

# PAOLA ADULT EDUCATION CENTER

FALL 2019 NEWSLETTER



**NEW YEAR  
NEW CLASSES,  
NEW CHALLENGES,  
NEW HOPE.**



**TAKING YOUR  
EDUCATION  
TO YOU**



**SWEET  
SUCCESS**

# BACK TO SCHOOL AT PACP

**BY KAREN ULANSKI**

Excitement filled the air the morning of August 15, 2019. High school students arriving for their first day of school at the Paola Academic Completion Program were smiling and laughing with each other. It was good to be able to witness this excitement for many reasons. These kids need second chances and they want to know they will be all right.

The staff of the Paola Adult Education Center goes to great lengths to ensure student success while trying to help students finish what they started years before. This year the students will again be able to work within the college pathways of healthcare, welding, construction trades, or HVAC if they are interested. The students are realizing they need more than just a high school diploma to make it in the world. AND they will make it...

## A NEW TWIST IN ADULT EDUCATION

**BY KAREN ULANSKI**

The Paola Adult Education Center is back in full swing with classes ranging GED® classes, beginning computers, iPhones and iPads, Microsoft Office® certifications, and workplace readiness. The staff works diligently with every student who enters the program and makes a difference for each individual wanting to further themselves in education and/or training.

Karen Ulanski and Chris Wheaton are working with area businesses trying to pass on skills to the employees as part of a new emphasis in adult education.

The new focus shifts adult education from just helping students pass the GED® test to assisting employers by offering lessons to the employees in the workplace in regards to generational differences, personality differences, attitude, attendance, and many other topics.



# A BETTER COMMUNITY WORKFORCE

BY CHRIS WHEATON

My thoughts of being a teacher and helping others goes beyond the four walls of a classroom. At the beginning of June, the staff of the Paola Adult Education Center ventured out of our building and addressed the community, which allowed me to do some teaching out of the classroom. With the feedback of what employers wanted to gain from their employees, I headed off with a bag of tricks and activities to help.

The first place that I worked with was the hotel in Paola. The employees were taught the five generations of the workplace and then True Colors. Both activities revealed the different abilities of people and how to best use them for a more effective working environment. The employees learned the differences and how they perceived a person's actions is not truly what that person really meant. Viewing life through another person's eyes gave all employees more respect for each other.

Later they were introduced to "Bring Your A Game to Work". This program worked to show the staff the importance of seven attributes that would be good to have in order to be an important member of the workforce. The group, which held a close working environment, came together stronger, developing more respect for others. The staff showed a willingness to work more for the group and less for their individual self. I look forward to branching out into more workplaces to help produce people that employers are proud to have working for them.



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT: ELLIE OWENS

Hi! My name is Ellie Owens. I am the morning Foster grandparent for Miss Carol's GED® Class. I live in Paola with my cat Lovey. Quilting is my hobby. It is a hobby I share with other teachers in our building. I have 3 children and 9 grandchildren. My desire is to make a difference in someone's life each day. Come down to Room 7 and visit with me. Let's make a difference together.

# SWEET SUCCESS

BY CAROL FRANZ

Yvonne came into my class in April of 2019. She was interested in getting a job in the healthcare field as she was already a Certified Nurses Aide. Yvonne never missed a day of class due to illness and only was gone when she went out of town to Las Vegas on vacation. She was the ultimate role model in class, as she would come to class prepared every day with questions from the previous day's assignments and be fully engaged when listening to explanations from the board. Even after her current class session ended, she remained steady and dedicated to come and work independently at a back table while I had class with new people, asking questions as needed. Despite struggling to see the computer screen at arms length, she took and passed the GED®, becoming a Kansas State High School recipient. Yvonne was determined to walk across the stage with her son in June of 2019 for GED® graduation, which was met with success! I am so proud of this dedicated lady, who also determined shortly thereafter to serve her patients as a CNA at Lakemary Center with compassion and care.