

Salina Public Schools USD 305

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Media Release

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Salina Adult Education Center Empowers Students and Strengthens Community Workforce

Celebrates Adult Education and Family Literacy Week

Salina Adult Education Center (SAEC), USD 305, is part of a national network of literacy organizations offering adult education and family literacy programs to help Americans gain the basic literacy skills they need to be employable in today's economy.

According to the Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE), for every 400,000 adults who earn a high school diploma, the economy gains \$2.5 billion back in tax revenue and reduced expenses. That's \$6,250 per person! The estimated value to our economy in reduced costs for public support programs for low skilled, low literate adults is \$200 billion annually.

September 16 through 20 is Adult Education and Family Literacy Week, and it is important for the Salina community to understand the importance of adult education. Kelly Mobray, director of adult education, shares statistics about low-skilled adults (source: COABE):

- 2x more likely to be unemployed
- 3x more likely to be in poverty
- 4x more likely to be in poor health
- 8x more likely to be incarcerated

Educating adults helps families break out of intergenerational poverty and creates stronger communities.

In recognition of Adult Education and Family Literacy Week, the SAEC team is hosting a social media blitz all this week on Facebook. Salina Adult Education Center program alumni, GED graduates, former staff and community partners including area employers are encouraged to take selfies tagging SAEC with statements why adult education is important.

The National Coalition on Literacy shares that adults who participate in adult education programs have higher incomes, resulting in more spending and higher tax revenue for their community. They have better health outcomes, leading to greater workplace productivity and a reduction in community health care costs. In 2019, the American Action Forum predicted that employers in nearly every state will face significant shortages of workers with 75 percent surveyed saying a skill shortage existed in applicants. Adult Education prepares workers to secure high-skilled, in-demand jobs that pay family sustaining wages all the while supporting these adults who are juggling skills training with their competing life and family responsibilities. Salina Adult Education Center programs are structured in a

way that promotes educational progress as well as accountability and skill building that today's employers are needing in the workplace.

"We partner with entities across the community such as Community Corrections, DCF, Heartland Early Education and others to support adults in reaching educational goals and becoming as work ready as they possibly can." said Mobray. "Our goal is not only to help our students, but to assist employers in our area to be able to hire individuals that are ready and able to navigate today's employment and life challenges."

For more information about SAEC services, visit www.305adulthoodeducation.com or call 785.309.4660.

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