

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**TO BE PROPOSED:
June 1, 2016**

WHEREAS, Adult education exemplifies the concept of lifelong learning with more than ten-thousand Connecticut residents in adult basic education/secondary school completion programs and nearly twelve-thousand Connecticut residents in English as a second language and U.S. citizenship preparation programs; and

WHEREAS, The Connecticut Association for Adult and Continuing Education (CAACE), through its CAACE Student Award, recognized four individuals who have overcome numerous obstacles and hardships to persist and succeed in adult education; and

WHEREAS, These individuals exemplify the spirit and determination necessary to achieve a goal and serve as role models to all adult and young learners in our communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Connecticut State Board of Education recognizes the following individuals for their accomplishment in this major adult education endeavor:

Alexander Day	EDUCATION CONNECTION
Lisa Lebreiro	Naugatuck Adult Education
Joseph O'Neill	Manchester Adult Education
Trey Wells	EASTCONN Adult Education

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of _____ this first day of June, Two Thousand Sixteen.

Signed: _____
Dianna R. Wentzell, Secretary
State Board of Education

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner of Education

DATE: June 1, 2016

SUBJECT: Recognition of the Connecticut Association of Adult and Continuing Education (CAACE) Student Award Winners

Executive Summary

Introduction

Adult education is an essential component of Connecticut's lifelong educational system, providing individuals with instruction in citizenship, English as a second language (ESL), basic skills and secondary completion. In the 2015-16 school year, more than ten thousand individuals were enrolled in adult basic education/secondary school completion programs and nearly twelve thousand individuals were enrolled in ESL and U.S. citizenship preparation programs. In order to persist and succeed in adult education, many of these learners face substantial challenges to balance their life activities.

History/Background

The Connecticut Association of Adult and Continuing Education (CAACE) honored four individuals from Connecticut's adult education programs on March 31, 2016, for their perseverance and accomplishments. We would like to acknowledge these individuals for their efforts and recognize them as exemplars of lifelong learning.

Recommendation and Justification

I recommend that the Board recognize the following individuals for their accomplishments:

Alexander Day
EDUCATION CONNECTION

EDUCATION CONNECTION staff commented that "Alexander Day is a gifted, diligent and conscientious student who possesses a unique combination of technical acumen and creative ability." As a student in the Credit Diploma Program (CDP), Mr. Day has proven his desire to learn and has developed a vision to plan for his future. Going back to school to complete his high school diploma set him on the road to success. His goal is to attend college or to join the Air Force. Mr. Day's outstanding science, technology and mathematic skills may one day allow him to pursue his dream to develop robotic limbs for service personnel injured in the line of duty. Mr. Day has shown tremendous growth as a potential leader and possesses the skills, abilities and attitude to achieve success.

Lisa Lebreiro
Naugatuck Adult Education

At 50 years of age, Ms. Lebreiro lost her job and found that she needed to get a high school diploma to secure another job. At Naugatuck Adult Education, she vowed to complete the National External Diploma Program (NEDP) in record time. Ms. Lebreiro completed the program in six months. She has been described as "a woman on a mission," overcoming a challenging work schedule and childcare responsibilities to

attend school two to three times each week to complete the program. She proved to be resourceful, energetic and confident. Ms. Lebreiro demonstrated her dedication and work ethic by arriving to class early and paying attention to every detail. While focusing on completing requirements for her diploma, she distinguished herself as an exemplary student. Ms. Lebreiro is now enjoying work as a paralegal in a law firm.

Joseph O'Neill
Manchester Adult Education

Mr. O'Neill is described as a dedicated student who worked very hard in his classes while taking advantage of tutorial support and online learning. He loves to read and is seldom seen without a book in his hand. Mr. O'Neill's technology instructor indicated that he "gives 110 percent every day." His instructors have stated that Mr. O'Neill was able to share a lifetime of wisdom and life experiences with his classmates. His classmates have the utmost respect for him and his work ethic. At age 61, Mr. O'Neill is an inspiration to other students in the program. He will graduate in June 2016 and plans to continue his education at Manchester Community College to study culinary arts or a healthcare program. Mr. O'Neill's perseverance and passion for learning has led to his recognition as a recipient of the Joseph B. Murphy Memorial Achievement Award for 2016.

Trey Wells
EASTCONN Adult Education

Mr. Wells has recently passed the GED test and much of his work has been completed independently. He has also earned a Microsoft Office Specialist certification and a National Retail Federation Customer Service certification and has been selected for a paid internship at a local convalescent home. Mr. Wells has a goal to become an emergency room physician. Through the GED program, he found a supportive place to learn and prepare for his transition to higher education. Mr. Wells is getting ready to attend college by visiting colleges, completing applications and taking the SAT. His participation in the EASTCONN Adult Education Program has provided him the confidence he needed to pursue his dream to become a doctor. One of Mr. Wells' teachers wrote, "Having such a dedicated young man in my adult education class has been a once in a lifetime experience. I know he's going to be a great doctor someday."

Prepared by: June Sanford, Bureau Chief
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Reviewed by: Glen Peterson, Division Director
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Organizational Effectiveness

Approved by: Charlene Russell-Tucker, Chief Operating Officer
Connecticut State Department of Education