



January Newsletter

Dear Trusted Friends of WALC,

I write to you with heartfelt gratitude for your generous contributions and incredible support of our End-of-Year Campaign! Thanks to you, we didn't just meet our goal—we exceeded it, raising an amazing **\$33,217**. Because of your generosity, our adult literacy services will continue to be strong, free of charge, and accessible to the learners who count on us.

I am truly humbled and energized by the outpouring of support during a challenging time. Your belief in our mission reminds us just how powerful collective action can be. Thank you for standing with us.

2025 has been an extraordinary year of innovation, growth, and collaboration, and I'm excited to share just a few highlights we celebrated together:

- We received the **Statewide Outstanding Achievement in Workforce Development Award**—a tremendous honor.
- We launched a new adult learning initiative, **Immigration Learning Circles**, expanding access and opportunity.
- We hosted our **first-ever Financial Education Workshops**, equipping learners with essential life skills.
- We expanded our class offerings from **two days a week to four days a week**, reaching more than **150 learners** each week.
- We joyfully celebrated **36 years of providing free adult literacy services** in the Winnebago area at our annual fundraiser, *Spellbound for Literacy*.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without your unwavering support.

As we look ahead, I am continually inspired by the passion and dedication of our volunteers and board members, the commitment and care of our teachers and staff, and—most importantly—the determination and curiosity of our learners. Their drive fuels everything we do.

And the excitement continues in **2026**! Here's a glimpse of what's ahead:

- **Launch of our new website and blog, *Beyond the Margins*** – Our refreshed website is live with a vibrant new design! Visit <https://winlit.org/> for the latest updates, and explore learner stories and program highlights on our blog, *Beyond the Margins*.
- **Continuation of Immigration Learning Circles** – We are excited to resume our Immigration Learning Circles, with the first session scheduled for **February 18** featuring **Raiden Montero**. Raiden will share insights on how the current

political landscape is affecting international students (F-1 visa holders), including the application process and pathways to studying in the U.S.

- **New community partnerships and collaborations** – We have several exciting partnerships on the horizon and look forward to sharing more details soon. One of these initiatives is the **Winnebago Network for Language Access**, a two-week, paid, in-person professional development opportunity taking place in March for anyone teaching or tutoring learners from refugee and immigrant backgrounds. See below for more details and information on how to apply to join this exciting initiative!
- **Honoring International Mother Language Day in February** – To celebrate the linguistic and cultural diversity of the Winnebago area, we are partnering with the Neenah Public Library to host a film screening and panel discussion of the documentary **Translators**. The 20-minute film features the stories and experiences of children who serve as translators for their parents. Following the screening, panelists from our community will share their own related experiences. Please see the details below for information on how to join us at the Neenah Public Library on February 21.
- **Celebrating 37 years of eliminating barriers to adult literacy** – We hope to see you again at *Spellbound* later this year as we celebrate another impactful year together.

Thank you for being such an essential part of the WALC community. Your support, enthusiasm, and belief in our mission truly make all the difference. As always, I value your feedback and ideas—please feel free to stop by our Learning Center on the second floor of the U.S. Bank Building. I would love the opportunity to wish you a Happy & Healthy New Year in person!

With deepest gratitude and excitement for what's ahead,



Chu May Paing, PhD

Executive Director



Meet Our New Board Members!

Anne Stevens

University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh

Anne holds a BA in English from the University of Chicago and a PhD in English from New York University. She currently serves as Dean of the College of Public Affairs and Education at the University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh.



Jason Schmidt

Oshkosh Area School District

Jason is a career educator with more than 20 years of experience as a classroom teacher, instructional coach, and director of online learning. Currently, he serves as



the Director of Technology for the Oshkosh Area School District.

Rainu Pierce

Oshkosh Corporation

Rainu holds a BS in Electrical Engineering and an MS in Computer Science and currently works at Oshkosh Corporation as a Project Management Professional.



Check Out Our New Program!

Calling all ELL teachers and tutors!!

The Winnebago Network for Language Access (WIN) is a professional development program designed to support both new and experienced educators through hands-on workshops and shared best practices.

Funding for WIN was provided by a Community Impact Grant from the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation.

- Only 20 spots available
- \$300 stipend for attending 5 sessions
- Apply by March 4, 2026

Learn more and apply using the link below!

[Apply Here!](#)

Winnebago Network for Language Access

\$300 stipend for participating
Limited 20 spots!

Winnebago Network for Language Access (WIN) is a professional development and continuing education opportunity for ELL teachers and tutors

This project offers a series of workshops designed to enhance the development of both established and emerging educators, focused on best practices in teaching English for Speakers of other Languages.

WIN will take place over 8 sessions the weeks of March 9th and March 16th

Applications due by March 4th



Translators Film Viewing & Discussion



TRANSLATORS

Film Viewing & Discussion

February 21,
10:30am
Neenah
Public Library

Join us for a screening of *Translators*, a short film highlighting the unseen responsibilities of bilingual children who translate for their families. A community panel will follow, exploring the need for professional translators and the importance of breaking language barriers to adult literacy.

Coffee, tea, and light snacks will be provided for the viewing!



RSVP NOW

Join the Winnebago Area Literacy Council and the University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh Chicano/a & Latinx Studies program at the **Neenah Public Library** on **February 21 from 10:30 AM–12:30 PM** for a screening and discussion of the short film *Translators*.

Partake and learn more about translation in our community, the need for professional translators, and the importance of eliminating barriers to adult literacy.

[RSVP NOW](#)

Upcoming Events

Financial Education Workshop

Your Credit Report: What it means to lenders - Understand what a credit report is and why it matters

February 8th | 12 PM - 2 PM | Oshkosh Public Library, Conference Room A/B lower level

[Register Now](#)

Financial Education Workshop

Your Credit Score: What it means for you - Learn the key factors that shape your score and how to improve it

February 11th | 12 PM - 2 PM | Oshkosh Public Library, Conference Room A/B lower level

[Register Now](#)

February Immigration Learning Circle

Navigating Global Admissions: The International Student Journey to UW-Oshkosh

February 18th | 4:30 PM - 6 PM | 111 N Main St, Suite 202, Oshkosh, WI 54901

[Register Here](#)

Translators Film Viewing & Discussion

February 21st | 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM | Neenah Public Library

[RSVP Now](#)

Eliminate Barriers to Literacy

You can support WALC in many ways



- Volunteer with us
- Donate needed items from our [Amazon Wishlist](#)
 - Use **ShopRaise** in your everyday shopping
 - Make a financial contribution to support our free literacy services

[Donate Now!](#)

Please remember the Winnebago Area Literacy Council in your will. Learn more about planned gifts on our website.

Connect with us and stay up to date on all things WALC



Winnebago Area Literacy Council | 106 Washington Ave | Oshkosh, WI 54901 US

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