

THE ASPIRE TIMES

The Official Newsletter of MVCTC's Aspire Program



HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

CONGRATULATIONS GRADS

WORKFORCE

PATHWAYS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

UPCOMING EVENTS / CLASSES

EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Congratulations Graduates!

Written by: Dani Heeter, Aspire Program Coordinator

On Thursday, May 22, we celebrated our MVCTC Aspire GED and Adult Diploma graduates. We were delighted to see many of our teachers, staff, distinguished guests, community partners, family, and friends...thank you for joining us to celebrate our graduates' accomplishments and an additional thank you for the support you have provided our graduates over the last few months.

Our graduates persevered with great passion and commitment. We recognize that our graduates are not only bettering their lives, but they are making a generational difference in the lives of their children, grandchildren and our wonderful Miami Valley community.

We were beyond delighted to have Dr. Sandra E. Mitchell-Phipps, State of Ohio HSE Administrator/Program Administrator to be our keynote speaker.

Cont. page 2



Like us (@MVCTCAE) on Facebook to see class updates, student success stories, and more!



Department of Higher Education

Mike DeWine, Governor
Randy Gardner, Chancellor



ASPIRE

Learn more. Earn more.

She brought her delightful enthusiasm along with a beautiful message to our 75 graduates and 500 guests. We were also honored to have the Ohio Department of Higher Education Senior Vice Chancellor, Gary Cates, join us, too.

Kudos to our featured graduate speakers: Melissa Colvin, Jennifer Bush, Leo Lucas III, Sierra West and siblings, Devon and Brionna Jones.

Our sincerest best wishes to our graduates and future graduates! Keep in touch!

Encouragement & Persistence

Submitted by: Davionna M., ADP Student - Edited

It's hard to know where to begin considering it has been a long journey! The first time I joined Ms. V's class, I was excited, ready to work, and get down to business to do what I needed in order to get my diploma. Unfortunately, that didn't go as planned. I didn't take school seriously and life began to consume me. I left the program for awhile to give myself time to adjust and assess my goals. Eventually, I got myself together and tried again to be consistent with attending class. This time something was different. I gravitated

more toward Ms. V. It was something about her spirit and her belief in not just me but all of her students. We began doing the lessons as a group so we could understand the work we were doing. I thought I was ready and took my test for the first time. I was so nervous and anxious to get my scores. I got all 4's on Work Keys, which is not bad considering all the years I've been out of school, but I still needed a few points to pass. Ms. V went over my test scores and I began preparing to test again. Just my luck, when I retook my tests to get higher scores, I got all 4's... again! I was then frustrated and told Ms. V that I was tired of doing this and considered giving up because I had been in class too long. She told me, "Don't give up on those solid 4's. Timing is everything; just have faith and believe in yourself." So, I started to believe in myself a whole lot more and prayed because this was my last time I was going to be able to retest. All I needed was another 5 to get my 14 points. I studied hard, watched YouTube videos, and went over my previous notes to prepare for my Applied Math test. I took my time, made sure I didn't second guess myself, and just kept in mind Ms. V's words of encouragement. After nervously waiting for hours, I finally got the email saying, "Congratulations, you did it; you got your 5!" I was filled with joy and grateful because I put in so much work and sacrificed a lot to attend class. Getting my diploma was one of the biggest goals that I had for myself. I would not have been able to do it without Ms. V because she really believed in me and made sure that I never gave up. She is really one of the greatest teachers I could've ever met!



Supporting the Workforce

Submitted by: Nader Hendizadeh & Joshua Holland, Ohio Operating Engineers Apprenticeship & Training

For the past two years, the Aspire Program, Good Shepherd Ministries and Ohio Operating Engineers Apprenticeship & Training program partner to offer a class in OSHA 30 and Forklift Qualification. Participants in the class are referred by Good Shepherd Ministries. During the 9 weeks of class, Nader Hendizadeh, Aspire Instructor, works with participants on math related topics and in this class, Joshua Holland, Ohio Operating Engineers Apprenticeship & Training Instructor, teaches OSHA 30 and oversees students as they learn to operate equipment & qualify at their Miamisburg training site.



Pictured left to right: Joshua Holland, Ohio Operating Engineers Apprenticeship & Training Instructor; Good Shepherd Ministries participants: Wyatt Baker, Jonathan Brunke, Abel Corser, William Hawley and James Stout.

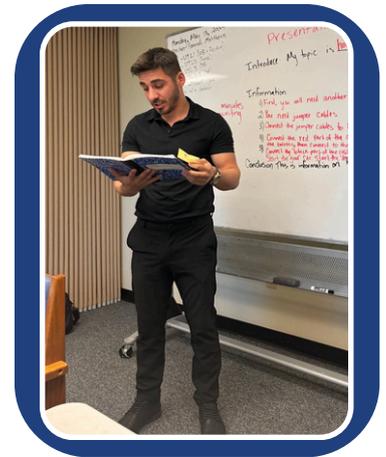


Like us (@MVCTCAE) on Facebook
to see class updates, student
success stories, and more!

Real World Applications

Photo & Commentary: Hannah Matthews, ESOL Coordinator

Intermediate ESOL students at Abiding Christ practice their English skills by working through real life situations. Students learned about vehicle maintenance and repairs. They were instructed to conduct a “How to…” presentation relating to various vehicle maintenance procedures. While ESOL classes are beneficial for learning the English language, they also assist students in navigating the world around them.



Student of the Month

Photo & Commentary: Carissa Sardano, ESOL Instructor

We have started nominating a student of the month at Abiding Christ ESOL. Our first one for March, 2024, was Esperanza Rey.

Students who qualify for Student of the Month must have at least 80% attendance for the month. They also must be nominated by a teacher for evidence of great effort in the class, as well as positively contributing to the classroom environment.

Esperanza had perfect attendance in March, but also shows evidence of hard effort and positive contribution. Some of Esperanza’s teachers wrote:

- “Esperanza has worked very hard in both Intermediate and Advanced, and collaborates well with other students. Her positive attitude and eagerness to learn make her a valuable student.”
- “Esperanza is nonjudgmental, kind, and serious about learning English. She takes advantage of classes and resources, she is faithful, and she chooses to learn.”



Which Path is Right for You?

In Ohio, you have choices when it comes to earning your high school diploma as an adult. Choose from taking an Aspire prep class at one of our many locations or earn your diploma while training for an in-demand career field in the Adult Diploma Program. Best of all, each of these options are totally **FREE!** Compare your options below and start your journey to a brighter future!

Visit www.mvctc.com/aspire or call the numbers below for more information.

ASPIRE CLASSES

16+ years old

Study to pass the GED or HiSET, high school equivalency exams.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

WorkKeys Test Prep

Refresher courses in math, reading, writing, and computers for work readiness.

Assist with College Prep, Military Entrance Exam, and OGT/Proficiency test.

Self-paced with multiple classroom locations.

Distance learning & virtual learning options.

Call (937) 223-5626 or email aspire@mvctc.com for more information.

ADULT DIPLOMA PROGRAM

18+ years old

Graduate with a State-issued high school Diploma and trade certification.

Best for adults seeking to enter in-demand job fields such as healthcare or skilled trades.

Students must pass WorkKeys testing in Math, Graphic Literacy and Workplace Documents.

Best for adults seeking to enter in-demand job fields such as healthcare or skilled trades.

Call (937) 854-8488 or email mbaumgartner@mvctc.com for more information.

22+ CREDIT RECOVERY

22+ years old

Locally-issued high school diploma awarded.

Students will work to meet graduation credit requirements from the time of their entry in 9th grade.

One year suggested time to complete program.

Suggested three credits or less for recovery.

Best for adults who only need a few credits and have all OGT/Proficiency testing passed.

Transcripts will be reviewed to determine eligibility.

Call (937) 854-8488 or email mbaumgartner@mvctc.com



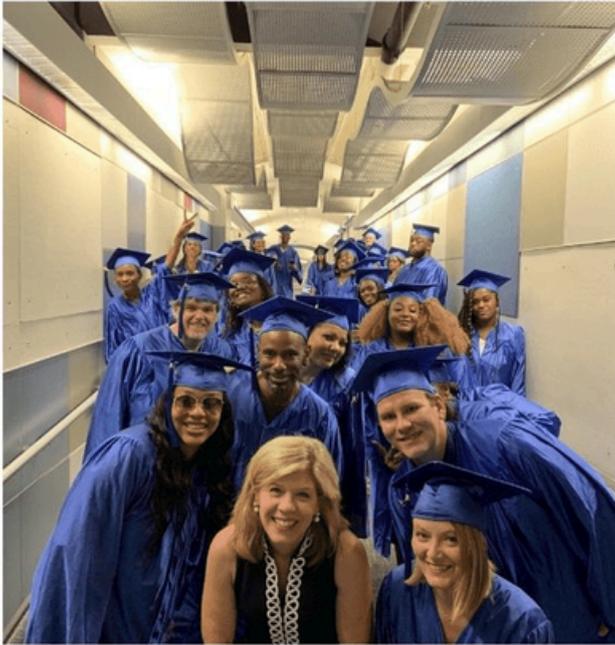
ASPIRE

Learn more. Earn more.



OHIO'S OPTIONS
ADULT DIPLOMA PROGRAM

ADULT DIPLOMA PROGRAM



Current Training Programs Offered:

- STNA
- Phlebotomy
- Welding
- Hospitality & Tourism Management
- Culinary Operations
- Robotics
- Dental Assisting
- Rise Up, Business of Retail

- The Adult Diploma Program provides a new pathway for adults, age 18+, to earn a state-issued high school diploma AND training for one of Ohio's in-demand career fields.
- Students do not need to pass the OGT/Proficiency test; however, they are required to pass ACT WorkKeys and industry credential tests.
- No high school credit requirement.

Class is free for eligible students!

For more information or to register, visit mvctc.com/ae/programs/aspire-adp
Contact Megan Baumgartner at mbaumgartner@mvctc.com or (937) 854-8488

Ohio

Department of
Higher Education

Mike DeWine, Governor
Randy Gardner, Chancellor

MIAMI VALLEY
CAREER TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Published: 9/14/23

Celebrating Birthdays with Culture

Submitted by: Hannah Matthews and Beth Sjostrom

On Wednesday, March 13th, the St. John's ESOL Program celebrated the 84th Birthday of one of our beloved educators. Students and teachers brought celebratory cakes and cultural dishes to honor Stanley and show appreciation for the volunteer work he does for us. Stanley Aultz, a retired high school French teacher, has been volunteering at St. John's since 1995. He originally volunteered during summers, when he was still teaching French at West Carrollton. Now, he tutors, translates French for us, and teaches several days every week. He is greatly adored by our students and fellow teachers, sharing stories of his time in France and in Ghana. Stanley strives to contribute his efforts to our program as long as he is "able to make it up the 3 flights of stairs" and we are hopeful he will join us for years to come. Wishing Stanley all the best during his 84th year of life!



Committing to your Future

Photo & Commentary: Abigail Bond, ESOL Instructor

Obang Opothi has been attending St. John's ESOL program since 2022. Within the last 2 years, he has been attending regularly and recognized by our program as an exemplary student who has shown significant improvement. He has struggled with his health in the past few years, yet has continued to join us when he is well enough. Our program has 5 levels, Basic through Level 4. Obang started in Level 1 and is now a member of our highest level, Level 4. We wanted to share Obang's success, as he is a committed student in our program and an example of what our students and program hope to achieve here at St. John's ESOL. Congratulations, Obang!



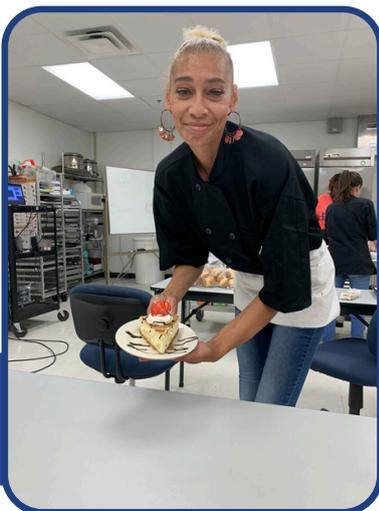
Compliments to the Chef



Roberto Perry and John Jarvis busy making ravioli in Chef O'Brien's Culinary Operations class. Both Roberto and John completed the class and achieved their ServSafe Manager and Allergens certifications. Congratulations!



Chef Randall Felts working with ESOL Culinary students, Ling Xu and Xiao Mei, at The Dream Center.



Andria Pittman, student in current Culinary Operations class, proudly shows her plated slice of cheesecake.



Students in Chef O'Brien's Culinary Operations class have passed their ServSafe Manager, ServSafe Allergens, Ohio Person in Charge and RiseUp: Business of Retail industry certifications. Jessica Fallen commented this is the only program that has kept her engaged and fulfilled. Andria Pittman and LaDonna Stollings give Chef O'Brien and the class a 5 star Michelin rating!

STUDENT OF THE MONTH



**JITTRANUCH "YO"
CHANPAN**

On the basis of good attendance, hard effort, and contributing positively to the classroom environment

Aspire-MVCTC-ESOL Abiding

ESOL student of the month for April, 2024, is Jittranuch "Yo" Chanpan, an Intermediate student from Taiwan at Abiding Christ Lutheran Church.

Yo had excellent attendance for the month of April, and these are some things her teachers said about her:

"Yo has worked very hard in the Intermediate class and collaborates well with other students. Her positive attitude and eagerness to learn make her a valuable student."

"Yo is very helpful to other students, works hard in classes, and is welcoming and friendly to all. She is an excellent student, and I love being her teacher!"



Like us (@MVCTCAE) on Facebook to see class updates, student success stories, and more!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!
WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Our organization is looking for dedicated individuals to join us in making a positive impact in our community by assisting our teachers in English and GED preparedness for adult learners.

Classes are offered from mornings to evenings in various locations across Montgomery, Greene, and Preble counties. If you have a passion for education and helping people, we want to hear from you!



Learn more. Earn m



Contact us today to learn more about this exciting opportunity with MVCTC Aspire.

Aspire@mvctc.com
937-223-5626





Work Hard. Play Hard.

Submitted by: Jack Simpson, Instructor

Four students in a full class at Yes 4 Youth. Shaun and Felicia in the front row are studying WorkKeys for the Adult Diploma Program, while Sonya and Robert are working on adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators. During the last few minutes of this class we played a Blooket game with questions about math operations with fractions. Sonya won!

Aspire Book Club at SCC – Centerville

Submitted by: Lori Porter, Instructor

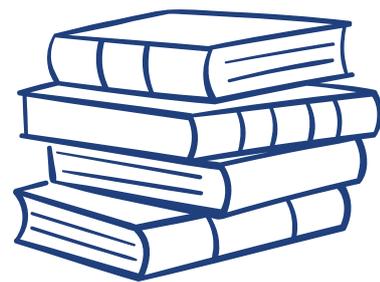
Generally speaking, a book club chooses books to read at the same time (maybe one a month). Then, they get together to discuss the book they've all read - sharing insights, questions, opinions and such. [You are invited to join us!](#)

Our process: Choose a book. Read the book. Discuss the book. If you want, you may write a review of the book.

We have read 4 books: The Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus; Fourth Wing by Rebecca Yarros; Happy Place by Emily Henry, and Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Peet. It has been fun to create our book club. I find it motivational and look forward to discussing the book.

Why Join A Book Club?

- Improve your reading comprehension
- To learn about anything you are interested in
- Socialization - getting to know others
- Helps increase and improve academic levels
- Helps to be more successful in passing tests



Saving Lives with CPR

Submitted by: Larry Carmen & Austin Baker

Current MVCTC Aspire Hospitality, Tourism & Culinary Operations students, LeVon Pope-Whatley (front left) and Damon McDowell (front right) working toward CPR & First Aid certification under the direction of Larry Carmen, MVCTC Adult Education Instructor. Austin Baker, Aspire instructor (back row), takes time to be a student and recertify for CPR.



Celebrations at Sulphur Grove

Submitted by: Jacqueline Bunke, ESOL Coordinator

Patricia Betancourt came to the US as an au pair in 2023. She had been with two different families in two different states for very short periods of time before she came to the Dayton area. When she came to our area, she registered for Aspire English classes at Sulphur Grove Church in September. Patricia stayed until she returned home to Colombia in May. She told us she stayed not because the family that she was with was so special, but she stayed because of her Aspire class - her classmates and teachers. She hopes to continue to improve her English and teach English classes one day in the future. Patricia was a joy to have in our classes. We are glad that we could make a positive difference in her life.

Top left picture - A farewell party held for Patricia Nini Young - Colombia, Dede Afutoo -Togo, Patricia Betancourt - Columbia, Sarah Folkens - Aspire teacher, Ivonne Osorio Estrada - Colombia, Keyrin Martinez - Honduras, Ikumi Sano - Japan, Motoko Namba - Japan.



In May, we celebrated our 25th year of classes at Sulphur Grove Church in Huber Heights. Sarah Folkens, Aspire teacher, led all students and guests in a couple rousing rounds of Scattergories. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed food from around the world. We're looking forward to seeing our new and returning students!





Already have your diploma or degree?
Join MVCTC for additional Education Opportunities!

- STNA
- Phlebotomy
- Dental Assisting
- Basic Welding
- HVAC-R Level 1
- Electrician Level 1
- Machine Shop Level 1



[Apply for Federal Financial Aid \(FAFSA\) HERE](#)

Grant Options

Ohio Work Ready Grant - for qualifying individuals

WIOA Program - for qualifying individuals

Contact your local Ohio Means Jobs for more information.

Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation - for eligible individuals with disabilities



ASPIRE

Learn more. Earn more.

What is for you?

Nervous about your next steps after graduation?

Let us help you continue your journey!

Contact our Transitions Specialist for with help:

- Interviewing Skills & Prep
- Resume Building
- Employment Search and Applications
- College or Trade School Admissions
- Scholarship Applications

Contact Lisa Witt

Lwitt@mvctc.com

or speak with your instructor.





High School Equivalency Sites

(937) 223-5626

Abiding Christ Lutheran Church
326 E. Dayton- Yellow Springs Rd.
Fairborn, OH 45324

Emerge
2960 W. Enon Rd.
Xenia, OH 45385

OMJ Xenia
581 Ledbetter Rd.
Xenia, OH 45385

Central State Dayton
840 Germantown St
Dayton, OH 45402

EOC at Westown Center
4303 W. Third St.
Dayton, OH 45417

Sinclair (Main Campus)
444 W. Third St.
Dayton, OH 45402

Dayton Dream Center
2720 E. Third St.
Dayton, OH 45403

Kroc (Salvation Army)
1000 N. Keowee
Dayton, OH 45404

Sinclair (Centerville)
5800 Clys Rd.
Dayton, OH 45459

Dayton Metro Library
215 E. Third St.
Dayton, OH 45402

MVCTC Adult Ed.
6800 Hoke Rd.
Clayton, OH 45315

Wayne High School
5400 Chambersburg Rd.
Dayton, OH 45424

Edison State (Preble)
1973 Edison Dr.
Piqua, OH 45356

Yes 4 Youth
1723 Webster
Dayton, OH 45404

English as a Second Language Sites

(937) 461-3332

Abiding Christ Lutheran Church
326 E. Dayton- Yellow Springs Rd.
Fairborn, OH 45324

Medway Baptist Church
11027 Gerlaugh Rd.
Medway, OH 45341

St. John's
United Church of Christ
515 E. Third St.
Dayton, OH 45402

Huber Heights
For more info, call:
937-461-3332

Sinclair (Centerville)
5800 Clys Rd.
Dayton, OH 45459

West Carrollton Library
300 E. Central Ave.
West Carrollton, OH 45449

Sinclair (Main Campus)
444 W. Third St.
Dayton, OH 45402

Online classes are also offered.

MVCTC offers FREE classes at one of our many different locations to meet your workplace education needs, including; GED, & Work Keys Exam prep., High School Diploma Credit Recovery, Adult Diploma Program, skill refresher courses, English for speakers of other Languages (ESOL), and more!

Call or go online to schedule orientation.
<https://www.mvctc.com/ae/programs/aspire>



ASPIRE

Learn more. Earn more.



Department of
Higher Education

Mike DeWine, Governor
Randy Gardner, Chancellor



FREE

ADULT EDUCATION

HSE/GED AND ESOL CLASSES



**CLASS DAYS
AND TIMES
VARY BY
LOCATION**

Serving Montgomery, Greene, and
Preble counties

About Us

MVCTC's Aspire program offers free workplace education and adult readiness classes at different locations around Montgomery, Greene, and Preble counties to individuals with or without a high school diploma.

Managed Enrollment Orientation Dates

Students must arrive promptly on registration day.
Registration may take up to 2 hours.

Week of:

- September 3
- October 28
- January 6
- March 3
- May 5

STUDENTS WHO REGISTER, MUST ATTEND ORIENTATION WITHIN
THE SAME WEEK AS A REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT

Our Services

Services available: foundational math, reading and writing skills; Adult Secondary Education/High School Equivalency preparation (GED/HiSET); transition services that help students develop essential skills for employment, college or trade school; life skills, employability skills, and computer literacy; workplace education services that are offered in collaboration with an employer to increase the productivity of the workforce; and, distance education classes that enhance learning using technology.

CONTACT US

937-223-5626

aspire@mvctc.com