

It's Never Too Late

For too many adults, the path to opportunity is blocked by the absence of a high school diploma. But as Matt Wire shares in this powerful op-ed, that path can be reclaimed—with the right support. From personal experience to community-wide impact, Matt's story is a reminder that literacy changes lives at every age.



[Read the full article in The Journal Gazette](#) or via this [PDF](#).

Thank You for Making A Night At The Library Such a Success!



The Literacy Alliance and the ACPL Friends of the Library present: A Night At The Library

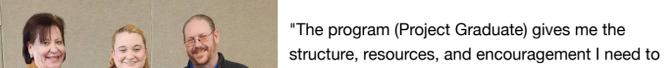
To everyone who helped make this year's *A Night At The Library* such a wonderful success—thank you!

Whether you joined us in person, supported us as a sponsor, donated an item, or helped behind the scenes, we are so grateful for you. Because of your generosity, we raised nearly \$20,000 to support literacy and learning in our community.

Proceeds from the event will directly benefit both The Literacy Alliance and the Friends of the Allen County Public Library, helping to fund programs and resources that promote lifelong learning for all.

It was an evening full of great company, great fun, and great purpose—and we couldn't have done it without our amazing friends and partners.

Thank you for believing in the power of literacy.



Student Spotlight: Amber

"The program (Project Graduate) gives me the structure, resources, and encouragement I need to stay on track and make real progress."

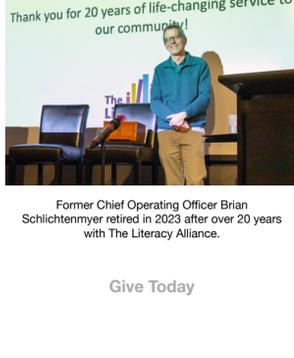
Visit the [TLA Blog](#) to read more about Amber's experience at TLA as a Project Graduate student.

Career Advisor, Melanee Neilson, Student Amber, Site Coordinator, Jason Kahlenbeck

The Schlichtenmyer Scholarship Fund

The Schlichtenmyer Scholarship Fund helps break down financial barriers for Ivy Tech students who are working hard to build a better future. Many of our students face difficult choices—between paying for tuition or covering basic living expenses. This scholarship provides crucial support, offering stipends that can be used for tuition, textbooks, transportation, or even rent, so students can stay focused on reaching their academic and career goals.

By supporting the Schlichtenmyer Scholarship Fund, you're not just helping a student attend college—you're empowering them to complete their education, gain meaningful employment, and transform their life. Your gift makes the difference between a student putting their dreams on hold or stepping confidently into their future.



Former Chief Operating Officer Brian Schlichtenmyer retired in 2023 after over 20 years with The Literacy Alliance.

Give Today

Volunteer Spotlight: Kathy

Former teacher shares her journey from GED instructor to volunteer tutor with The Literacy Alliance, helping English learners build skills and confidence in a new country.

To read more about Kathy and her experience as a TLA volunteer, [visit our blog](#).



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 free programs—including high school equivalency prep and English language learning—we'd be happy to arrange a facility tour or give a group presentation to your staff.

To schedule, or to refer your clients, contact TLA's outreach coordinator, **Mike Jackson**, at: [\(260\) 423-0006](tel:2604230006) or mike@literacyalliance.org

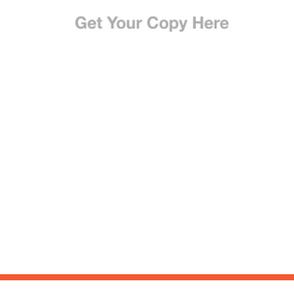
When making a referral, please include the following information:

- ✓ 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!

Project Reads Book of the Month

The Ice Cream Vanishes Hardcover
by Julia Sarcone-Roach
Grades K-3 | 40 pages



Get Your Copy Here

The Almost Amazing Squirrel and their lovely assistant, Bear, are here to make snacks (and ice cream) disappear! It's a deliciously funny picture book that kids will love.

Squirrel is an expert at making acorns disappear. But making ice cream vanish?! "I put it right there! On that hot rock in the sun!" When Squirrel returns with Bear and finds the ice cream gone, they know there's only one explanation—Squirrel is a magician!

Determined to replicate this feat, Squirrel and Bear follow the ice cream truck... and put on a show every forest animal will remember forever.

Future Focus - Phone Interview



"The best way to predict your future is to create it." – Abraham Lincoln

Phone interviews have become an essential tool for both employers and job seekers. Many companies use them as an initial screening method—often referred to as a "phone screen"—to decide which candidates should move forward to in-depth interviews.

Unfortunately, phone interviews can feel awkward or intimidating, and some job seekers even avoid them altogether. But with a little preparation, you can approach your next phone interview with confidence.

Be ready for the call.
Stay organized with your job search. Track your applications and postings so you can anticipate which companies might contact you and recognize their emails or calls when they come in.

Know your strengths.
Make a list of your skills and accomplishments. Being able to speak clearly and confidently about them will help you stand out in a phone interview.

Practice your answers.
While every interview is different, many phone screens include similar questions. Here are three common ones to prepare for:

- What are you looking for in your next job?
- What is your availability for an in-person interview in the next few days?
- If offered this job, how soon could you start?

A little preparation goes a long way—so take the time to get ready and give yourself the best shot at moving forward in the hiring process.

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.

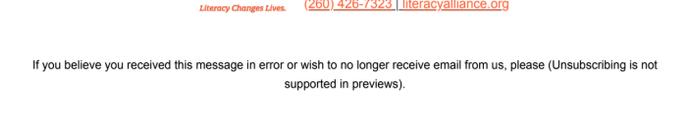
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[Click here to see the entire TLA team.](#)

[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.

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