

# Dutch BOCES SPOTLIGHT

November 2014



*Dutchess BOCES Adult Learning Institute (ALI) provides classroom-based instruction to support topics such as civics, community/home safety, public library use, U.S. school systems, local public health services, housing, and family awareness that help non-native English speakers acquire the English language.*

English as a Second Language (ESL) is offered to help individuals to develop a deeper command of the English language whether at home, work, or in day-to-day life.

Dutchess BOCES ALI has offered ESL training for more than 20 years. In fact, our programming is based on a New York State-approved curriculum first introduced by author Robin Schwarz and later expanded upon by Beverly Baright, one of ALI's own instructors.

To start, pre-assessments include an adaptive computerized intake to assess both oral language acquisition and fluency for appropriate state and federal National Reporting System (NRS) accountability. It is important

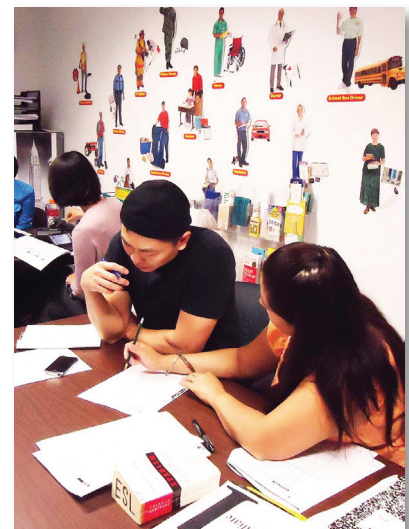
**Dutchess BOCES ALI offers open-ended classes year-round at the following locations to support non-native English speakers:**

- Grace Episcopal Church
- Dutchess BOCES ALI
- Christ Episcopal Church
- Arthur S. May School

to realize that ESL instruction is only one part of the picture as a student moves from one level of literacy into another at Dutchess BOCES.

ALI literacy programming is actually made up of three tiers and learners move from one level to another as they grow academically. Non-English speakers often begin their studies in one of our ESL classes

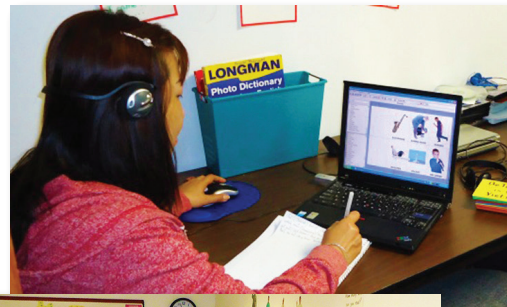
and later move into the other stages of literacy: Adult Basic Education (ABE) and High School Equivalency (HSE) to enhance their employment or post-secondary options.



During the 2013-2014 school year, we learned the average English language learner (ELL) spent between 50 to 100 hours of instructional time in an ESL program. Additionally, most ESL students were seeking learning opportunities that are within easy reach of home and work.

We have found best practices use a combination of elementary and intermediate language instruction with a focus on real world contexts which enhance meaning for each learner. Our divisional mission in this area is to establish and provide pathways toward citizenship and potential life-long careers. Successful teaching strategies for our ESL classes are built upon trust and authentic interest in the learner. In addition, effective methods also focus on finding ways to support continual learning outside the classroom setting. By using everyday objects to provide real world context, Dutchess BOCES instructors make learning easy and interactive.

State and federal funded grants enable ALI to provide instruction at no cost to the learner. A registration fee of \$10 is all that is needed to begin the initial assessment.



## LOOKING AHEAD:

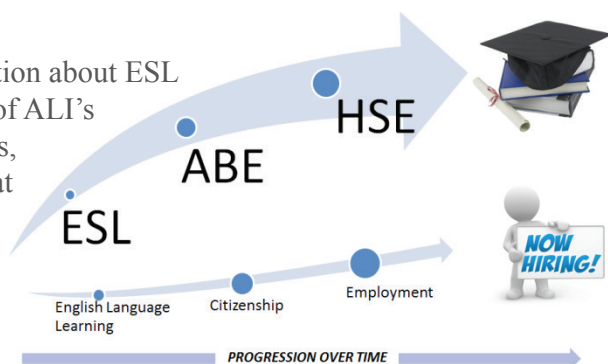
Fostering new partnerships for the future...

As part of our commitment to our community, ALI participated in the Latino Outreach Fair held at Poughkeepsie Middle School this past October. This event provided support to local families in the greater Poughkeepsie community by offering a variety of information in Spanish and English.

While there, ALI staff members met with a variety of partners and students to emphasize the importance of literacy as a key to life-long learning.

Dutchess BOCES ALI seeks to support the local community in tangible ways that will continue to support our local economy, and allow for students success.

For more information about ESL programs, or any of ALI's extensive offerings, please contact us at 845-483-3640.



### DAYTIME CLASSES AVAILABLE AT:

**ALI ESL Learning Center**  
One Civic Center Plaza, Suite 300  
Poughkeepsie, NY  
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Christ Episcopal Church**  
20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie, NY  
Tues. & Thurs.; 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

### EVENING CLASSES AVAILABLE AT:

**Arthur S. May Elementary School**  
601 Dutchess Turnpike  
Poughkeepsie, NY  
Registration 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday  
of every month  
School classrooms 201 and 215  
Tues & Thurs.; 6:15 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.

**Grace Episcopal Church**  
3328 Franklin Avenue, Millbrook, NY  
Tues. & Thurs.; 6:15 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.

**DUTCHESS BOCES**  
ADULT LEARNING INSTITUTE