

The Literacy Update

March-April 2015

Feature Articles:

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- New Community Partners
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The Literacy Program
is a member of

California Library Literacy Services
www.libraryliteracy.org

ProLiteracy
www.proliteracy.org

Southern California Library Literacy Network
www.sclln.org

If you do not wish to receive future issues of this e-newsletter, please let us know at

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New Report Summons a Call to Make Skills Everyone's Business

The U.S. Department of Education Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education (OCTAE) released a new report in February: **Making Skills Everyone's Business: A Call to Transform Adult Learning in the United States**. Its authors' review of a convergence of data, analysis, and policy highlight just how much skills matter – to individuals, their families and communities, and to the economy overall. The Literacy Program at the Azusa City Library answers that call and invites you to join with us. Here are a few highlights from the report that emphasize why we do what we do.



In the United States 36 million adults have low skills, scoring below Level 2 on the most recent international literacy assessment. Further, the skill levels of U.S. adults have remained stagnant over two decades. The report details who has low skills and who would benefit from gaining higher skills. For instance, we find that two-thirds of the low-skilled population (nearly 24 million people) are employed. With slow projected growth in the labor force, that means that most of tomorrow's workforce already is

working today. Low-skilled workers tend to be employed in retail and auto mechanics, hospitality and food service, health and social work, manufacturing, and construction.

How can individuals benefit?

- Higher skills lead to higher wages.
- Increasing parents' skill can improve education outcomes for their children – "double duty" dollars is what some people call it.
- Higher-skilled adults are healthier, with implications for their ability to work, parent, and participate in their communities.

How can business and industry benefit?

- Increasing adult skills increases productivity.
- Because higher-skilled workers are also likely to be healthier, helping adults improve their skills indirectly raises productivity.
- Increasing skills expands access to better employment and better-paying jobs, creating new customers for products and services.

How can the community benefit?

- Raising adult skills could lift community educational attainment for the next generation as well.
- States with better-educated workforces have higher economic growth and higher wages.
- Raising adult skills could potentially save communities substantial amounts in healthcare costs.
- Integrating immigrants may benefit communities economically.
- Raising adult skills could result in more civic engagement in communities.

For more information, refer to the full report: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/AdultEd/making-skills.pdf>

"The lack of literacy skills is the thread that weaves through so many of today's societal issues, including poverty, incarceration, and dropouts. To solve these socioeconomic problems, we must start building more literate communities and a more literate adult population."

-Robert Mahar, Executive Director, Literacy Volunteers of Rochester, Inc.

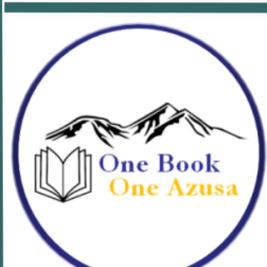
Grassroots ESL Welcomes Two New Community Partners

Mountain View Elementary School and the Rosedale Community are the newest sites set to offer English classes as a part of Grassroots ESL. Following the Grassroots ESL model, they will provide tutoring twice a week for members of their communities. Tutors will be trained and materials will be provided by the Azusa City Library. To become a Grassroots ESL site, contact Cathay Reta, Adult Literacy Coordinator, at (626) 812-5266.



Pictured: Fong-Fong Chu, Rosedale Community; Aryana Cabrera, Azusa City Library; Alice Quintana, Mountain View Elementary School; Jesse Aramburo, Canyon Christian Fellowship; Arlene Chavez, Neighborhood Homework House; Bertha Mendieta, Dalton Elementary School; Marguerite Lopez, Lee Elementary School. Not pictured: Rachel Proulx, Foothill Family Service.

For more information on Grassroots ESL, visit our YouTube page:
<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvTTbovVUOEcoK1rUwriAsQ>



Coming Soon... the second annual One Book One Azusa

Join the Azusa community in reading *Enrique's Journey*, Sonia Nazario's unforgettable story of a Honduran boy's search for his mother, a decade after she left her children to seek work in the United States.

Visit the Azusa City Library to request your copy of the book and pick up a flier of *One Book One Azusa* activities throughout April and May 2015.

Mark your calendar! Here are upcoming events at the library:

Book Discussion Group

Azusa City Library Auditorium
Saturday, April 18th, 1:00 p.m.
Share your thoughts about *Enrique's Journey* with other readers from our community.

Film Screening

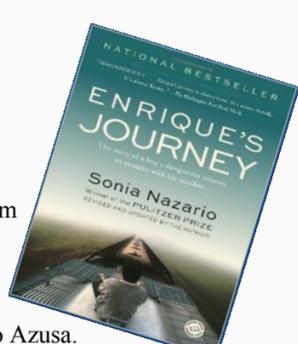
APU, Upper Turner Campus Center
Friday, April 24th, 6:00 p.m.
Join us as we watch *Under the Same Moon*, an award-winning film about a young boy who travels to LA in search of his mother.

Community Forum: What's Your Journey?

Azusa City Library, Saturday, April 25, 5:30 p.m.
Hear inspiring stories from your neighbors about their journeys to Azusa.

Community Workshop: Share Your Story

Azusa City Library, Monday, May 11, 6:30 p.m.
Share the story of your journey with words, photos, and memories.



Thank you to

Carlos Garcia

APU Graphic Design student
for our new logo for
Inspired Citizenship



Upcoming Calendar

DAPA/DACA Information Session

Saturday, March 28, 11a.m.

Learn more about the President's Administrative Relief program: Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

For more information call Efrain Villa, 626.812.5273

"Literacy is not just about reading and writing; it is about respect, opportunity and development."

— Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, United Nations