

A vertical stack of books with red spines is shown on the left side of the image. The books are of various thicknesses and are stacked on top of each other. The background is a solid grey color.

e-**LEADERS**



in Literacy

Thursday, June 4th | 8-9am

www.durhamliteracy.org/lil

LETTER FROM LIZZIE

For the last 12 years, we've gathered together every spring to celebrate the Durham Literacy Center and the extraordinary accomplishments of our students, volunteers, and community. This is a time for us to share stories, discuss the importance of adult literacy in Durham, and recognize all the supporters who make our work possible.

Although we can't celebrate with you in person, I'm thrilled to invite you to attend the 2020 e-Leaders in Literacy Breakfast, online and from the comfort of your home. The focus of the program this year is on poverty and vulnerable populations in the Triangle and the state, with an emphasis on the socio-economic implications of the current COVID-19 crisis.

While the Durham Literacy Center's facilities are currently shut down, our staff and volunteers are providing remote instruction and have been assisting students with access to vital support services such as food and housing assistance, as well as unemployment applications and other needs. The vast majority of our students are low-income, many are essential workers on the frontline, and many are immigrants or refugees -- all of whom are at particular risk right now. Reliable information about COVID-19 can be hard to locate and harder to parse; food insecurity is worsened; layoffs and pay cuts are abundant. Governmental aid systems can be complicated to navigate for people who read English fluently, but for people who are working on their literacy skills, or those for whom English is a second (or third, or fourth) language, those systems can be nearly impossible.

We feel strongly that the educational services that we provide will be even more important in the months and years to come, as our students and our community work to get back on their feet.

I hope that you and your loved ones are faring well during this pandemic and I look forward to seeing you on June 4th!

With gratitude,
Lizzie Ellis-Furlong
Executive Director

Join us for the

13TH ANNUAL LEADERS IN LITERACY BREAKFAST
NOW AN ONLINE, VIRTUAL EVENT!

Thursday, June 4th from 8-9am

Join us online for:

An update on programming during COVID-19

A keynote discussion on the socioeconomic impacts of
this crisis in our region

Students sharing stories from their educational and
career journeys

ABOUT OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Gene Nichol is the Boyd Tinsley distinguished professor at the University of North Carolina. He was director of the UNC Poverty Center from 2008-2015 until it was closed by the Board of Governors for publishing articles critical of the governor and General Assembly. Nichol is the author of *INDECENT ASSEMBLY: The North Carolina Legislature's War on Democracy and Equality* (Blair, 2020); and *THE FACES OF POVERTY IN NORTH CAROLINA: Stories From Our Invisible Citizens* (UNC Press, 2018).

TO REGISTER FOR THIS VIRTUAL
FUNDRAISING EVENT, VISIT
WWW.DURHAMLITERACY.ORG/LIL

Free to attend, but donations encouraged.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!

Teacher

Duke

OFFICE of DURHAM
& COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



THE FOREST AT DUKE



Instructor



BLAIR



North Carolina's Trusted Builder

DR. LISA L. HAMPTON



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!

Tutor

**BOB AND SHEILA
BREITWEISER**



BROADSIDE
EXPERT LITERARY PR

DURHAM  BOTTLING COMPANY

CREDIT SUISSE 



**JANE WILLIAMS
AND
ROGER KALTHOFF**



**CHARLES A.
SANDERS, MD**

In Kind



Canon



MIEL DESIGN STUDIO

YEAR AT A GLANCE \\\

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019

769

students
served
2018-19



23,362 hours of student instruction



235 volunteers
volunteered
9,010 hours



33
students
earned HSE
diploma



94
improved
a reading
level

58%

of ESOL students tested
improved a full reading level

100%

of high school equivalency
graduates are employed

**OVER 18,000 STUDENTS
SERVED SINCE 1985**

UPDATES DURING COVID-19

How our services have adapted to the COVID-19 crisis:

- The **English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)** Program is holding classes on Zoom for those students with internet access.
- Tutors from the **Adult Literacy Program** are meeting with students via phone and video conference.
- **Intermediate reading classes** are being taught by our staff over Zoom.
- Students in the **Youth Achievement Program** are connecting with teachers on Google Classroom and using the Essential Ed online curriculum to continue their education remotely.
- Our partner **PORCH Durham** is providing grocery gift cards for students in need.
- Our partners **Made in Durham** and **Triangle eCycling** are working to source laptops for students.
- We're working with the **Digital Durham Collaborative** to advocate for internet access for all Durham families.
- We're connecting students with vital resources such as food and housing assistance.

Durham Literacy is committed to supporting our students during this difficult time. Our staff and volunteers have deep relationships with students and are a trusted source of information for low-literacy adults in our community. With your help, we can continue to provide resources and instruction to at-risk adults in Durham, through this crisis and beyond.

For more, visit:
durhamliteracy.org/covid-19-resources

WHY GIVE

Your Contribution Supports ...



\$50 buys instructional materials for an adult learner

\$100 trains an adult literacy tutor to work with students in person or remotely

\$150 purchases an online high school equivalency exam prep course for 1 student

\$250 pays for a laptop for a student to use at home or at the DLC

\$500 pays for video conferencing software for our programs to teach remotely

\$750 provides instruction for a student for 1 year, in person or online

Give now at
www.durhamliteracy.org/donate
or return the enclosed envelope.
