



The Literacy Alliance

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VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

www.fwliteracyalliance.org

Student Success Story

Dulce Huerta is a recent graduate of The Literacy Alliance's high school equivalency (HSE) program. She is 33 years old, married and a full-time mother with three children, two boys and one girl. She completed her HSE testing in October 2019 and now has HSE diploma. "It is truly a wonderful feeling knowing I have really completed this goal!" says Dulce.

Her story begins when a friend told her about The Literacy Alliance, "I was already considering the possibility of getting my diploma. I contacted the TLA office and signed up for the next orientation. In April 2019 I started my first day in the Summit AM classroom. Right away I really liked my teacher, Amy, who helped with my learning goals so I could graduate. All the subjects I was learning became enjoyable, but my focus subject, language, became my very favorite."

As Dulce started to see progress in her studies she became motivated to do even better and not miss class. "The Summit AM tutors helped me, especially with math. I also liked my classmates," says Dulce.

The Career Assessments that were a part of the class were very interesting and informative to Dulce. "I especially liked the Ivy Tech tour," she says. "It was really important for me to be on a real college campus."

Dulce's next goal is to go back home and teach English to those needing it in the community. And she is grateful donors and volunteers who helped her attain her HSE, "Thank you, TLA, for this opportunity to get my HSE education!"



Dulce Huerta
HSE Graduate

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Welcome Melinda Haines

The board of directors of The Literacy Alliance has named Melinda Haines as the new chief executive officer of the non-profit organization.

With more than 30 years of experience in a variety of education, business and non-profit settings, Haines brings extensive communication, administration and collaboration skills to the CEO position, which oversees the implementation of a comprehensive organizational strategy. For the past eight years, she has served as the director of the Purdue Fort Wayne Community Arts Academy. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from Kenyon College and a Master of Business Administration from Purdue Global.

Haines has lived most of her adult life in Fort Wayne and is married to Bruce, who is the president and general manager of PBS Fort Wayne. They have two daughters: Hannah, an information services librarian at the Morrisson Reeves Library in Richmond, IN, and Rachel, who is in her first year of divinity school at Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta. In her spare time, Haines enjoys reading, knitting, traveling and wine tasting.

Board chair Drew Dunlavy said, "We had a particularly strong group of applicants from across a broad spectrum of backgrounds, bringing considerable strengths to the table. Made difficult by the high quality of candidates, after the process of interviews, evaluation, deliberation and more deliberation, the search committee recommended Melinda to the board of directors. Melinda received enthusiastic support from the board."

Haines began full-time duties February 3, 2020. Prior to her appointment as CEO, she served on TLA's board of directors and the marketing committee, where she created a marketing plan and spearheaded the re-design of the organization's website.

March 2020



Melinda Haines
TLA Chief Executive Officer

MISSION

The Literacy Alliance strives to end illiteracy by teaching adults through learning centers, literacy programs, and tutoring services that empower individuals to succeed at work, at home and in the community.



The Literacy Alliance

SOCIAL MEDIA

Did you know you can follow The Literacy Alliance on social media? See what it's like to be an adult student, learning and choosing success.

Share and post to our social media to show your support for adult literacy in Fort Wayne.



FACEBOOK

The Literacy Alliance of Fort Wayne

You can sign up for email notifications and stay in touch with The Literacy Alliance the eco-friendly way on our Facebook page!



INSTAGRAM

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LINKEDIN

The Literacy Alliance

CHANGING LIVES THROUGH LITERACY

The problems of adult illiteracy reach everyone. Increased literacy leads to higher employment, decreased crime rates and improved community health.

YOU CAN HELP

- Volunteer
- Refer a student
- Donate today

Accomplishing the Impossible

When you want different results, you must change the process. The Literacy Alliance updated its orientation and intake process to better serve adults who are busy with the responsibilities of life but have a desire to learn. TLA's goal is to prepare interested adults for the intense, one-on-one and group learning we offer adults. A three-day orientation may seem overwhelming. However, after nine hours of study, we know when a student comes to that first class, he or she knows what to expect. The incoming students watch videos of current students and graduates, learn more about the agency, and take assessments to help guide the teacher's lesson plans. Because of this update, students see that success is closer than they dared dream and teachers see an increase in commitment and drive in their students.

Last fall, with much support from staff and directors, TLA launched a massive restructuring of its student orientation process. For the program year 2019-2020 TLA produced more than 30 high school equivalency (HSE) graduates within the first six months, which is a record in TLA's history!

Staff began to emphasize three goals throughout the orientation process:

- To strengthen our vision with ultimate teamwork, staff adopted a philosophy of being united in our thought process and strategies.
- To modernize our overall organizational operation from A to Z on student orientation, TLA upgraded our technology, increased student responsibilities, and improved assessment processing.
- To put strategies in place that would eliminate previous obstacles and lead to direct, immediate results.

Since September 2019 we have stabilized student retainment and increased academic gains; this has led to a significantly higher number of HSE graduates. With each orientation, we are committed to building on this momentum. We courageously aim to finish the 2019-2020 program year with more than 60 HSE graduates.

Target Circle, Kroger Rewards, Amazon Smile

Each time you shop at Target, you have the opportunity to support adult literacy in Fort Wayne and Allen County. Log in to your Target account and follow the prompts and instructions to vote. The Literacy Alliance will display in a list with our logo, mission and web site link. Each time you shop at Target, you gain votes. Keep voting for TLA!

Visit <http://www.kroger.com>. Once logged into your Kroger account, search for The Literacy Alliance either by name or EC246 and then click Enroll. New users will need to create an account, which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a rewards card.

To use AmazonSmile to support The Literacy Alliance, select TLA as your charitable organization. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization.



Laughs for Literacy 2020: Save the Date

Laughs for Literacy is the funniest fundraising event you'll ever attend! Civic and business leaders, donors, and seat fillers all agree that The Literacy Alliance Laughs for Literacy, is the most fun you'll have raising money for an important cause like adult literacy.

But Laughs for Literacy is more than fun... it's a fundraiser after all. Your support will help Allen County adult learners improve reading and math skills. You will also help many of them pass their high school equivalency exam. For more than 30 years, The Literacy Alliance has provided tutoring and classes to mostly low-income adults, at no cost to them. Your support, along with many other donors here in the Fort Wayne area, make this possible.

Don't miss the food, the camaraderie, the connections, and the comedy! This year's event takes place Thursday, September 19, at the Parkview Mirro Center. More details will be coming to you soon.

Interested in learning more about sponsorships and how to get involved?

Visit <https://fwliteracyalliance.org/laughs-for-literacy> or contact Melinda Haines, chief executive officer at melinda.haines@fwliteracyalliance.org

Building a Legacy

It is never too early to plan your legacy and help the cause you care about today. You can decide to leave a gift to The Literacy Alliance to help future students achieve their potential.

- Name The Literacy Alliance as a beneficiary in any of your financial plans, including IRAs or insurance policies.
- Leave a portion of your estate to The Literacy Alliance in your will.

Your legacy gift will leave an impact in the lives of students we serve for years to come. For more information, call our office at 260-426-7323 to speak with Melinda Haines, CEO. Or visit <https://fwliteracyalliance.org/donate>.

Join the Honor Roll

Donors are the key to success at The Literacy Alliance. Donors make it possible for The Literacy Alliance students to receive educational tools on their journey to complete a high school equivalency diploma. For that, The Literacy Alliances believes that donors are at the head of the class, which we designate as the Honor Roll.

The Honor Roll is the annual giving club to acknowledge the part donors play in delivering our mission. The Honor Roll recognizes donors who contribute \$250 or more, and whose annual commitment to The Literacy Alliance provides significant support for the advancement of our students.

You can donate online at <https://fwliteracyalliance.org/donate>. It's safe and easy. You can also use the enclosed envelope. Thank you for your support!

Earn Perfect Attendance

Earn Perfect Attendance by starting a monthly gift of \$20.84. Some donors find they can make a larger gift by spreading the gift over twelve months. Perfect Attendance allows a donor to join the Honor Roll with a smaller upfront gift. But the impact of a sustaining monthly gift will be felt every day as adult learners gain new skills and learn to apply them toward furthering their education.

To learn more, or to begin your Perfect Attendance today, visit <https://fwliteracyalliance.org/donate> and click Donate!

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