
English helps me to communicate.
English helps me to earn money.
English helps me to drive.

**Paulo A. Vega**

English helps me a lot for communication at work with my coworkers and my boss. At my children’s school, it helps me communicate with the teachers and parents. Also, when I go to buy something important at the pharmacy.

**Nhi Vo**

My name is Nhi Vo and I have lived in the US for 5 years. I don’t speak English very well so I didn’t see myself fitting into the community and I didn’t understand what others were saying. I was afraid of everything. Since I started learning English at LCNV, I began to see my life becoming more meaningful. I feel happier and more confident when talking to other people. By learning English, it has helped me discover many interesting things in the US that I haven’t seen before. I’m grateful to be part of the class as my teacher and classmates are awesome.

**Yoen Whangbo**

Since taking English classes, I am getting more opportunities. First of all, I am expanding my community. For example, I am in the community with my neighbors and friends who work out together in the Rec Center. Through that kind of community, I am learning about American society and culture. When I get used to English more, I want to do volunteer work at public institutions in the U.S. such as libraries. Secondly, I have a goal that I can go on a business trip without an interpreter after returning to my company. This will help me get more opportunities in my career. Also, I can get more access to English-based foreign media, and the network I made with my international friends will give me another capability.
Juyeon Yoo

English was a terrible thing to me. And English is still scary. English is a compulsory subject in South Korea. English was mainly learned to get high marks on exams and employment. This way of studying was difficult for me.

I suddenly came to America [because of my] husband. I could understand English by reading it. But I couldn’t understand what the Americans were saying. It was hard to hear, harder to say. I was desperate for English education classes. I learned English lessons at LCNV at the James Lee Community Center. I have been learning English since the fall of 2021. At first, it was hard for me to understand the teacher’s [speech] than to learn from the textbook. However, as I participated in the class, I gradually understood the class. My teacher prepares very hard for class. She is very passionate [about] her students. Because of her, English classes are very interesting. I am thankful to Loren Zander.

It is still difficult for me to speak English, but I try to speak. I am still afraid of English, but I will get through it. I will talk comfortably with a variety of people, including neighbors living next door and children’s teachers. Loren, thank you for always supporting me. I would also like to thank the assistants.

My English learning is still in progress. I want to study hard. I want to enjoy a wonderful American life through learning.

Loren, thank you for always supporting me. I would also like to thank the assistants. My English is still in progress. I want to study hard and enjoy a wonderful American life through learning.

My Goals

I have many goals for the next three years. Right now, I want to speak English well through the LCNV course at James Lee Community Center. First, I will teach my two young daughters school homework. I want to easily listen to and understand American TV dramas. Second, I want to travel all over America. I want to communicate freely with people I meet at my travel destination. Finally, I have to go back to South Korea in three years. I want to experience American culture while in the United States.

Khatera Zada

It’s very good program helping students to learn English language and empower the students.

Mariam Zurmati

All over the world, more than 7 billion people are living, and more than 3000 native languages are spoken and written. For one person, it is impossible to understand all these languages, so there is a need to have international languages that are spoken and understood by many people in the world so they can easily communicate.

Since many scholars from all over the world write their books and articles in the English language, people get interested in understanding it because knowing it helps them to solve their economic, strategic, and business problems, to find jobs, and to communicate with other people. Nowadays the English language is more popular than other international languages, and a large number of people around the world can speak, write, and understand English now.

English education empowers people in different ways. First of all, when people talk to each other and read books, essays, and articles in a common language, this provides the opportunity to create better relationships by sharing ideas, knowledge and professional learning. Secondly, they are able to share their personal experience of different cultures, religions, and political systems all over the world, thus bringing people and cultures together. This has a positive outcome for society and for cultural understanding. For these reasons English education empowers people by giving them the chance to improve their knowledge, experience and professional expertise, and also to understand the perspectives of people with different cultures and languages.
Celebrating the Last 60 Years!
Looking forward to what the future holds!

1962
- 1st Official meeting on November 26

1964
- Dr. Robert Laubach and Mid Allen Ries appear on NBC in 5-day series on November 26

1967
- LCNV teamed with 88 other councils to form National Association for Literary Advance (NALA)

1970
- Tutoring begins in Lorton

1974
- 1st permanent office on Cameron Street in Alexandria

1976
- B. Katz becomes Executive Director as a volunteer

1978
- 1st paid staff: Jean Sweeney, Executive Director (1980-1986)

1982
- Students first charged registration fee
- 1st fundraiser: Little Theatre of Alexandria

1987
- Elsa Angell becomes Executive Director (1989-1990)

1990
- Greg Smith serves as Executive Director (1990-2002)

1991
- 1st VISTA volunteer

1995
- ESOL Computer Learning Center opens

1999
- Family Learning Program begins

2002
- Reading is a Family Affair (RAFA) begins

2007
- Patti M. Donnelly becomes Executive Director (2002-2017)

2012
- Destination Workforce® (DW), LCNV’s Workforce English program started

2015
- 1st DW® partnership with Goodwin House followed by DoubleTree, Jose Andres ThinkFoodGroup, Capital One, and others
- SNAPSHOT resource guide created

2017
- Rupal Saran serves as Executive Director (2017-present)
- LCNV receives $200k grant from Bank of America

2018
- Creation of Facebook Learner Network for current and former LCNV learners and instructors
- Guest Service Gold is offered through DW®

2020
- COVID-19 hits and LCNV pivoted to all virtual classes and events

2021
- Computer literacy incorporated into class curriculum
- LCNV learners interview U.S. Congressman Don Beyer in virtual Q&A

2022
- Roopal Saran serves as Executive Director (2017-present)

Looking forward to what the future holds!
Outstanding Instructor Recognitions

Each year, LCNV learners are invited to thank their instructors by nominating them for an Outstanding Instructor Recognition. LCNV thanks every instructor for their hard work, and for their dedication and passion for adult literacy in Northern Virginia. Enjoy these words straight from our learners.

Teacher: Ludette Agura
Student: Keumjoo Kwon

Thank you for being such an amazing teacher!!! I have learned so much because of you. You encouraged me to do my best. I will always be thankful to you for all lessons and efforts you have put in to make me better. I really appreciate you.

Teacher: Ludette Agura
Student: Ji Eun Park

She is supportive and attentive.

Teacher: Ludette Agura and Kathy Larkin
Student: Ji Eun Park

Ludette Agura is a supportive and attentive teacher. She worked hard to keep the class going according to the syllabus.

Another teacher, Kathy Larkin always listens and pays attention to all students with respect. So students become more confident in their abilities and have the opportunities to improve their skills.

Teacher: Nadin Al-Attar
Student: Nadain Saddig

You are hands down the best teacher, Nadin, I ever had. Thank you for emboldening my days. Your kindness made me feel welcomed and comfortable. You gave me the confidence to dream big.

Teacher: Nadin Al-Attar
Student: Neyvi Llorena CarCamo

Because she is very kind to us and explains well.

Teacher: Nadin Al-Attar
Student: Nargis Ibrahimi

We are not in the same language class, but the teacher can understand us in a language that we all speak so much. I am a new Afghan, but when I attend class, I like English because [the teacher] can understand me. The [teacher] uses images and objects to understand us correctly. I found this background in her. She is [a] very good teacher.

Teacher: All Teachers
Student: Iman Mohamed

I thank all the teachers because I benefited from these classes so much, they did a great job for us. They helped me a lot in my life in America.

Teacher: Molly Bensinger-Lacy
Student: Carolina Pereira

Mrs. Molly has [a good] pedagogy. She is dedicated in class. The classes are dynamic.

Teacher: Molly Bensinger-Lacy
Student: Shegufa Wahidi

Molly is [a] very organized and talented teacher. She uses some great methods of teaching.
Teacher: Molly Bensinger-Lacy  
Student: Catherine Salazar

She is friendly, answers [our] questions and finds ways to make us understand.

Teacher: Molly Bensinger-Lacy and Elizabeth Stone  
Student: Zainab Hussaini

Their teaching method is excellent and they work very hard and encourage the students a lot.

Teacher: Banhi Bhattacharya  
Student: Tamara Al-betar

She deserves to be recognized because she is understanding, she has a fun teaching technique, and she has a good personality. I hope to continue with her class.

Teacher: Banhi Bhattacharya  
Student: Berta Lidia Alvarez

I recommend my teacher as an excellent teacher in the way she teaching me. She explains to me very well that I can understand. She is also very kind. I felt very good to be her student. Thank you very much.

Teacher: Margaret Breen and Krista Carlson  
Student: Maria Lopez

My teachers [are] very good. [The] English teachers [are] very good.

Teacher: Margaret Breen and Krista Carlson  
Student: Katty Caceres

[They are] patient, explain [things] very well, are funny, [and are] creative.

Teacher: Bob Brown  
Student: Mohammad Sherzad

The word master is very respectable and lovable. The beginning of education starts from the school where teachers patiently teach children like their own children. We like those who have emigrated from our country Afghanistan, take refuge in a new country need to learn English. Fortunately, we met a professor who was knowledgeable in terms of language and had a very good attitude and correct teaching method. He was excellent in terms of ethics and character and put in a lot of effort to teach us English. Master is a spiritual father. Bob Brown showed us his father in order to learn the language. I appreciate your hard work.

Volunteers share information about classes with the community.
A teacher is the most important person in a student’s life. Bob Brown is our English teacher. He is a good teacher. He has some great qualities. He is very punctual and he never misses his duties. He is an ultimate guide who is really important for our future success. He is a really good friend with the students. His teaching skill is amazing which helps students to understand the lessons better. He really cares about his pupils and he loves them. Teaching is not an easy job!

My teacher deserves to be recognized because he has many professional and personality traits. He usually spends more than four hours a week with us. He spends many hours outside of class for planning, grading papers and tests and preparing for class. He tries to advise and guide us on solutions to our problems. He is patient and we learn a lot. He explores different areas to help us in what we are passionate about. He teaches us life skills that are needed to be successful.

She is among the best teacher I have met. First, she always encouraged us to be confident. Second, she did her best to teach us everything she knew, such as how to get information, how to use some useful tools, and how to build up networking, etc. Last, she gave us fair chances to speak in class. For these reasons, I was so lucky to meet her as my teacher.

Because Kobi Carter loves teaching so much and that passion is transmitted, which makes me want to learn hard and gives me the courage to take on a challenge.

LCNV receives the Nonprofit Leadership Award from Leadership Fairfax
Teacher: Kobi Carter
Student: Soo Chon

She is the best teacher I ever had. She knows a lot and seems to have exceptional knowledge like [a] “walking dictionary”. She taught us many ways to study and search for things we need. She maintains positive energy and [a] smile all the time. She is always present and able to help us with any question we may have. The best thing is that she is very good at encouraging and uplifting her students.

Teacher: Sabrina Chikhi
Student: Maria Portillo

She is kind, [and] teaches us a lot.

Teacher: Stan Citron
Student: Chang Park

My teacher Stan Citron deserves to be recognized because he must have put in lots of hours for the Zoom Class preparing educational materials that I learn. He gives us ‘Fridays Fun Night’ where we have been learning songs and poems. Of course, I perceive that he didn’t choose his career because he want to become a billionaire. Therefore, I can say he is passionate and hard-working about learning new technologies and using them effectively for our Online class in English. So, I strongly recommend Stan deserves to be recognized.

Teacher: Stan Citron
Student: Yassine Boultif

[He is] nice [and] has a good way of talking.

Teacher: Stan Citron
Student: Guillermo Escobar

He is a good teacher, the class is very interesting and he is very enthusiastic.

Teacher: Stan Citron
Student: Sharling Tellez

He is innovative in his classes. He uses resources from other colleagues on YouTube as an alternative to review. He gives us an extra day ad honorem with American culture topics. He knows what our weak point is, giving us specific exercises to improve ourselves and feel confident. In summary, he [always goes] the extra mile [for us].

Teacher: Stan Citron
Student: Mizael Portillo

He has compassion in teaching. Take his time and effort in teaching his students. Has a lot of dedication on his worksheets. Has great lesson plans. One of a kind teacher and the best I know so far!
Teacher: Stan Citron
Student: Amal Alsarari

He's pretty nice [and funny] teacher. He makes people like learning. I really love to study with him.

Teacher: Stan Citron
Student: Gloria Cadena

Mr. Stan is quite a gentleman in the extension of the word, as a generous human professional teacher. He feels in his heart the migrant [experience]. [He is] a great teacher. [He is a] quality person [and] an altruistic man.

Teacher: Stan Citron, Margaret Gregory, and Mariam Khan
Student: Maryam Foushanji

They are very good teachers. They try a lot [to teach us] English. I prefer them for my class always.

Teacher: Jackie Corkins
Student: Alcira Ascencio

Because Ms. Jackie plans the classes, she is very organized and responsible. She is interested that we learn different things in each class. She is very friendly. I love her humility and simplicity. She is an excellent teacher. Her personality is contagious for us to strive to learn to speak English. She gives us homework so that we can practice at home and I like that!

Teacher: Jackie Corkins
Student: Tsige Desta

I appreciate you Jackie. You just didn't teach me, you prepared me for the road that goes beyond the classroom. [You] are a real hardworking teacher. (Thanks) Your sacrifice doesn't go unnoticed. You always try your best to teach me.

You truly care about your students and I wouldn't be where I am without you so thank you.

Teacher: Jackie Corkins
Student: Ting Wang

She [is] always full of passion and energy in the class, and you never felt bored in her class. She helped me get [a] good grade.

Teacher: Vaishali Deshpande
Student: Naila Amiri

She was an excellent teacher, she provided clear answers to our questions. She was friendly and honest.

Teacher: Vaishali Deshpande
Student: Ting Wang

She always prepared very well before the class, and she never defined students instead she always leads you to the right answer. She always encourages and helps students.

Teacher: Vaishali Deshpande
Student: Rasha Elsayed

She is an amazing teacher, excellent in communication and delivers the information very well [while] controlling the time.

Teacher: Ida Draim
Student: Mursal Bawar

All the teachers at LCNV are honorable for me, but I will choose Ms. Ida as [the] best instructor I have had [at] LCNV. When I needed her help, she was always there to help. I want to thank her from the bottom of my heart for being so kind and helping me with my daily assignments.

Teacher: Ida Draim
Student: Zuhal Mayar

She always tries to understand us, I am so happy with her in class and I understand [she] is the best teacher for us. All three of our teachers are kind and friendly.
“It was that moment I noticed her passion and dedication of teaching, that act inspired me and motivated me to keep studying and pursuing my goals.”

-Martha V., LCNV Student

Teacher: Ida Draim
Student: Nancy Cruz

Thank you very much teacher, thank you for allowing us to learn from you. Great teachers explain [well] and you are one of them.

Teacher: Ida Draim
Student: Janak Raj Sharma

Ida Draim is a well experienced and qualified English language teacher. She has good knowledge, ideas, and skills. She is always pushing me in listening, reading, writing and practicing the English Language. I am getting a valuable opportunity to learn from her. Please, let her teach.

Teacher: Ida Draim and Stacey Becker
Student: Tsega Berhe

Both of my teachers are very good teachers. They have the ability to communicate with their students really well. And they help us to fully understand the topic being taught each time. They are just amazing teachers and really put the effort in to teaching.

Teacher: Darlene Fahrenkrug
Student: Afifa Noorzai

She had a clear instruction methodology. Great teaching plan and follow up. Very patient, kind and helpful.

Teacher: Amante Fajardo
Student: Crispina Flores

His classes are very participatory, he identifies our faults and corrects each one of us. [He] has the ability to keep us attentive and active in [his] class. He really gives himself as a teacher and we would like to pass more classes. We learned a lot. Congratulations on having him, you are a super professional and beautiful person.

Teacher: Lori Farnsworth
Student: Martha Villanueva

I strongly believe that my teacher deserves to be recognized because of her hard work, dedication to teach and passion doing what she loves the most. There were days that I felt so discouraged and I found myself not wanting to continue attending school. But it was that moment I noticed her passion and dedication of teaching, that act inspired me and motivated me to keep studying and pursuing my goals. I believe I am blessed having Mrs. Lori Farnsworth as my teacher. She is my inspiration to keep moving forward.

Teacher: Lori Farnsworth
Student: Dinma Benavidez

She should be recognized for her commitment and effort in each class to teach us. I appreciate her patience. I like it when she teaches us to repeat the sentences, to learn pronunciation and also in writing. Also because with her I feel comfortable asking questions when I don’t understand. She takes the time to explain. Thanks, Lori.
Teacher: Barbara Green  
Student: Nilab Rozbeh  

She has good and nice American accent. She has more experience due to age.

Teacher: Margaret Gregory, Ashley Estrela, Richard Morton, Mariam Khan, and William Nye  
Student: Felicia L. Floriani de Otero  

I’m deeply thankful to the class assistants for their personalized work. Thank you for treating us kindly and helping us to improve and practice.

Teacher: Adrienne Grossman  
Student: Mirian Chavez  

Everyone that decides to become a volunteer to help us is a very nice gesture from everyone that collaborates. They leave their families and their responsibilities to help those that need to learn English. The teacher Adrienne deserves to be recognized for her dedication and the confidence that she gives us to make us not afraid to learn English. She is behind every student and has made sure that they understand the material or if they need help. What I like about Adrienne is that when she gave us this paper, she told us that we not only could choose her and that we could choose another one of the other volunteers. That means so much to me. Thank you.

Teacher: Adrienne Grossman  
Student: Deysi Bueso  

I recommend Adrienne, because she is kind and I like the way she teaches.

Teacher: Sue Jacob  
Student: Lizeth Vega  

I really like the way she teaches us and gives us all a lot of confidence to participate and makes us happy with her beautiful smile.

Teacher: Sue Jacob  
Student: Lorena Chavarria  

Mrs. Sue is a good teacher. She explains the classes very well. She is very kind and responsible. She is [always] ready to teach.  
   
Mrs. Sue is very nice person. Congratulations [to] all the teachers.

Teacher: Azad Khan  
Student: Luis Eduardo Hurtado  

Azad deserves to be recognized because he uses good teaching methods, has patience, and clears up any doubts we may have. He uses games and other tools for our learning.

Teacher: Cassandra Kramer  
Student: Nasima Halim  

My teacher should be recognized because she helps me, teaches me and speaks with me. If I don’t know something, she will help me.

Teacher: Robin Lundgren  
Student: Armida Carballo  

She is a very dynamic teacher, and she always wants to know what her students like. Each class [she] surprises us with a new song.

Teacher: Linda Mancini  
Student: Elizabeth Villatoro  

Her teaching style is very sweet and professional for us. She is very patient with all students. She has good time management.  
   
She has excellent communication skills. I [was] very sorry when I missed one of her classes.
Teacher: Linda Mancini  
Student: Iveth Perez  

She’s [an] amazing teacher. I learned a lot from her. I like how she teaches me, she [is] patient and she loves to teach English. She’s an awesome teacher and deserves to be recognized.

Teacher: Linda Mancini  
Student: Carla Claure  

She is an excellent teacher, with a lot of passion, empathy and respect for the students.

Teacher: Linda Mancini  
Student: Mirian Totola  

I recommend Linda Mancini for a teacher recognition because she’s good at teaching her students English. She’s also very patient, and gives us time to understand what we’re learning about. She searches for ways to make it easier for us to understand.

Teacher: Kathleen McCleary  
Student: Dulce Oliveros  

[She] explains the classes very well. She is very good at communicating. [She] is very friendly.

Teacher: Kathleen McCleary  
Student: Kubra Hedayat  

Kathleen is eager to help all students, she is always kind, and [it is] important that I learn a lot from her way of teaching.

Teacher: Kathleen McCleary and Karen Schroth  
Student: Ngoc Ngo  

I like them, because they are nice teachers and help me [to] understand [English].

Teacher: Kathleen McCleary, Janice Linett, Karen Schroth, and Laurie Tracy  
Student: Carlos Mayorga  

[They] all have excellent methodology, professionalism and enough skills to teach the English language. Personally, I feel that I have advanced in learning English. This has allowed me to participate more and more in the use of the language.

Teacher: William Meara  
Student: Gloria Mendez  

[He is] excellent [in] motivating [us] and teaching the English language. [He is an] excellent human being who teaches with kindness and respect. [He] is fully dedicated in teaching others, [and] his classes are well explained and he is well up to date.

Teacher: William Meara  
Student: Katerin Silva  

Professor William Meara is a good teacher because he teaches us very well and his dedication makes us as students motivate ourselves to continue learning. Thank you professor.

Teacher: William Meara  
Student: Martha Guerrero  

The teacher William is a great professional for the following reasons: He explains well [and] uses simple vocabulary. That helps us understand better. [He also] gives us the adequate time to do our homework well and motivates us to be better every day.

Teacher: William Meara  
Student: Griselda Rivera  

He is a teacher who has the charisma to teach English. He has patience to explain. The most important thing [is] that he motivates his students to continue learning English.
Teacher: **Maria Monteagudo and Marie Cavanaugh**  
Student: **Patricia Ortiz**

For most courses that I have received, so far is the best and I’m starting to speak more. Thank you, [teachers] - awesome job.

Teacher: **Maria Monteagudo and Marie Cavanaugh**  
Student: **Nagiba Fnu**

We have very nice teachers, they're teaching us very [well].

Teacher: **Elizabeth Nelson and Sandra Olsen**  
Student: **Chitali Patel**

Thank you for teaching me and spending your time [with] me. Every time I [asked a] question by email you gave me [an] answer without checking time. When I was wrong you corrected me. When I got confused you removed my confusion by your flawless teaching. I am really appreciative to you both for making me confident and completing my goal.

Teacher: **Jackie Park**  
Student: **Edina Nolasco**

She is an excellent teacher. She is a wonderful person; she is very efficient, patient, understanding, capable of making anyone learn a second language such as English is for me; much remains to be learned, but I think Ms. Jackie has been a blessing to have her as a teacher. I imagine there will be many good teachers, but for me, she is the best!

Teacher: **Jackie Park**  
Student: **Alshahrani Fahad**

My teacher, Jackie, is one of the (best) teacher ever. She has vigor, and a distinctive way of explaining the lessons. She also has a high charisma in attracting and getting students to interact with her. It also has its own style of explaining a lot of lessons, through short lectures. She deserves honor and thanks.

Teacher: **Jackie Park**  
Student: **Ayisha Tamer Ali al Ameni**

My teacher deserves to be recognized. Because she is an able teacher who respects time and divides time and gives me time to respond. She tries to understand my language, though I say an unordered sentence. But she understands it. I appreciate and honor her because I learned new rules that I did not know about. And she deserves appreciation because any event that happens like Halloween or the discovery of America tells and gives me new information because I arrived in USA two months ago and discovered this beautiful country from the words of this wonderful teacher. I love you, my teacher.

Teacher: **Jackie Park**  
Student: **Alcira Ascencio**

Ms. Jackie deserves recognition because she gives herself to her students, she teaches each subject with patience and she tries hard so that the students understand the content, she is kind and gives confidence so that we can ask something that we have not understood. She is very professional and teaches with love.

Teacher: **Jackie Park**  
Student: **Santa Vasquez**

She is a good teacher [and] has [the] passion to teach.

Teacher: **Jackie Park**  
Student: **Syuzi Davtyan**

[She is] very positive and does her best to help us understand English.

Teacher: **Jackie Park**  
Student: **Ebthal Elbashir**

I hope [to] study every time [with her].

Teacher: **Jackie Park and Ayuko Kimura-Fay**  
Student: **Rampai Boonmee**

I like Jackie and Ayuko because: 1. They strive to be good teachers. 2. They are always prepared
before lesson. 3. They care about us. 4. They are happy to teach. 5. They gave us Halloween gifts. 6. They send us text messages and email about homework.

**Teacher:** Jackie Park and Ayuko Kimura-Fay  
**Student:** Dalila Avelar

Jackie: She is patient. She has charisma. She explains things clearly. She answers our questions.  
Ayuko: She is very good at helping us with our work. She is patient and calm. They work well together. They make the class fun and interactive. I like them. I love the class.

**Teacher:** Jackie Park and Ayuko Kimura-Fay  
**Student:** Xia Xia Zhao

Nice. Patient. Care about others. Careful. Good teacher!

**Teacher:** Jackie Park and Ayuko Kimura-Fay  
**Student:** Marie Adei

Mrs. Jackie she is very good at teaching. Mrs. Ayuko she is very good at observing and grading students work. I look forward to continuing to study with you two. Thank you.

**Teacher:** Jackie Park and Ayuko Kimura-Fay  
**Student:** Maria Giorgett

Jackie is very patient. She is didactic. She is super nice. She explains very clearly. Ayuko, is a very good complement. She is a very (good) collaborator with everything.

**Teacher:** Jackie Park and Ayuko Kimura-Fay  
**Student:** Hoa Le

Jackie does a great job in teaching such as helping me [learn] how to spell, check grammar, and read. She tutors everyone carefully to make sure we will be good at English. Ayuko is also a wonderful teacher because she always cares about her students. She grades my assignment carefully and reviews homework, exercises, communication well on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. I hope I will study again with Jackie and Ayuko at an upper level soon in the future. Thank you both of you very much for teaching me how to learn English.

**Teacher:** Jennifer Pryor-Abraham  
**Student:** Susan Alonzo

My teacher is very creative. I like that my teacher [uses] different words to explain the lesson when I say, “I don’t understand.” I like that she only speaks English. When I answer a question or I talk about myself, about my family or my life, she listens to me carefully and then she tells me the correct words I said [wrong]. I like [how] Mrs. Jennifer teaches!

**Teacher:** Cynthia Sadur  
**Student:** Zohal Bahich

She is so talented [at teaching English].

**Teacher:** Karen Schroth, Kathleen McCleary, Marie Tibor, and Laurie Tracy  
**Student:** Maria Barbosa

I want to thank my teachers for their patience and smiles. Your classes have helped me a lot. Thank you!

**Teacher:** Karen Schroth  
**Student:** Natalia Fournier

Professor Karen is an excellent teacher, she is nice and kind. She teaches slowly and progressively [and it] helps me a lot because I need it. She is patient and harmonious.

**Teacher:** Karen Schroth, Kathleen McCleary, Laurie Tracy, and Janice Linett  
**Student:** Tamara Albetar

My teachers deserves to be recognized because they teach us very well, they are nice, they support us to do our best, and they are helpful teachers. [For] example, when I started taking classes with them I used to be less confident when I spoke in English, but now I started to be more confident when I speak
English in my community. Thank you teachers for all the help you give to us.

**Teacher:** Karen Schrot, Kathleen McCleary, Laurie Tracy, and Janice Linett  
**Student:** Iman Mohamed

I thank every teacher I studied [with here] because I learned a lot from them. They helped me a lot in my life in America.

**Teacher:** Maura Sleevi  
**Student:** Mariela De Valencia

She deserves to be recognized for her love for her work, which is reflected in everything she teaches us, for her patience [and] her constant dedication, she is a great teacher. I also want to recognize Robin, the Teacher’s Assistant, who is also great. Thanks a lot.

**Teacher:** Maura Sleevi  
**Student:** Armida Carballo

She is a teacher who helps her students a lot. She is wonderful, she has a lot of passion and I want to continue my next class with her.

**Teacher:** Maura Sleevi  
**Student:** Astrid Gutierrez

I love meeting Maura because she a sweet person, very punctual, and she is an excellent teacher. I recommend her for this recognition.

**Teacher:** Maura Sleevi  
**Student:** Santiago Espana

[She is] punctual, [and has] good spirits and good humor. [She is also] humble, skilled with technology, and dedicated.

**Teacher:** Maura Sleevi  
**Student:** Paulo Vega

Patient and experienced.

**Teacher:** Anuradha Srirangarajan  
**Student:** Zainab Hussaini

Our teacher is the best, she is very hardworking and teaches us in the right way and encourages us. Finally, I thank all of you and my dear teacher.

**Teacher:** Sara Warnquist  
**Student:** Maria Guadalupe Flores

My teacher is Sara. She is a very nice teacher, she explains well [and is] very responsible. I liked taking classes with her. See you soon, thank you very much.

**Teacher:** Sara Warnquist  
**Student:** Shukta Barna

I want to tell why my teacher deserves to be recognized. [It is] because she [is a] kind and helpful teacher. If I want to know anything she gave [me] and answer right away. If I [didn’t] understand any homework she helped me [a] lot. [If] I [didn’t] understand [a] question she [tried] to explain [it in] a better way. She’s [a] really really good teacher and [a] nice helpful person.

**Teacher:** Mary Wilson and Marlo McMillan-Okuadido  
**Student:** Elena Argandona

For all your patience and your time in teaching us English, thank you for all your support.

**Teacher:** Loren Zander  
**Student:** Gloria Q. Ramirez

My teacher deserves recognition because she is a very active person. She makes us understand with examples and didactic things. The class is very dynamic, she gives everything to make us understand so that we can understand her.

*FLP students discuss materials to complete STEM experiment*
Outstanding Student Recognitions

LCNV’s adult English language learners come from 90 different countries and speak 50 different languages. LCNV’s instructors have the opportunity to celebrate some of these remarkable learners with these Outstanding Student Recognitions.

Student: Roua Abdalla
Teacher: Ann Niederpruem Anderson, Stacey Becker, Christine Bobal, Marie Cavanaugh, Ida Draim, and Maurie Negrin

We would like to acknowledge Roua Abdalla as an outstanding student. Roua came to the U.S. from the Sudan in 2002, when she was 16. Roua has the gift of joyfulness. During both Fall and Spring Semesters, whenever she has joined class, it has been with a smile on her face and a happy glow in her eyes. Roua clearly enjoys learning English and has become an excellent English speaker. She has entertained the class with wonderful stories about her childhood in the Sudan, her family and her life in the U.S., often inspiring her classmates to tell their own stories. Roua also has shared her practical knowledge, gained from living in the U.S. for close to 20 years, during our class units on banking, health and jobs. She has taken great pride in her written assignments and their quality has been very high. When she reads other writers’ passages and poetry, she demonstrates an understanding of their meaning and significance and often volunteers her thoughts and impressions. We feel very grateful to have had a joyful and positive student like Roua in our class.

Student: Assenett Maria Abud
Teacher: Amy Lam

She has never missed a class. She works hard and achieved a lot during the class, such as learning to write an email and reading a map.

Student: Marie Adei
Teacher: Jackie Park

I recommend Marie for student recognition. She is from Benin and did not know how to read English when she started our class in September. She always joins class with her positive attitude, is ready to learn eagerly, and gets along with everybody. She has perfect attendance. After two months, I have seen an improvement in her reading and writing. It has been a pleasure to have her in class.

Student: Sara Aldaz
Teacher: Bill Meara

Sara arrived in this country just days before the start of our classes on October 5, 2020. While still coping with adjustment and culture shock, she threw herself into the study of English. She took every opportunity to learn and practice. She asked more questions than anyone else in the class. Her attendance was the best in the class, and she consistently turned in high-quality written homework. She requested additional reading material. Sara is a survivor of COVID-19 and she was willing to share with her classmates her experiences with the virus; she did so in English, once again seizing an opportunity to improve her language skill. Sara is an outstanding student, well on her way to achieving her goal of fluency in English.

"LCNV English for Community Engagement student speaks at A Taste of Literacy 2022"
Student: Angham AbdulMalek Alkhaled
Teacher: Sabrina Chikhi

Despite her difficult personal situation she has attended all meetings, worked on her homework consistently, and helped others during class. She is a hard worker and very nice to others. Her good temperament is also an addition in this online environment.

Student: Ana Ambrocio
Teacher: Bill Meara

I don’t think anyone in the class had heavier family and work responsibilities than Ana. Often, as she was participating in class she was simultaneously cooking dinner for her family. This after spending a long day cooking in a restaurant. But Ana was always there in the class, ready to participate when her turn came, always following the classroom discussion while feeding her kids. She was an excellent student, always working to make sure that she understood the concept that I was presenting.

Student: Mariel Apellaniz
Classmate: Marta Guerrero

Mariel is a very dedicated student. She would log on to Zoom while riding the bus and Metro, so that she could be in class. She deserves an award for her hard work.

Student: Lucila Arevalo
Teacher: Margaret Breen and Krista Carlson

We are happy to recognize Lucila Arevalo for the Literacy Council’s 2022 Outstanding Student Recognition Award. She has been our student for several years and, during that time, she has impressed us with her desire to improve her English. Lucila just doesn’t give up. She is persistent. This is what it takes to master a second language. Despite leading a very busy life with work and family, Lucila comes to class each night full of energy for learning.

This year on Zoom, Lucila has been especially helpful to newer students. Her smile is contagious. Lucila is a positive role-model for her fellow classmates.

We feel fortunate to teach Lucila and watch the progress she has made. She should be proud of her accomplishments. We respect and admire Lucila and wish her great success and happiness in the future.

Student: Johana Arias
Teacher: Robin Lundgren, Melissa Rea and Maura Sleevi

Johana shows up to every class and has gained a lot of confidence. Always with a huge smile on her face, she has displayed big improvements in both speaking and reading. She is so committed to learning that she has even attended class when she’s been sick!
Student: Mursal Bawar  
Teacher: Ann Niederpruem Anderson, Stacey Becker, Christine Bobal, Marie Cavanaugh, Ida Draim, and Maurie Negrin

We would like to acknowledge Mursal as an outstanding student. Mursal came to the U.S. from Afghanistan in March 2020. During both Fall and Spring Semesters, Mursal has greatly impressed us with her intelligence, enthusiasm and hard work. She is often the first to volunteer to read a passage or answer a question and she does so flawlessly. Mursal typically has submitted her writing assignments the earliest of any student and her submissions have been beautifully written, thoughtful and heartwarming. Because she concentrates so deeply in class, Mursal has been the one to speak up when there is something that the teacher has appeared to have missed or not explained fully. She also has discovered several errors in the Level 3 post-tests early enough for corrections to be made and the tests redistributed. As a result of her dedication and love of learning, Mursal has developed into a confident and eloquent English speaker and graceful reader of passages and poetry. She is also a very caring individual, who finds joy in bonding with and helping others - both inside and outside of class. We have greatly appreciated Mursal’s participation in our class.

Student: Kongit Baysa, Elizabeth Berryman, Neemat Hussein, and Santos Rubio  
Teacher: Christina Cho

They were really passionate and hard-working students. Most of them were very busy working and taking care of their children at the same time. Many times they joined with their children due to lack of childcare. Sometimes, bad wifi connection disturbed the class, but they kept on concentrating on the class and tried their best to adapt to this new circumstance. Despite all those obstacles, they tried to attend the class and concentrated at all times. They were willing to do much homework for practice. I really appreciate them and I feel that I was very lucky.

Student: Anmilsy Betancourt, Piedad Blanco, Andrea Cespedes, Hanan Ibrahim, Cecy Lopez, Feruzakon Mirzabaeva, Gildaro Orellana Velarde, Gloria Ramirez, Wendy Rivera, and Marwa Shtawa  
Teacher: Astrid de Jesus Rivera, Jody Sweet, and Isabel Walls

MOST ENERGETIC: ANMILSY BETANCOURT

Anmilsy is always ready for a new adventure and a new lesson. She’s excited to jump in and try new things…. new lessons, exercises and games. She’ll even make her own new adventures and ways of learning….like taking the class on an outing we mapped around the cherry blossoms. Even for that lesson, she brought her book and was ready to learn….even when out having fun! Don’t stop having fun as you learn English, Anmilsy.

MOST ENCOURAGING AND HELPFUL TO OTHER PEOPLE: PIEDAD BLANCO

Zoom classes are not always easy. It can be quite difficult to hear students. But we could always hear one student….ready with an answer to help her fellow students. Whispering encouragement and willing to help others out. And her answers were right! So she was a “teacher”. Sometimes helpful to a fault — whispering some quick advice in Spanish — she quickly corrected it with the biggest, brightest smile and everyone saw it every day. Keep smiling, Piedad!

BEST PERSON TO WORK WITH ON A PROJECT: ANDREA CESPEDES

Working on a team project, some people jump right up and start talking and taking charge. But others take a moment to think about the project, listening to others, and offering their own ideas. And they are the people who always get along with others, working hard and cooperating with everyone, and doing whatever is required to do the best project possible: reading, writing, taking notes, annotating. We would always want you on our team projects, Andrea.
MOST IMPROVED: HANAN IBRAHIM

Hanan is quiet — I say that about many students. But even though she is quiet, I can tell Hanan has really improved her English all areas. And we have been so impressed with how well she is doing and how much she understands. Her English is growing day by day. And it never hurts to have the very best smile. She wins that award. Keep smiling, Hanan. English and a great smile will take you a long way.

MOST COURAGE AND PERSEVERANCE: CECY LOPEZ

Cecy was missing in action from time to time, but when she came, she was a dynamo. She jumped right in and volunteered to read just about anything. And when she started, she really persevered. She was never afraid to tackle a lesson, even if she has missed a few. We wish she were in all classes when we asked for volunteers. We knew we’d have an active class when we saw you, Cecy.

PROBLEM SOLVER: FERUZAḴON MIRZABAEVA

We think Feruzakhon is common sense smart - good sense and good judgment in practical matters. It is sometimes tough to get students to answer “opinion questions” and that is understandable when language can be a barrier. But when Feruzakhon was in class, it was easy to call on her because she understood quickly and offered a thoughtful response, good common sense answers in good English. She was always easily understood. Feruzakhon was a good student with a good brain and she was so easy to have in class. Keep up your English, Feruzakhon.

MOST ENTERTAINING: GILDARO ORELLANA VELARDE

Let’s be honest, grammar classes aren’t always fun and there is much serious work to be done when studying English. But all work and no fun is not a good way to learn. So, every class needs someone to bring humor and laughter at the right time. Gildaro knows how to work hard….in all aspects of his life. But he also knows how to make people laugh in the nicest way. Not loud and noisy- just quietly funny and every class he gave us a good laugh. Never stop making people laugh, Gildaro. You are very good at it.

HARDEST FIGHTER: GLORIA RAMIREZ

Even though she had a hard time with her technology, Gloria never gave up. We’d lose her and know that she would quickly reboot, restart and sign right in again as if she never skipped a beat. Her tenacity was inspirational. She recreated her beloved hometown Cochabamba in the New World during our exercise creating dreamtowns. Love for your country means love and respect for others and their heritage. You go Gloria!

MOST DEDICATED STUDENT: WENDY RIVERA

Wendy has worked the hardest of any student all session. She never missed a homework assignment. Even over a weekend she was always the first to return her work, always the first to complete the pre/post test. And she never just “raced through” to complete. She had perfect scores on every assignment. Teachers always appreciate the dedicated student who works hard – all the time. She’s quiet….but she is very smart and knows more than she thinks she does. Wendy’s effort will take her far. Don’t give up Wendy….you’re doing great!

MOST LIKELY TO START HER OWN BUSINESS: MARWA SHTAWA

Marwa knew exactly how she wanted English Learning to light her path. She spoke right up and told us she wanted to be a successful businesswoman and I have no doubt she will be. She is a strong, intelligent woman who was never afraid to ask questions when she did not understand and persisted until she did. Ready to take on new challenges and never give up - that’s what Marwa brought to our class. Best of Luck, Marwa!

Student: Milenko Bogajcevic
Teacher: Robin Lundgren and Maura Sleevi

Milenko was one of our most consistent students, and could be counted on to contribute enthusiasm and wit to class discussions. He was not afraid to ask questions, which enhanced his own learning as well as the learning of all the students in our class. His growth throughout the semester was apparent and he made great strides in fluency and understanding.
Student: Rampai Boonmee  
Teacher: Jackie Park

I recommend Rampai for Student Recognition. She is such a pleasure to have in class. She gets along with everybody, participates actively, and does her homework regularly. She always comes to class with a positive attitude and helps other students. We are truly lucky to have her in our class.

Student: Noel Britomarte  
Teacher: Kathleen McCleary

Noel is one of our most consistent students. He rarely misses class and he always shows up on time, or even early. He is a very dedicated student, and works hard to complete every in-class assignment or bit of homework. If he finishes his work before others in class he will try it again-- he will write another paragraph, or another ad for a rental house. He is a good team player and does good work on group projects, always doing his part and appreciative of the work others do. Noel has come a long way in the years he’s studied with LCNV and is a much more confident speaker now, and wants to work on getting even better at reading English. He also is good at volunteering answers in class, and expresses lots of appreciation to the teachers. His big smile is evident even behind a mask.

Student: Armida Carballo  
Teacher: Robin Lundgren and Maura Sleevi

With Armida, you always experience her genuine concern for others - she is always supporting the efforts of others! We happily watched her gain confidence and skill with English, always with a positive attitude and smile. Even when she was tentative about a task, she was always willing to give it a good try! She manages a very busy schedule with grace and poise. We also were thrilled - but not surprised - when she received a special recognition from her job – a well-deserved honor.

Student: Julieth Castillo  
Teacher: Jackie Park

Julieth Castillo is a motivated student who joins our Zoom class with a positive attitude. Although she does not show her face on Zoom, she always completes her homework, is focused, and participates regularly. I am happy to recommend her for outstanding student recognition.

Student: Zulema D Gutierrez Chavarria  
Teacher: Amy Lam

Zulema is a cheerful student who always asks useful questions to help other students learn.

Student: Mirian Chavez  
Teacher: Adrienne Grossman

Mirian has an unbelievably strong work ethic. She has a hunger to learn which is reflected in her nearly perfect attendance and the huge amounts of extra work she completes on her own time. In class, she completes her work efficiently and always does her best. It is a pleasure to have her as a student.

A student receives a computer orientation as part of LCNV’s laptop loaner program
“She has a hunger to learn which is reflected in her nearly perfect attendance.”

- Adrienne Grossman, LCNV Teacher

Student: Berta Cruz  
Teacher: Jackie Park

I recommend Berta Cruz for outstanding student recognition. She always joins our class with a smile, is ready to learn eagerly, and completes her homework. She was a little shy at the beginning and did not talk that much, but she improved a lot as time went by. She participated regularly and helped other students. We are truly lucky to have her in our class.

Student: Syuzan Davtyan  
Teacher: Jackie Park

Syuzan is a truly dedicated and motivated student who joins our Zoom class with a positive attitude. She always completes her homework, is focused, and participates regularly. I am happy to recommend her for student recognition.

Student: Ebthal Elbashir  
Teacher: Jackie Park

Ebthal is truly a dedicated, motivated, and excellent student who joins our Zoom class with a positive attitude. She is the only student who shows her face during the class and responds back to me with emails from time to time with questions. She participates actively and is a very hard working student. She also asks questions actively during the class and joins every class except one day because she was sick. We are truly lucky to have her in our class.

Student: Anisa Ehsan  
Teacher: Margaret Breen and Krista Carlson

It is our pleasure to recognize Anisa Ehsan for a Student Recognition Award. She has been our student for one year. She has made amazing progress.

Positive. This is the word that best describes Anisa. We appreciate the wonderful optimistic attitude she brings to each class. She approaches every lesson, discussion or conversation with an enthusiastic attitude. We see in her face, “I want to do this. I can do this.”

Helpful. Anisa’s positive attitude extends to her fellow classmates. She is ready to answer their questions and provide support for new students. Her enthusiasm for learning English is contagious. She always asks good questions.

Determined. Learning English is hard work. Anisa is enrolled in three LCNV classes and extra tutoring. She wants to improve her English and is willing to devote the time that is necessary. Anisa is, first and foremost, a mother with five wonderful children. She has the determination and energy for her studies while providing a loving home for her family.

We respect and admire her. It has been our pleasure to work with Anisa this year.

Student: Santiago Espana  
Teacher: Robin Lundgren, Melissa Rea, and Maura Sleevi

Santiago brings a sense of grace and purpose to each class. It has been wonderful to see him participate more confidently in class – all his skills have improved. He grows also by using many other available means to improve in English – YouTube, articles, news, etc. He demonstrates a strong commitment to moving forward.
Maria recently arrived in the United States and has been a pleasure to have in our class. She attends class regularly and puts great effort into her homework. She is always willing to speak when it’s her turn. On Zoom, we can see her sitting with her pen in hand, making notes, leaning forward to understand the discussion in class. We are lucky to have her in class. Her warm smile leaves us wishing we could be friends with her in-person as well as online.

Hermelinda was an outstanding student. She was one of the youngest people in the class. She was always working hard to learn. She performed very well in classroom exercises, and was willing to give me good suggestions on how to improve my use of powerpoint slides. Hermelinda is a recent arrival to the United States with no prior experience with English. She balanced work in the course with her responsibilities as the mother of a young child. At one point she had to return to her native Guatemala for a family visit; in an indication of how seriously she took her studies, she joined the class via Zoom from Guatemala.

Rahel is a pleasure to have in class. She is extremely enthusiastic and eager to learn. She always came to class early with a smile. In a fairly short time frame, she began to gain vocabulary and confidence to the point where she would volunteer to answer questions posed by the teaching team and help other students who were struggling. You will be speaking English fluently in no time. Keep up the great work.

Ivan was very good at asking clarifying questions and summing up important points, and he also kept us from taking any topic too seriously! We watched him make steady improvement in both listening and responding. His descriptions of his native Columbia will stay with us – he was always eager to share. His continuing encouragement and good humor were a welcome addition to every class.

Marta took up the challenge of learning English at an age when most people are slowing down. She clearly recognizes the importance of English language learning and was an excellent student. Martha was always the first student in the Zoom room. She always did the homework and she took on the classroom exercises with great enthusiasm and courage. One of the highlights of the course came when Marta told the class about her very first English conversation outside the classroom: She was cleaning the house of a family with whom she had worked with for many years. She had never been able to talk to them. This year, she asked them -- in English -- what they were doing for Thanksgiving. They told her all about it. This was a real breakthrough for Marta. All of us were grateful that she shared the story with us.

Astrid brought optimism and focus to each class. She demonstrated strong conversation skills and a most impressive use of vocabulary in speaking and writing. She displayed an attention to detail in every assignment. We will always remember her good-natured chiding to choose more healthy options for food and exercise! She is making good progress toward her future goals of college and a new career.
Student: Basira Haleemi
Teacher: Jennifer Kronovet and Susan Pettey

We nominate Basira Haleemi for an LNCV student recognition. Basira is thoughtful and curious, and eager to learn English. She has made significant progress in reading and speaking since she began class this year. When doing exercises in class, we can almost see the wheels in her brain turning as she considers the problem at hand! Basira is a quick learner. In two short months, her sentences have gotten longer and more complex. When she makes a mistake, she can usually self-correct before we teachers can even mention it.

In addition to her quick mind, Basira has a ready smile, and helps other students if she is able.

Student: Abdul Halim
Teacher: Vaishali Deshpande

Abdul started this class not being able to read or write. He has come so far and is a cheerleader in class, helping other students and always trying to be better every single day.

Student: Bibi Hamayon
Teacher: Wafa Misellati

Bibi is a very enthusiastic learner and always ready to participate. She once had a tech problem and we couldn’t hear her, she didn’t leave the class and continued by just writing in the chat for two classes in a row. I am so proud to have her as a student.

Student: Farida Hashmet
Teacher: Jennifer Kronovet and Susan Pettey

We nominate Farida Hashmat for LCNV student recognition. Farida moved to the US with her family from Afghanistan. She tells us that she was a journalist there, and wants to learn English so that she can resume her career here.

Farida is always the first student in our Beginner 1 class, with perfect attendance. Her enthusiasm and dedication show in her studies. She has a strong work ethic, even when she is tired and fasting for Ramadan.

Farida’s reading and conversation skills have improved considerably in the 2020-2021 class year. We hope that she continues her lessons, and that LCNV can help her reach her goals.

She has a positive attitude, and is quick to help others in class, if she is able.

Student: Kubra Hedayat
Teacher: Kathleen McCleary and Karen Schroth

Kubra recently came to the United States from Afghanistan and has been a hard-working student in our Zoom class. She brings a wonderful energy, often logging on early for class and asking excellent questions. Her enthusiasm for learning is demonstrated by her work schedule – she chose hours that would allow her to continue her participation in our group. We know how difficult it must be to have sisters in her country who can no longer attend school, and we admire Kubra’s positive attitude and dedication to learning English. We look forward to staying in touch as Kubra continues to work toward her goal of becoming a nurse.

Student: HNRC Level 3 Class
Teacher: Jackie Corkins

I could not have asked for a better class for my first semester back in the classroom. This group of students quickly came together to create an all-inclusive classroom environment. They participated in all lessons and offered encouragement and support to each other. This class was not only engaging but fun. Congratulations to a delightful group of students.

Student: Adila Ibrahimi
Teacher: Vaishali Deshpande

Adila is a diligent student, who never misses a day of class and is a leader in the class.

Student: Hangama Jahed
Teacher: Wafa Misellati

Hangama is a hard working student. She is always on time and so eager to learn.
Student: Berta Jaramillo  
Teacher: Bill Meara

I nominate Berta Jaramillo for special recognition. From the very first day Berta has shown deep dedication to the course, and to her goals of passing the language examination for American citizenship and achieving fluency in English. She always arrives early in class and has the best attendance record in our group. She is the only student who ALWAYS turns in homework; her writing assignments show that she gives deep thought to all her assignments. She bases her writing on her life experience and through these assignments shares her experiences with everyone in the class. I can -- through the Zoom screen -- see that Berta is working as hard as possible to take in all of the lessons of each class. She often asks for additional examples of English word usage. She went the extra mile and bought an English-Spanish dictionary in an effort to improve her vocabulary. She has served as an excellent example for the other students in our course and their respect for her is evident in the way that they address her (Dona Berta). She is, in short, the ideal language learner. She is deeply deserving of special recognition.

Student: Masooma Jowhary  
Teacher: Sarah Bock

Masooma is a dedicated and motivated English language student. She is incredibly hard working, and she pays close attention to homework and classwork. She is always eager to speak and try out new structures, and she takes careful notes to make sure she catches everything. She is friendly and engaging and helpful to other students in the classroom. It is a joy to learn with her!

Student: Masooma Jowhary  
Teacher: Anntherese Carlozzo and Lisa Trangsrud

We are happy to recognize Masooma Jowhary as an outstanding student. An eager, hard-working member of our writing class, Masooma was usually the first to arrive for class. She brought her full attention to every new task, and asked the kind of thoughtful questions of an active learner. When we asked for volunteers, Masooma was often the first to take the initiative. Masooma has a kind heart, and very naturally reached out to help others in the class when they struggled to master a grammar point. Her writing improved greatly in just a few weeks, and she is able to bring many colorful expressions from her own culture into her English writing. Finally, Masooma’s perfect attendance set a good example for other students. We truly loved having this outstanding student in our class this spring.

Student: Eka Kobuladze  
Teacher: Kathleen McCleary

Eka is a warm, hard-working student who listens diligently, asks good questions, and always has a friendly smile for her teachers and classmates. A doctor in her native Georgia, Eka has been a great asset to our class, especially when we studied health and talked about the COVID pandemic. Eka completed intensive medical training while attending our English class, and plans to work as a phlebotomist while continuing her education to practice medicine here. When Dr. Scott Schroth visited our class to discuss the COVID vaccine, Eka asked smart questions that benefitted the whole class. She is always eager to tackle anything and willing to try new things, whether it’s giving a review of a video we just watched or reading a difficult paragraph aloud. Eka provides friendly encouragement to her classmates, and always expresses appreciation to her teachers. We have been so lucky to have her in our class this year.
Student: Hoa Le  
Teacher: Jackie Park  

It is my pleasure to recommend Hoa for student recognition. She is a dedicated student who always joins class early with a smile. She is always ready to learn, is focused, and participates in class. She is also a very hard-working student and completes her homework. It has been a pleasure to have her in class.

Student: Hyun (Hannah) Lee  
Teacher: Robin Lundgren and Maura Sleevi  

Hannah was such a cheerful and consistent participant! Her confidence increased with every class – she improved so much with pronunciation and response time over the semester. She was a constant source of encouragement to her peers and we loved to hear her laugh! Her attention to detail was evident in both her writing and her speaking. She also was able to add a descriptive quality in her expression.

Student: Angela Maria Ramirez  
Teacher: Ann Niederpruem Anderson, Stacey Becker, Christine Bobal, Marie Cavanaugh, Ida Draim, and Maurie Negrin  

We would like to acknowledge Angela as an outstanding student. Angela is from Colombia and has been in the U.S for over 20 years. She is a dedicated and motivated student. She missed just 2 classes during the Spring Semester. Angela is a delight in class and always attentive with a curious smile. She is very thoughtful in class and it is heartwarming to watch how she sits back and observes the chaos zoom creates when 14 students want to respond to a question. However, through the noise, and when she is certain of an answer, she quietly but firmly responds, always with the right answer. During this Spring Semester, her reading, comprehension, and pronunciation have greatly improved, as has her self-confidence. We feel very fortunate to have had Angela as a student in our class this term.

Student: Isabel Mata  
Teacher: Margaret Breen and Krista Carlson  

It is our pleasure to recognize Isabel Mata for special recognition. She has been our student for one year. She is a very special person. Motivated. Isabel works full time for Fairfax County Public Schools and comes to class every night ready to learn. She often says, “I need this, English”. She works hard at understanding and completing her assignments. She understands the importance of continuing to improve in English for her job, her family and for herself.

Supportive. Isabel is a friend to all of her classmates. She cares about her fellow students who appreciate her kind words. She has a wonderful smile, a friendly attitude and a good sense of humor.

Positive. Learning a second language as an adult isn’t easy but Isabel never gets discouraged. She brings this positive attitude to class each evening. Some nights on Zoom, her face says, “this is hard” but she asks questions and shows that working hard and practicing are the keys to improving.

We respect and admire Isabel and wish her great success and happiness in the future.

Student: Atika Mazza  
Teacher: Nadin Al-Attar  

Atika is a hardworking student who loves to learn and makes an effort to learn. She always has her homework done, shows up with a smile on her face, and never misses a class, even though she’s tried or sick. Atika is a consistent, motivated and a focused student.

Student: Dora Menjivar  
Teacher: Robin Lundgren and Maura Sleevi  

Dora attended most classes, despite having a very busy life raising 5 young children. At the beginning of the semester, there were times she was reluctant to participate due to feeling unsure if her understanding was accurate. As the semester unfolded, we saw a big improvement in her confidence and she became more willing to speak. Her understanding has improved and she seems more comfortable in class.
Student:  Kyung Moon  
Teacher:  Christopher Hrdy

She is an excellent contributor during class, she is focused and dedicated, and she always does her very best.

Student:  Kyung Moon  
Teacher:  Jack Reickel

She was such a positive contributor all semester long—both calm and energetic.

Student:  Bich Ngoc Ngo  
Teacher:  Kathleen McCleary  
and Karen Schroth

Ngoc has been making progress in English for several years. She has worked with many teachers and is happy to know them all! She answers questions in class. In addition, she reads aloud quite well, and can add expression to her voice to reflect the meaning of the words. This semester, she has become very interested in studying to become a US citizen. We are always happy to see her smiling face in class. It allows us to feel the enthusiasm she has for learning. We hope to see her again in coming semesters.

Student:  Chien Nguyen  
Teacher:  Laurie Hayden

Learning English as a second language is clearly difficult as an adult. But learning English online requires a tremendous amount of dedication. I have been itching to recommend Chien Nguyen for this recognition. Since the start of our teaching on Zoom fourteen months ago, Chien has attended 261 classes online. That’s rather incredible and a true testament to her dedication. Some activities, like essays, videos and workbook assignments, may seem mundane. But to Chien, these were completed with an attention to detail that was always impressive. Her eagerness to learn requires a constant variety of activities suitable to her rapidly advancing levels. As she became more comfortable with Zoom, she would chat and annotate with ease. Her writing skills and the scope of her vocabulary have grown quickly. But most satisfying for her is the effort and success she found with her pronunciation. Many of the sounds not found in her native language can now be articulated very clearly. It seems to me the Literacy Council was designed for students as motivated as Chien Nguyen.

Student:  Bahar Niazi  
Teacher:  Kathleen McCleary  
and Karen Schroth

Bahar is a motivated, hard-working, and determined student. Her energy and enthusiasm were felt by all our learners. She frequently volunteered her ideas and answered difficult questions in class. Her written assignments showcased a willingness to explore important ideas in English. She graciously thanked her teachers for their help. A committed job-seeker, Bahar investigated possibilities and found a part-time job to help her gain work experience. She continues to pursue new learning opportunities. We are pleased and proud to watch Bahar as she increases her English fluency and builds a bright future.

Student:  Salma Oraal  
Teacher:  Ann Niederpruem Anderson,  
Stacey Becker, Ida Draim,  
and Maurie Negrin

We would like to acknowledge Salma as an outstanding student. Salma came to the U.S. just two years ago from Afghanistan. As a member of our Spring Semester class, Salma has really put her heart into her English studies and has blossomed into an excellent student. She has worked hard on her vocabulary skills and has very impressive reading comprehension. She has strengthened her conversation skills by providing us with wonderful insights into her life - both in Afghanistan and in the U.S. When she has known something about a topic or person that we are discussing, like Nelson Mandela, she has informed us. Salma has been a very good listener during class and has been able to accurately continue reading a passage or completing an exercise where the preceding student left off. In addition to her English fluency skills, Salma has a thankful heart and often expresses her gratitude for the learning opportunity presented by our classes. It has been a pleasure to have Salma in our class.
Student: Waleska Ortega  
Teacher: Susan Jacob

There are many reasons to recognize Waleska’s outstanding work. First, she is a dedicated student as demonstrated by her excellent attendance record and her strong commitment to completing homework assignments. Second, Waleska challenges herself in class and is always willing to volunteer for demanding activities. Finally, Waleska’s artful expression is like poetry. Her thoughtful analysis is insightful, and her writing is full of imagery. Her use of language is as beautiful as it is illuminating. Waleska is truly an exceptional student.

Student: Bahubrin Perez  
Teacher: Robin Lundgren, Melissa Rea, and Maura Sleevi

Bahu brings a cheerful energy to each class and often impresses us with his insights and good humor. He shows strength in listening to and speaking English and continues to progress in other areas as well. Bahu has strong motivation - wanting to do better for his family and his job – and grows in confidence steadily.

Student: Asia Perveen  
Teacher: Ludette Agura

Asia was an outstanding student this Spring semester. She had perfect attendance and always took additional steps to use supplementary English resources to practice and review outside of the class. She is a hard worker and I hope that she will come back to continue developing her skills in English.

Student: Lan Phuong Pham  
Teacher: Robin Lundgren and Maura Sleevi

LanPhuong sometimes had difficulty being understood and definitely struggled with understanding due to the vast pronunciation differences between English and her native Vietnamese. However, LanPhuong always had a smile on her face and worked very hard to learn to express her thoughts in English. She was very patient when we struggled to decipher what she was trying to say and stayed with it until we were able to understand and help her make speech corrections.

Student: Katerin Silvia Pimentel  
Teacher: Bill Meara

Irma was a wonderful student. She is a recent arrival from El Salvador. In her home country she was a Social Worker. Here she took a job as a cashier at Dunkin’ Donuts. While this was clearly a step down, she took on the study of English with great seriousness, in the hope that someday she would be able to work at a higher level. She also made good use of the opportunities for English conversation afforded by her cashier job.

Student: Maria (Irma) Portillo  
Teacher: Bill Meara

Irma was a wonderful student. She is a recent arrival from El Salvador. In her home country she was a Social Worker. Here she took a job as a cashier at Dunkin’ Donuts. While this was clearly a step down, she took on the study of English with great seriousness, in the hope that someday she would be able to work at a higher level. She also made good use of the opportunities for English conversation afforded by her cashier job.

Student: Sandra Rivera  
Teacher: Christopher Hrdy

She made incredibly fascinating contributions to class discussions. For instance, she discussed Diego Rivera’s relationship with Frida Kahlo, which nobody else knew about. She was also enthusiastic and funny, making class more fun.

Student: Wendy Rivera  
Teacher: Sue Jacob

Wendy is an excellent student and should be recognized for her hard work and dedication. She has excellent attendance and is a diligent student completing assignments and working hard in class. Wendy’s writing and speaking skills are impressive, and Wendy’s communication skills have improved over the course of our class. Wendy deserves recognition for her accomplishments.
Student: Griselda (Jeanette) Rivera  
Teacher: Bill Meara

Jeanette was obviously a deeply committed and enthusiastic English learner. She was always smiling, and she was always willing to go the extra mile in classroom exercises, often exploring the use of new phrases or vocabulary. Jeanette is a very hard worker, with significant family and work responsibilities. I could see through the Zoom screen that by the end of each session, she was tired from a long day’s work. But she always hung in there, making sure that she learned as much as possible.

Student: Ramiro Romero  
Teacher: Adrienne Grossman

Romiro has been an outstanding student in my Level 1 evening class. He always works hard, and applies his considerable intelligence to everything we do. He is enthusiastic and actively participates in class activities without ever being disruptive. Additionally, he is always helpful and patient with the other students, and is always pleasant and friendly. He has excellent attendance, and all of us in the class miss him on the rare occasions when he is out. It has been a privilege to have him in the class.

Student: Enilda Saavedra  
Teacher: Sherri Coles and Stacey O’Connor

She has perfect attendance, always arrives early, completes her homework, participates fully, and most important of all is exceptionally helpful to all of our students.

Student: Shazia Sabery  
Teacher: Robin Lundgren, Melissa Rea, and Maura Sleevi

Shazia is truly an amazing young woman, full of eagerness and purpose. She demonstrates amazing skill with grammar and vocabulary and is always ready to supply a missing answer. She works very hard on her listening skills and pronunciation and she is making good progress! We hope her goal of finding “a perfect job” will come soon.

Student: Ahmed Samir  
Teacher: Amy Lam

Admed has been active in class. He has been the class-interaction leader and he has been asking helpful questions to help the teacher teach better.

Student: Fahima Satar  
Teacher: Robin Lundgren, Melissa Rea, and Maura Sleevi

Fahima consistently brings determination and focus to class. Although she struggles with English, she challenged herself to remain in our level 2 class anyway, with support from her son when needed. Her hard work and strong spirit help her to progress and inspire those around her.

Student: Gabriela Schmidt  
Teacher: Annterese Carlozzo and Lisa Trangsrud

We would like to recognize Gabriela Schmidt as an outstanding student in our spring term. Gabriela’s writing is thoughtful, refined, and fluid. She asks the kind of questions that show she is not just passively absorbing lessons, but also thinking critically about what she is learning. Whenever we read her essays, we are always impressed at the high level of her work, and the broad reach of her ideas. She also has added to the class by engaging in discussions about differences between English and her native Spanish. It’s been a pleasure to see someone advance so quickly and contribute so much to the class.

Student: Marta Sorto  
Teacher: Oana Antony

I recommend for recognition with all my heart Marta Sorto because I realized how well she progressed in learning English. I am impressed by her enthusiasm to learn the language, accompanied by her ambition to master the language. Marta is also taking a parallel writing course with LCNV and wants to continue next year. She has a very open personality, and is not only always ready to help her fellow students, but is also willing to ask for clarification from the teacher.
Student: Marta Sorto  
Teacher: Sarah Bock

Marta is a dedicated English learner. She is very enthusiastic during class time, and she offers answers readily and asks many thoughtful questions. She is very kind to other students, and she adds such positive energy to the class. She is very dedicated to her studies, and she always completes the homework and works very hard during class.

Student: Spring 2021 Beginning English Level 2:  
   Anisa, Linda Amaya, Rosa Arteaga,  
   Carmen Canales Martinez,  
   Patricia Casafraanca, Kubra Hedayat,  
   Carlos Mayorga, Noureddine Ouajou,  
   Khadija Shah, and Manoon Tanaka  
Teacher: Anuradha Srirangarajan

From the beginning of the semester to the last day, this group of students were in unison and worked as a group. This class, as a whole, has been outstanding and proved to be the essence of “community.” Not only did these dedicated students attend class regularly and work hard to improve their English language skills throughout the semester, they continually and openly supported one another. When beginning a new lesson, learning new words and spellings, as well as when reviewing completed homework, each student helped their classmates with encouraging words, helpful suggestions, warm smiles, and attentive listening. This, in itself, is worthy of recognition, but even more so when the class was conducted entirely online. There are many examples that can be shared of class-wide support related to classwork, but beyond that, there was an equal amount of interest and support given by students to each other when a student would share newsworthy topics about their home country or discuss their culture. This special group of students deserves recognition for the supportive and effective learning community that they built.

Student: Muzghan Sultani  
Teacher: Wafa Misellati

Muzhgan is a hard working student. She never misses a class. Muzhgan consistently finishes her homework on time. She sets an example of excellence in behavior and cooperation.

Student: Maria da Conceicao Tavares  
Teacher: Marie Cavanaugh and Maria Monteagudo

Maria is an exceptional student, she is always the first student to enter the class and the last one to leave. Every week she greets us with a smile and demonstrates her passion for learning by her storytelling. She never misses a class. Maria is the oldest student in our class. She is an inspiration to us all by reminding us that we are never too old to learn anything. Her hard work and dedication motivate us to strive to be the best version of ourselves. She is excelling in her class, teaching us all valuable life lessons. It doesn’t matter where you are in life. All you have to do is show up every day and try. Trying is a mental ability; it takes courage to try. Courage will change your life and shape the person you are destined to be!

Student: Milton Torres  
Teacher: Robin Lundgren and Maura Sleevi

Milton rarely missed class and was always very willing to participate and share with all of us. He is one of the most appreciative students we have ever had. He has told us several times how much our teaching class means to him, often providing concrete examples of how our class is changing his life for the better. Milton also developed great rapport with other students in the class and brought a positive energy to class each week.
Student: Meyvi (Yanira) Aguilar Torres  
Teacher: Bill Meara

Just 25 years-old, Yanira was the youngest student in our class. She is a recent arrival to the United States with no prior experience as an English learner. She was an excellent student. She was always on time and always did her homework. During the course she struggled with a difficult physical condition, but she did not let this interfere with her studies. She was consistently the best in our classroom practical exercises, and she had fewer problems with pronunciation than any of the other students. She has great potential as an English learner.

Student: Sandra Vasquez  
Teacher: Robin Lundgren and Maura Sleevi

We would like to recognize Sandra Vasquez as Outstanding Student in our most remarkable Spring 2021 English class. Juggling between taking care of her family and expanding her career left Sandra little free time, yet she attended nearly every class and was always an eager, active participant. She also tackled each homework assignment with vigor. Always ready to volunteer, Sandra made great strides in her reading, speaking, and writing. But it was especially a treat to see her grow in self-confidence – she believed she could do it! She frequently encouraged other students and affirmed them whenever they tried. Her positive attitude and people skills will no doubt help her with her goal of starting her own company. We also hope she gets to “meet New York” this summer!

Student: Israel Paulo Vega  
Teacher: Maura Sleevi, Robin Lundgren, Melissa Rea, and Maura Sleevi

Paulo is a hard-working, kind man. He often comes to class after long hours of work and still puts forth a strong effort. It is wonderful to sometimes see his son close by! He demonstrates patience and determination as he steadily progresses in his use of English.

Student: Martha Villanueva  
Teacher: Lori Farnsworth

Always coming to class with a bright smile and beautiful outfit, Martha Villanueva was a ray of sunshine in our Level 2 class at William Ramsay. This hard working and enthusiastic English learner had perfect attendance. She was an eager and active participant in class who wasn’t afraid to ask questions and welcomed feedback. She put great effort into her homework assignments and expressed herself beautifully in writing. During the food unit, on her own initiative she demonstrated and explained the steps of making a healthful and flavorful garden salad. Martha is a creative and vibrant person who hopes to work in the fashion industry someday. Because she dreams big, takes risks and fully embraced her opportunity to learn, Martha Villanueva is a student very deserving of special recognition.

Student: Shughla Wali  
Teacher: Jackie Park

I recommend Shughla Wali for student recognition. She always joins our Zoom class early with a positive attitude and completes her homework. She was a little shy at the beginning and did not talk that much, but she improved a lot as time went by. We were truly lucky to have her in our class.

Student: Ting Summer Wang  
Teacher: Christopher Hrdy

She is intellectually curious, always asking interesting questions. She worked hard in small group practice to reach perfection, and didn’t let go of difficult concepts without trying hard to understand them.

Student: Ting Summer Wang  
Teacher: Jack Reickel

She brought everyone into the fun with her, never hesitant to entertain with her personality and attitude in English as she learned.
The Patricia M. Donnelly Merit Scholarship

Named in honor of the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia’s retired Executive Director who led the organization from 2002 to 2017, the Patricia M. Donnelly Merit Scholarship is awarded to an outstanding beginning-level LCNV learner whose dedication to literacy inspires the LCNV community.

This scholarship, which covers tuition for up to six semesters of classes, is given to students who exemplify commitment, perseverance, achievement, and classroom leadership.

Originally from Nicaragua, Marta has lived in the United States for twenty years. When she arrived, she felt nervous about not understanding English, and had difficulties in public as she was not able to communicate with people. She was motivated by her desire for independence, and not relying on others to translate for her while making appointments. When asked about her class, Marta said, “My teacher…motivates us to learn and encourages us to learn new things and uses an easy method to understand us. My classmates are always motivated to continue learning.” Marta’s attitude and bravery in pushing her boundaries influenced her entire class. Her teacher, Bill Meara, shares, “Our students had been encouraged to try to use their new English language skills in stores, supermarkets, or workplaces…Marta accepted the challenge and struck up a conversation with an American couple she had worked for for many years. These people spoke no Spanish, and until this day Marta had never really spoken to them. But with her new English skills, Marta was able to ask them about their children, people she had seen in family photographs but knew nothing about. The family was thrilled to be able to communicate with Marta, to be able to tell her about their kids. I know Marta was similarly thrilled. When she told the class the story of her conversation with the family, I could sense other students thinking to themselves, “I could do that too! I’m going to try.” Marta would like to say, “Thanks to the teachers for helping with scholarships for students and especially to my teacher for motivating me to continue improving myself.”

Marta Emilia Guerrero
2022 Recipient
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The mission of LCNV is to teach adults the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking, and understanding English so they can access employment and educational opportunities and more fully and equitably participate in the community.

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