Literacy Zones are statewide initiative funded by the New York State Education Department to close the achievement gap in communities, characterized by significant poverty. There is a high concentration of families and individuals with limited literacy or English language proficiency. Rochester Literacy Zone partners help adult learners in the greater Rochester area gain the knowledge, skills, and support needed for self-sufficiency.

What's New

2020 - 2021 Program Year

Tech in Hands

Student Success Story

Student & Volunteer Spotlight

Virtual Job Fairs
2020 - 2021 Program Year

2020 has tested many of us beyond measure due to the pandemic. OACES like many other educational institutions had to create virtual lessons to allow for distant learning. Through it all, the students continued to work hard and show their dedication towards their education and future goals. In September, OACES was excited to get back to in-person learning, which allows many of their students the opportunity to learn through a hands-on experience.

"Digital literacy and problem-solving skills are needed for success in post-secondary education, career pathways, daily living, and learning throughout our lives."

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 27, 2021:
Virtual Job Fair: Private event

May 25, 2021:
Virtual Job Fair: Private event

June 20, 2021:
World Refugee Day

Digital Literacy in partnership with OACES began offering classes to members of the community in the Fall of 2020. Resume Building and Interview Etiquette classes are offered every other Thursday via Zoom, with the goal of offering in-person classes soon. Interested attendees can register on the Literacy Rochester website. More classes are coming soon such as basic internet security, email management, Google drive, video conferencing, and more.
Tech in Hands

Literacy Rochester and its partners are helping members of the community bridge the digital divide. The digital divide has been a long time issue for many and the COVID-19 pandemic has brought it to the forefront. The "Tech in Hands" program, was started in June of 2020. Digital Literacy provides Chromebooks to adult learners at OACES, with the opportunity to borrow a mobile hotspot for internet service for 6 months. This program allows students to continue their education remotely so they can continue to be successful.

Tech in Hands
June 2020:
Soran Dawoodi
Diana Pabon
Van Thang Liana
Nay Lay
Wendy Huie

Tech in hands
February 2021:
Phillip Mach
Sylvia Cleary
Kimberly James
Rodniesha Corbit
Dwayne Hall
Oleksandr Pogovilov

He enrolled in early March of 2020, then switched to online learning when the pandemic hit. Focusing on electrical theory and code reading. Mr. Millington plans to include solar and wind power wiring into his curriculum this year. After completing his Electrical Certification, Oleksandr began his new career with Gorbel Inc.

Oleksandr emigrated from Ukraine to the United States in 1999 and opened a successful dry cleaning business. After selling his company in 2019, he worked for Uber and Lyft for roughly a year, while also running a side business as a contractor for LED light installations. “Light installations were hard because sometimes two months would go by without a job”, stated Oleksandr. He decided to attend OACES after a friend recommended an electrical class to him. They told him it was a great hands on training class with an incredible teacher.

“Mr. Millington is a great teacher with lots of experience and good critical thinking skills… he always had an answer right away. His knowledge is incredible and he passes it on to all his students. The hands on learning he provides has been most memorable”
Student Spotlight

Rodniesha Corbit

Rodniesha is a Rochester native. She enrolled in OACES to complete her High School Equivalency (HSE). She was not successful on her first attempt due to obstacles that kept getting in her way. She didn't let that stop her though and tried again. This time has been a great success for her. Not only is she completing her HSE she has also enrolled in the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program. Rodniesha has almost completed both programs. With the help and support from the teachers and staff at OACES, Rodniesha has been able to further her education and complete her goals.

Volunteer Spotlight

Mike Lutz

"Volunteering is an excellent way to share your skills and knowledge with others. We all need help at some time."
- MIKE LUTZ

Mike became a Digital Literacy volunteer in 2019. He is a former RIT professor who taught computer science and software engineering. Mike wanted to help address the digital divide by combining two of his passions: teaching and computing. He is a weekly volunteer at OACES and helps students complete digital tasks. Mike credits his parents with emphasizing the importance of using his abilities to help others.
In September of 2020 we had our first virtual Job Fair. Employers from various career fields were invited to join. Flyers for the fair were distributed within the community, to give an opportunity to anyone looking for employment. Thank you to LiDestri Foods (Production & Manufacturing) and Rada (Automotive Services and Sales) for joining us, to make our first Job Fair a success. Our next virtual Job Fairs will take place on April 27th, 2021 and May 25th, 2021.

All attendees had an opportunity to get an in person interview with an employer. Follow up interviews were scheduled upon request.