



## SAVE THE DATE Saturday, May 10, 2025

Join us for an exclusive after-hours event, **A Night At The Library**, with guided tours, open exploration, a delicious buffet, bar service, and a few surprises—all supporting literacy and education.

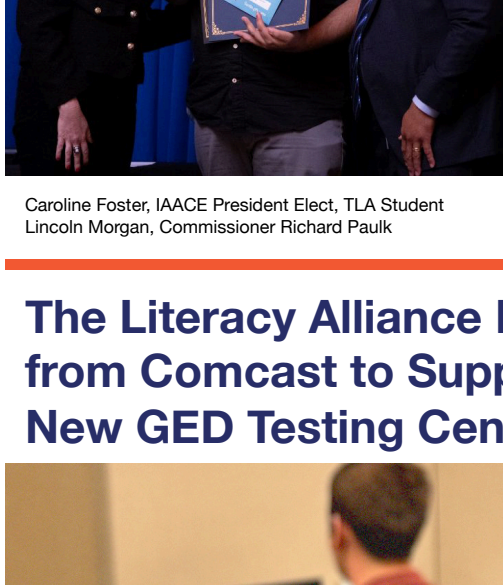
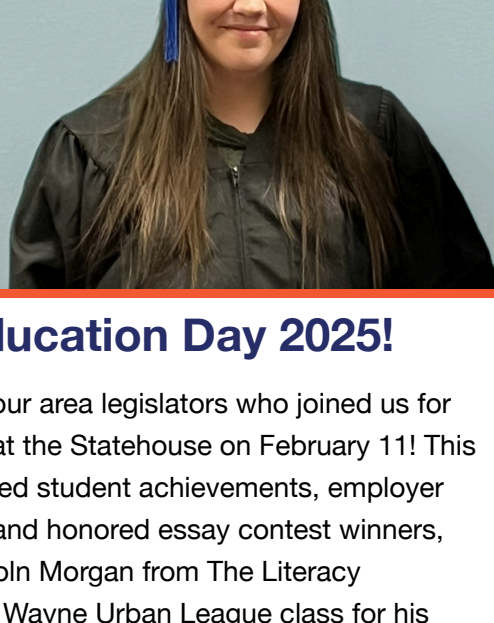
More details coming soon—stay tuned!



## Student Spotlight: Cheyenne

"This program has expanded my horizons and given me the tools I need to succeed. Earning my diploma means I can..."

Visit the [TLA Blog](#) to read more about Cheyenne, her experience as a Project Graduate student.



Caroline Foster, IAACE President Elect, TLA Student  
Lincoln Morgan, Commissioner Richard Paulk

## Adult Education Day 2025!

Thank you to our area legislators who joined us for Adult Ed Day at the Statehouse on February 11! This event celebrated student achievements, employer partnerships, and honored essay contest winners, including Lincoln Morgan from The Literacy Alliance's Fort Wayne Urban League class for his third-place entry. Senators Liz Brown, Tyler Johnson, Andy Zay, and Representatives Chris Judy and Kyle Miller stopped by to support adult learners on their path to a high school equivalency diploma and better job opportunities.

## The Literacy Alliance Receives \$140,000 in Grants from Comcast to Support Digital Skills Training and New GED Testing Center in Fort Wayne

Comcast announced it has awarded \$50,000 and \$90,000 grants, totaling \$140,000, to The Literacy Alliance. Comcast's grant of \$50,000 in July 2024 supported The Literacy Alliance's initiative to provide students with computer and internet skills training through Project Graduate and Project Connect. With this donation, nearly 500 students in as many as 7 Project Graduate and 12 Project Connect classrooms will have access to vital digital literacy information.

Comcast's grant of \$90,000 in October 2024 supported the building of TLA's new mobile testing center. This center includes the use of a dedicated bank of laptops, enabling students to test in a location familiar to them and eliminates the need to travel far from home.

The Comcast Mobile Testing Center opened in late January 2025 at The Summit, just down the hall from TLA's two classrooms and administrative offices. "We are grateful for Comcast's continuing support as we continue to serve an ever-increasing number of adult students in our service areas," said TLA CEO Melinda Haines.

## Thank You, MVP Lanes!

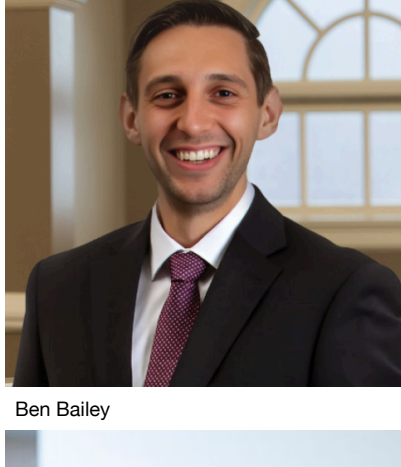
A huge thank you to John and Pete Henry and MVP Lanes for hosting The Sweetheart Tournament on February 15!

A great time was had by all—plenty of strikes, a few unfortunate gutters, and just the right amount of friendly competition. (Let's just say some were bowled over by the challenge!)

Most importantly, thanks to everyone who participated, we raised **\$1,400 for The Literacy Alliance** programs! The support of our community helps TLA continue to provide its free programs.



John Henry, Jr., Laura Weldon (TLA), and Pete Henry



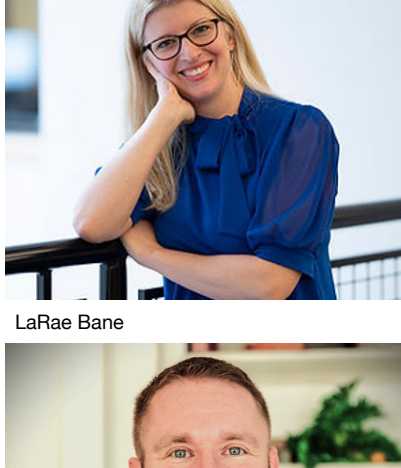
Ben Bailey

## TLA Expands Board of Directors to Strengthen Literacy Initiatives

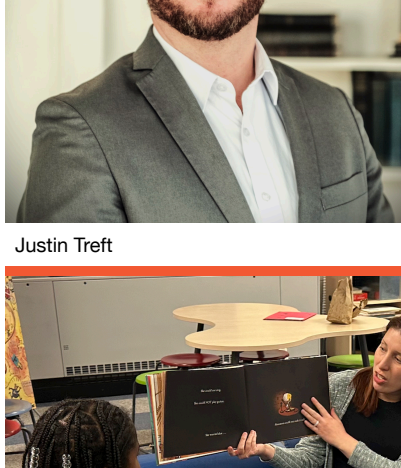
The Literacy Alliance is delighted to announce the expansion of its board of directors. We are proud to welcome Ben Bailey from Barrett McNagny, along with two outstanding Leadership Fort Wayne board interns: LaRae Bane of the Allen County Public Library and Justin Trefl of the Fort Wayne Aero Center.

These new members bring a wealth of experience and fresh perspectives that will help guide our mission to advance literacy throughout Allen, Adams, and Wells counties. Their diverse backgrounds and proven expertise underscore our commitment to fostering educational opportunities and community engagement.

"We are incredibly grateful for their time and willingness to share their insights," said Isabel Nuñez, board chair. "Their contributions will play a vital role in expanding our programs and ensuring that every community member has access to the resources they need to achieve their educational goals."



LaRae Bane



Justin Trefl



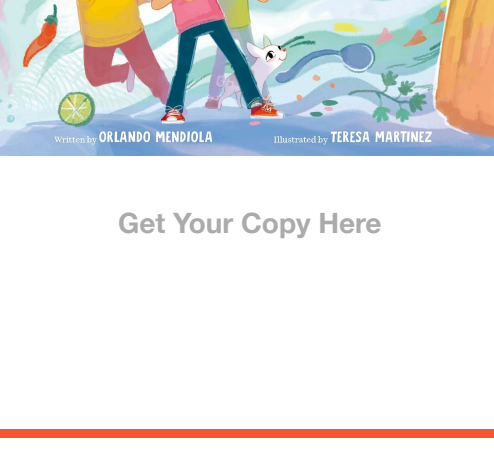
## Volunteer Spotlight: Paige

"I enjoy working with my student and seeing their progress from week to week. It's exciting to watch them grow from feeling..."

To read more about Paige's experience as a TLA volunteer, [visit our blog](#).

## Project Reads Book of the Month

**The Last Tamale**  
by Orlando Mendiola (Author),  
Teresa Martinez (Illustrator)  
32 pages | Grades K-3



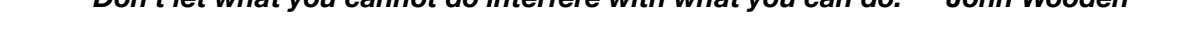
It's the best day of the year—tamale day. Luis and his family have been making and eating tamales all day. But when Luis, Jacob, and Letty all want the last tamale, there's only one way to choose a winner...

A TAMALE BATTLE!

Round one: Dance Battle. Round Two: Lucha Libre Match. Round Three: Arm Wrestle with Abuelita. Who will get the last tamale?

Get Your Copy Here

## Future Focus



**"Don't let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do." John Wooden**

Here's an example of a difficult question that can come up in a job interview.

**"Why have you had so many jobs?"**

**Why are they asking this?** Your interviewer may feel you may leave positions hurriedly and that you may be unstable or a problem.

The best approach to this is to not prompt the question. To help mitigate this:

- Put only last two or three jobs on your resume that you didn't leave on bad terms with your boss/co-workers.

If the question does come up, the best approach is:

- Do your best to explain, be truthful but stay positive. Never answer a question by speaking negatively about past bosses or co-workers.
- Explain why you want this position, that you've worked past issues, but you have worked through them and would be thankful for the opportunity to prove yourself.

**Pro Tip:**

Before your interview, practice with another individual to do a mock interview, including the tough questions you are anxious to answer.

Happy job hunting!

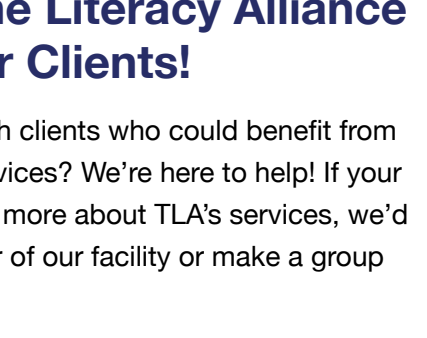
**Melanee Neilson**

Career Advisor, Certified Career Counselor and Life Coach

Students: Do you need help writing your resumé and cover letter? Want more tips for successful interviewing? [Contact Melanee today](#).

## Community Resources

The Literacy Alliance's **Community Resources** section connects you to job opportunities, financial aid, continuing education, housing assistance, legal support, healthcare, and more—all in one place.



Community Resources

We update it regularly, so if you haven't checked it out yet (or it's been a while), now's the time! Click the button to explore resources that can make a difference today.



## Partner with The Literacy Alliance to Support Your Clients!

Are you a local agency with clients who could benefit from The Literacy Alliance's services? We're here to help! If your agency would like to learn more about TLA's services, we'd be happy to arrange a tour of our facility or make a group presentation to your staff.

To schedule, or to refer your clients, contact TLA's contact TLA's outreach coordinator, **Mike Jackson**, at:

📞 **(260) 423-0006**  
✉️ [mike@literacyalliance.org](mailto:mike@literacyalliance.org)

When making a referral, please include the following information:

- ✓ **Applicant's name**
- ✓ **Applicant's phone and email address**
- ✓ **Referring agency name**

Together, we can empower individuals through literacy and education. Let's make a difference—one referral at a time!

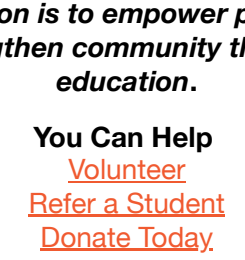


## Help Build Homes—and a Love of Reading

Since 2007, The Literacy Alliance has provided a start-up family library to every new home built through Habitat for Humanity. These libraries, gifted at the time of home dedication, inspire families to read together, with parents serving as powerful role models in fostering a lifelong love of books and learning.

Each library includes a new bookcase, essential reference books, and a curated selection of gently-used titles tailored to the family's interests and ages.

You can make a lasting impact. A gift of just \$150 covers the cost of one start-up library, turning a house into a home filled with stories. [Donate today](#) and help us build more than homes—help us build readers.



**Our mission is to empower people and strengthen community through education.**

**You Can Help**  
[Volunteer](#)  
[Refer a Student](#)  
[Donate Today](#)

**Office Hours**

Monday-Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm  
1005 W. Rudisill Blvd., Suite 307  
Fort Wayne, IN 46807  
260-426-7323 | [Email](#)

[2023-2024 Impact Report](#)

**Melinda Haines**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Matt Wire**  
Chief Marketing and Communications Officer

**Francine Liebhauser**  
Director of Operations

**Laura Weldon**  
Associate Director of Development

**Deb Dutton**  
Project Reads Program Director

**Nikki Minarik**  
Volunteer and Event Coordinator

**Brian Thomas**  
Administrative Coordinator

**Drew Herendeen**  
Administrative Coordinator

## Board of Directors

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Purdue University Fort Wayne

**Erin Nicolette, Vice Chair**  
Lincoln Financial Group

**Michaela Baldwin, Treasurer**  
Legends Global Merchandise

**Tammy Allen, Secretary**  
MKM Architecture + Design

**Corey Porter, Past Chair**  
Lincoln Financial Group

**Trudy Adams**  
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Allen County Public Library

**Ben Bailey**  
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**Kara Densmore**  
Old National Bank

**Ron Duchovic**  
Retired Educator

**Teresa Knobloch**  
East Allen County Schools

**Fred McKissack**  
Fort Wayne Journal Gazette

**State Representative Kyle Miller**  
Kekionga Bookkeeping Services

**Luke Mungovan**  
Lake City Bank

**Sharon Tubbs**  
HealthVisions Midwest of Fort Wayne

**Tim VanHouten**  
Fort Wayne Metals

**LaRae Bane, Board Intern**  
Allen County Public Library

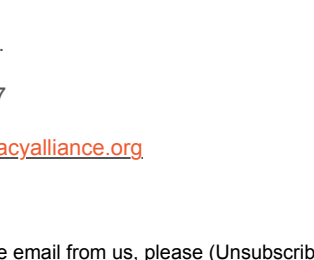
**Justin Trefl, Board Intern**  
Fort Wayne Allen-County Airport Authority

**Melinda Haines, Ex Officio**  
The Literacy Alliance

[Click here to see the entire TLA team.](#)



[Log into your Kroger account](#), search for THE LITERACY ALLIANCE either by name or EC246, and click Enroll.



The TLA [Amazon Wish List](#) is updated often with current needs.

[Click Here To Support TLA](#)



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