

MERCY MATTERS

EDUCATE A WOMAN...EDUCATE A FAMILY

FAMILY LITERACY

Our Summer Academy included this popular program along with our Conversation Class, basic academic study, and more.

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IN KARLA'S WORDS

Karla is the embodiment of the power of education. We can't wait to see what the future holds for this amazing MLC graduate!

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MERCY BY THE NUMBERS

Here's a quick snapshot of MLC student 'wins' from the last school year. Soon we will welcome students back for our fall semester.

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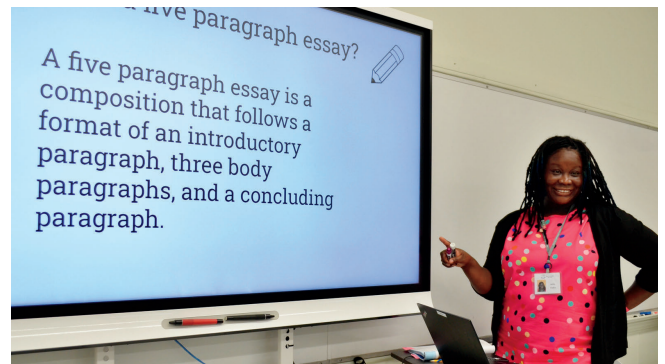
TRANSITIONING TO COLLEGE AT MLC

Transition to College is an MLC summer program that emphasizes literature, math, and explores the possibility of attending college. Most attendees are in one of MLC's high school equivalency classes or one of the higher levels of our Adult Basic Education program.

It is an exciting opportunity for our students to see what it's like to sit in on a college-level 'Intro to Literature' course. Program facilitator Anika Walker shared: "Our curriculum introduces students to a different kind of writing and reading. In their other MLC classes, they typically read nonfiction pieces. In *Transition to College*, they read literature and explore the different layers that exist within a short story, discuss the important themes, the authors' background and historical context."

Volunteer tutors Kathy Thackaberry and Jean Larson taught the math portion of *Transition to College*. Their classes reinforced skills learned during the school year and introduced new math topics.

Regina Wrenn, our Student Enrichment Coordinator, guided students through the steps they need to take to get into college. Students examined their lifestyle, personal needs, and employment status in order to explore which type of school is right for them, whether or not they should attend full- or part-time, what their course of study might be, and how to manage their finances in order to afford higher education.



They grow as readers and writers...

There's just an overall increase in self-esteem!"

--Anika Walker, Program Facilitator



CLOSE UP ON FAMILY LITERACY

This summer, our three-week Family Literacy Program was all about Science and Technology. Our themes were: Think Like An Engineer, Inventors Inventing, and Let's Talk About The Weather.

Children engaged in exploring how humans interact with the natural world and solve problems related to natural disasters such as hurricanes and earthquakes. At the same time, their mothers were exposed to the same topics within the curriculum of their English conversation/adult basic education classes.



The children were introduced to content specific vocabulary words, participated in class discussions, and enjoyed hands-on activities that explored the concept of force, motion, velocity, mathematical concepts related to building strong structures, and more. Each day also included a math section where students were able to practice and build on their understanding of number fluency.

This is where the 'family' part comes in! The last day of each week, students had an opportunity to teach their mothers about the concepts they explored for the week and together they completed a project that reflected a synthesis of the themes covered. This was also the perfect opportunity for the mothers to practice English with their children!

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"It's been the most beautiful thing I've had this summer."

"I learned so much in just one month!"

**-Aycan and Martha
MLC summer students**



578

the number of women we served during the 2022/2023 school year



12

women earned high school diplomas

14

women earned a master's degree, bachelor's degree, associate's degree, or career certification

64

women were enrolled in post-secondary education programs

78

women found jobs

500+

women attended life skills classes such as budgeting, avoiding scams, CPR and more

IN KARLA'S WORDS

A RECENT MLC GRADUATE, KARLA NOW ATTENDS HOUSATONIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE

"I will always be grateful to MLC because I could achieve my dreams. Before attending school, I was not driven. I was working very hard in a restaurant at a cleaning position with very low pay. My life has had a big transformation because now I can write and speak English. Also, I can drive and I found a better job. Furthermore, I can help my son with his homework and attend meetings at his school.



My dream is to be a psychologist and help children who have been abused."

NEDP® is an excellent program. I learned how to work independently while I was maintaining weekly appointments with my NEDP® assessor. Also, I learned skills such as reading, critical thinking, oral communication, mathematics, self-awareness, consumer awareness, and social awareness. I worked so hard in eight subjects to get the high school diploma. I remember this day when I finished in the computer lab with all the work done. After that I started to cry with the emotion that one of my dreams was coming true.

Having a high school diploma is a good opportunity because this opens the doors for a better and stable life. My plans for the future are to continue with my education and find a better job. I can't wait to move forward with one of my goals. My dream is to be a psychologist and help children who have been abused."



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MERCY MATTERS

Summer 2023

Dear Friend,

Inside this newsletter, you'll get a behind-the-scenes peek at the wonderful things that take place at MLC during the summer. None of it is possible without the support of people like you! Thank you for partnering with us to 'Educate A Woman...Educate A Family'.

Sincerely,

Interim President/CEO

Chair, Board of Directors

Eating Our Veggies, Thanks to Growing for Good!

As our students often have limited access to fresh vegetables, we are excited to share that Mercy Learning Center is the sole recipient of the Greens Farms Garden Club's Growing for Good vegetable garden produce this summer and fall.

Growing for Good has fueled our students with nutritious produce for several years and we are so grateful for this delicious support!



Join us for our October benefit!



mercylearningcenter.org/oct2023event