Mission
The mission of the English Empowerment Center (EEC) 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.

Vision
A community empowered by the ability to read, write, speak, and understand English.

Learner-Focus: Keep our learners’ best interests in mind

Innovation: Remain at the cutting edge of best practices and implement evidence-based programs that enhance learning.

Integrity: Be honest and sincere in all interactions.

Collaboration: Recognize that by working together, we can do more to achieve common goals.

Excellence: Strive to be the best at what we do.

Respect: Treat all persons with dignity and embrace and celebrate one another’s differences and cultural backgrounds.

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Greetings,

As we reflect on this past year, I am overcome with pride and appreciation for our English Empowerment Center community. After 60 years as the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia, we are now the English Empowerment Center. We are proud of LCNV’s legacy and the positive effect we’ve had on the community. However, as we continued to grow, we determined that an organizational rebrand could help us better meet our goals and inform people about the transformative impact of what we do.

At EEC, we 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. Each lesson equips our students with the skills to navigate the world with confidence, breaking down language barriers and unlocking personal and professional opportunities.

As we continue to broaden our reach, we offered both in-person and online classes yet again this year, welcoming many new and returning faces. We have also focused on digital literacy, recognizing its growing importance. For many of our learners, developing technological skills opens up job opportunities and enhances communication with family and friends.

We could not be where we are today without the dedication of over 500 volunteers who spent more than 20,000 hours supporting over 2,000 adult learners. Their commitment has made a lasting impact on our community, which we are proud to celebrate.

Together, we can build a community where everyone has the chance to thrive. Thank you for being part of our journey at the English Empowerment Center.

With much appreciation,

Roopal Mehta Saran
Executive Director
Academic Programs

EEC served 1,500 adult learners in our online and in-person classes throughout Northern Virginia, including career-specific training programs and targeted skills development tailored to the students’ needs. The English Empowerment Center is one of only a few non-profit organizations in Northern Virginia that complies with federal education standards as it serves the most beginning-level adult learner, those that understand English at a 6th grade level or lower.

EEC’s Beginning English Classes teach the foundational skills adult English language learners need. Classes are held at least twice a week for two-hour class sessions at three academic levels.

Our Family Learning Programs (FLP) provide English language instruction classes for parents and caregivers, empowering them to engage in their children’s education.

Skills-based Classes give learners the option of focusing exclusively on the specific skills needed to expand educational and vocational competencies, including Writing Classes, English for Academic Studies, and free Conversation Classes.

Aside from these classes, EEC offers students various Support Services to help them stay on track to accomplish their goals, including Supplemental Tutoring, Student Advising, the Facebook Learner Network, Distance Learning, and Study Hall.

Destination Workforce®

EEC originally launched the Destination Workforce® program with the dream of offering adults the basic skills in English language and literacy to improve their employability and allow them to participate more fully and equitably in the workplace so they can advance towards self-sufficiency. We partner with different employers who see the value of improving their employees’ lives, reducing staff turnover, enhancing performance, and improving customer service.

Over the years, we have worked with a variety of partners, including the DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton in Tysons Corner, Capital One, Marymount University, Arlington Restaurant Partners, City of Alexandria Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities (ARPCA), and José Andrés’ Think Food Group, tailoring each class to their brand, industry, and performance goals. Recently, we have partnered with Fairfax County to provide on-site language training to members of their Solid Waste Department staff. We continued to offer our Intensive English and Workforce Readiness course, a 100+ hour class for beginning-level adult English language learners (ELLs) preparing to enter or advance in the American workforce. In 2021, EEC enhanced our English for Work Online class to cover some of the basic skills needed to apply and interview for a job, such as career inventory, job searching skills, resume writing, cover letter writing, practice with online job applications and mock interviews with a coach. As part of our Destination Workforce® portfolio, these courses aim to provide the language and workplace soft skills needed to obtain entry-level employment and to participate more fully and confidently at work and in the community. Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing highlighted new opportunities for this program to better support ELLs in their path towards achieving their goals. Now with virtual and in-person offerings, reduced tuition, and a laptop loaner program, we continue to break down barriers and provide accessible English language education to adults in Northern Virginia and beyond.

As the immigrant population in the U.S. continues to rise, it is critical for us to work together as a community to help everyone have equal access to the resources they need to obtain, succeed, and advance in entry-level jobs. We are so thrilled to have had the chance to work alongside local businesses to develop their workforce by upskilling their employees and look forward to future opportunities to enhance and add to our programming and help our learners have a brighter future.
This year at the English Empowerment Center, 520 volunteers gave 25,146 hours of service. Each volunteer brings unique skills and enthusiasm, creating a vibrant and supportive community where adult learners can thrive. Without their invaluable contributions, we could not achieve the remarkable progress we see each year.

Our volunteers engage in various roles, each crucial to our success. Some become certified to test English language learners with BEST Plus 2.0, ensuring that students are placed in the appropriate classes. Others assist at class registrations, helping to welcome and guide new learners as they embark on their educational journeys.

Class aides play an integral role by providing direct support to our instructors and students, creating a more personalized and effective learning experience. Student advisors offer guidance and encouragement, helping learners navigate their educational paths and achieve their goals. Additionally, volunteers lend a hand in our office, assisting with a variety of tasks that keep our operations running smoothly.

Each volunteer’s contribution, whether big or small, makes a significant impact. Their dedication not only enhances the learning experience for our students but also enriches our entire community. The bonds formed and the support given by our volunteers create an environment where learners feel valued and motivated to succeed.

To all our volunteers, we extend our deepest gratitude. Your commitment and generosity are the driving force behind the English Empowerment Center’s success. Together, we are creating a brighter future for our learners and our community.

If you are passionate about adult education and helping immigrants settle into life in this region, consider joining our team of volunteers. You can make a difference in an individual’s life, a family’s opportunities, and a community’s future.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering with the English Empowerment Center, please fill out and submit the form from the QR code. Once we receive your volunteer interest form, we will email you with next steps. If you have any questions along the way, please contact us at volunteers@englishempowermentcenter.org.
EEC Learners

EEC Learners’ Top 10 Countries of Origin


Learner Facts

- EEC’s 1,868 learners came from 73 different countries and spoke 39 different languages.
- 73% were female and 85% of all learners were between ages 25-59.
- 64% lived below the federal poverty line ($30,000 for a family of four).
- 57% had one or more jobs.
- 1,932 dependent children had parents in EEC programs.
- Top 10 native languages included Spanish, Dari, Pashtu, Farsi/Persian, Arabic, Korean, Vietnamese, Russian, Amharic, and Ukrainian.
- 39% of learners had nine years or less of education before coming to EEC.

Learner Achievement: Over 81% of Learners Achieved Two or More Goals

EEC’s learners achieved many significant goals this year. In addition to the goals listed below, 952 learners achieved personal goals such as voting for the first time, being more engaged in conversations, and increasing involvement in children’s education. 255 learners felt that they have been able to strengthen family relations, and 320 learners were able to improve wellness and attain healthier lifestyles.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>756</th>
<th>411</th>
<th>914</th>
<th>1,004</th>
<th>605</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attained Consumer Skills</td>
<td>Entered/Retained Employment</td>
<td>Improved Employability Skills</td>
<td>Improved Technology Skills</td>
<td>Increased Involvement in the Community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2023 Patricia M. Donnelly Merit Scholar
Eunice Carvajal
EEC in the Community

EEC actively attended a variety of conferences and symposiums to share our experiences nationally and internationally, presenting at community fairs, public hearings, and cultural celebrations to raise public awareness of adult English education. Below are a few of the year’s highlights.

August 2022
- Executive Director, Roopal Saran, and Director of Academic Programs and Student Services, Xavier Muñoz, were invited speakers on a webinar series focused on expanding supports for immigrant integration as part of the Enhancing Access for Refugees and New Americans project, funded by the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education.

October 2022
- Executive Director Roopal Mehta Saran was recognized by Greater Washington Community Foundation as a 2022 David Bradt Nonprofit Leadership Award Recipient.

November 2022
- After 60 years of empowering English language learners, we unveiled our new name and logo at The Next Chapter event. The Literacy Council of Northern Virginia is officially now the English Empowerment Center!

December 2023
- EEC staff spent a day of service with Herndon-Reston FISH (Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help) to assist in packing food and toys for needy families in the area during the Holiday season.
- The short film, Always Forward, was celebrated at the Angelika Film Center in the Mosaic District. Always Forward was inspired by the book, Indomitable! Immigrants’ Stories of Perseverance and Resilience, written by Margery Leveen Sher, the Vice President of EEC’s Board of Directors.

January 2023
- EEC collaborated with Social4Good to initiate the Literacy Brigade where members of Social4Good hand delivered textbooks and class materials to local EEC learners registered in online classes.

February 2023
- Volunteer and Outreach Manager, Amy Tristan, and Office Administrator & Student Liaison, Marizol Rojas, have been recognized as Unsung Heroes in the February 2023 issue of PROGRESS from the Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center.
- EEC was recognized for our collaboration with the Fairfax County Health Department and their objectives to prevent and mitigate the spread of disease. Throughout the pandemic, we encouraged public health and continued to inform the community of COVID-19 policies and resources.
- EEC began Destination Workforce® classes with Marymount University dining services and housekeeping staff.

March 2023
- Student Services Coordinator Juan Perez was featured in Aspiring Altruists, a podcast that focuses on young employees in the nonprofit space.

April 2023
- EEC hosted our first ever Career and Opportunities Fair! The fair was open to all for the opportunity to meet with employers and organizations providing skills development.

June 2023
- Executive Director Roopal Mehta Saran was invited to speak on WTOP News about the work the English Empowerment Center does in the community and the great impact of our support from Amazon.

In the past year, EEC held 13 events to recruit and train volunteers, including eight EEC 101 events (information sessions on our mission, history, and volunteer opportunities), three Instructor Trainings, and two BEST Plus 2.0 trainings. Through these opportunities, we met and worked with 240 new volunteers.
Audited Financials

For 61 years, EEC has maintained its fiscal viability by fostering a diverse group of supporters, focusing on cost efficiencies, and leveraging community partnerships, including the contribution of its large volunteer force.

Revenue FY2023
July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Revenue</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual, Corporate, &amp; Foundation Donations</td>
<td>$762,310</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local, State &amp; Federal Revenue</td>
<td>$532,684</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop &amp; Student Fees</td>
<td>$180,760</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-kind Materials/Services</td>
<td>$116,633</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Events</td>
<td>$84,684</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,662,051</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenses FY2023
July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>$1,955,398</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$301,822</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Administrative</td>
<td>$156,250</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,413,470</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“While Learning English, I also feel a sense of belonging that I am a member of this society. The opportunity to listen to English through the English Empowerment Center and to read, write, and speak English gives me confidence.”

- BANGJIN, EEC LEARNER

“Sometimes I think it is unreal, all the things I learned in this short time. Right now I feel happy and excited. I want to learn more English. I hope on day I can make my wishes happen. My goals: get my GED, citizenship, and more job opportunities. I want to continue to make friends and communicate better with others in English. English is changing my life.”

- WENDY, EEC LEARNER
Our Team

Staff
Roopal Mehta Saran, Executive Director
Joshua Gilmore, Development Coordinator
Ashley King, Admissions Manager and Registrar
Michael Mahrer, Senior Director of Advancement
Abdulkadir Mirze, IT Database Administrator
Xavier Muñoz, Director of Academic Programs and Student Services
Sahra Nadir, Financial and Operations Manager
Eiman Nimer, Intensive Program and Site Operations Manager
Soo Park, Instructional Design Manager
Juan Perez, Student Services Coordinator
Nada Raja, Academic Operations and Digital Literacy Manager

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CEO, MarginEdge and Wasabi

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VP Relationship Manager, Commercial Banking, First National Bank
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Carisa Pineda
Management Specialist, Arlington County Child Advocacy Center
Tiffany L. Taber
Chief Speechwriter and Managing Writer, U.S. Department of Education

Lead Teachers
Nadin Al-Attar
Banhi Bhattacharya, Ph.D.
Lorraine Billo
Kobi Carter
Jin Feng Chen
Jackie Corkins
Vaishali Deshpande
Darlene Fahrenkrug
Donna Giarratana
Adrienne Grossman
Matthew Halse
Laurie Hayden
Kasia Helbin-Travis
Jennifer Hine
Claire Kevill
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Cassandra Kramer
Eman Mahmoud
Alison McGandy
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Elizabeth Nelson
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Mima Soils
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Allison Widmann
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Marianne Alcina
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Suzanne and Dennis Zimmerman

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Dr. Lawrence Altman
Jennifer Anastasoff and Errol Hunter
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Carole Vinograd Bausell
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Susan C. and Donald E. Bennett, Jr.
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Vanita and Anjali Bhargava
William O. Blome
Nersi Boussina
Rosemarie Capon
CDW Corporation
Howard and Anne Chang
Gerald and Sandi Croon
Zoe Donan
Katherine Dickson
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Linda Tata
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Rebecca Trath
Sari Warren
Jeffrey Grimm and Christine Webb
Carol Weber
Geoffrey Weiss
Jessica Wolff
Michael T. Wolff
These donors have given in excess of $50,000 to EEC and continue to support EEC’s mission.

Valedictorian ($10,000–$24,999)
Anonymous (2) | Crimsonbridge Foundation | Dominion Energy | Friends of the Reston Regional Library | Margery Leveen Sher | Kathleen Utgoff

Salutatorian ($5,000–$9,999)
Anonymous (2) | Anthem Healthkeepers Plus | Suneer and Priya Aurora Foundation | Greater Washington Community Foundation | Larry and Bonnie Lefbom | Geeta Mehta | Nishat Mehta and Shalini Matani | The Nora Roberts Foundation | State Farm | TD Bank | Walt Disney Company Foundation

Dean’s List ($1,000–$4,999)

Summa Cum Laude ($500 - $999)

The English Empowerment Center deeply appreciates the support of countless individuals and organizations. Recognized here are donations received during Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023). Due to space limitations, only organizational and individual donations of $100 or more are listed. To make a donation or to inform of any corrections please call 703-237-0866.
Interested in an English class for beginning-level adults?

English Empowerment Center classes are available online and in-person throughout Northern Virginia in the fall, spring, and summer.