

Item #2.1
September 17, 2021

Illinois Community College Board

**RESOLUTION
ADULT EDUCATION & FAMILY LITERACY WEEK**

WHEREAS, on November 3, 1966 the Adult Education Act was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson establishing a new education system comprised of a partnership between the federal government and the states; and

WHEREAS, in Illinois close to 1 million residents lack basic academic skills and over 2.7 million residents speak a language other than English in their home; and

WHEREAS, the national and state economy is transforming into a knowledge-based economy where 65% of jobs in the United States requires some level of postsecondary education; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Adult Education is to assist adults become literate and obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for self-sufficiency and assist adults who are parents develop the skills to be full partners in their child's education; and

WHEREAS, Adult Education and Literacy instruction is an essential strategy addressing inequities in access to learning opportunities and is instrumental in Illinois' recovery efforts from the Covid-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the focus of adult literacy provides individuals with Integrated Education and Training (IET) and Bridge programs designed to accelerate and connect the adult literacy instruction with technical or workforce training leading to industry-recognized/postsecondary credentials and meaningful employment; and

WHEREAS, through the challenges brought on by COVID-19 and its impact on education, the Illinois Community College Board and its network of diverse providers remained steadfast in providing adult learners with high quality education access; and

WHEREAS, a network of over 50,000 adult learners access adult literacy instruction annually and are provided with career and workforce preparation to improve the Illinois' talent pipeline;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Illinois Community College Board do hereby proclaim September 19 – 25, 2021 as Adult Education and Family Literacy Week in Illinois to raise public awareness about the importance of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we recognize the teachers, adult educators, community partners and thousands of adult learners for their efforts, persistence, and accomplishments.

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Lazaro Lopez, Chair