



FLAG ADULT EDUCATION

Fannin Literacy Action Group

WINTER 2022-2023

Winter Graduation



Above: Winter Graduation, January 10, 2023, North Georgia Technical College campus, Blairsville.

Front row, L-R: Lauren Hogsed, Erika Winkler, Amber Reed.

Back row, L-R: Paula Ary, NGTC Instructor; Donna Earl, FLAG Board Member; Staige Kern, former NGTC Instructor; Teresa Ross, FLAG Director; Jane Brackett, FLAG Board Member; Theresa Dillard, NGTC Board Member.

Lauren Hogsed, Erika Winkler, and Amber Reed all completed their GEDs in just a few months of study and participated in graduation ceremonies January 10, 2023. They were all dedicated students. Erika presented the student address. Both Erika and Amber have been in the new GED/NGTC Dual Enrollment program that began in July, 2022. Amber graduated with her GED and her certificate in Early Childhood Care and Basics. Erika will complete her Criminal Justice Certificate in the spring semester.



Right: Erika presents her graduation address.

Summer Ceremony Celebrates New GED Grads



We are proud of our six students who earned their GED diplomas in June 2022. Four of them participated in the graduation ceremony in Blairsville on June 7. Pictured here, L-R: Grad Dakota Delaney, FLAG Board Member Donna Earl, Grad Jacob Blankenship, FLAG Board Member Carol Crawford, FLAG Board Member Jane Brackett, Grad Christian Loustaunau, Grad Macy Wishon Watkins, NGTC Dean of Adult Education Shelby Ward, FLAG Director Teresa Ross, NGTC Instructor Paula Ary, former NGTC Fannin Instructor Staige Kern. Next graduation will be June 2023.



Left: Amber Reed receives her GED certificate from NGTC President John Wilkinson.

Right: Lauren Hogsed receives her GED certificate from NGTC President John Wilkinson. Background: Adult Education Dean Shelby Ward and NGTC Vice President Leslie McFarlin.



Adult Education instruction is needed now more than ever. Please help us serve our students by making a donation today. Also, FLAG is now registered with the Amazon Smile Program. Follow this link for an easy way to contribute to FLAG when you shop. <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-1868115>

Patrick Smith Joins Learning Center as Instructor

Patrick Smith got into the field of education after he left the Marine Corps, feeling it was a way to continue serving his country. Born in Ohio, he grew up in the Pacific Northwest and graduated from Tennessee Tech.

He started in elementary education and finds that adult students are naturally more focused and goal oriented.

But they still don't like math.

"Everyone hates math," he says. "I do my best to 'sell' math to them because one day they will help their children and grandchildren with math."

Another challenge for adult students is retention – work schedules often make it difficult for them to maintain consistent attendance. His solution? Make them laugh. Letting the students quiz each other and joke around a bit helps.

He's proud that all the Fannin Adult Learning Center students who attended class regularly have passed their GED test – totaling 15 students in 4 months. He also teaches at the Detention Center, and another source of pride is seeing numerous prisoners there graduate after having been out of school since their early teens

When students are debating going back to school, Patrick encourages them to think about their work life and earning power.

"I tell prospective students they could make \$9,000 more per year with a GED than without AND if the student goes on to receive a two-year degree; they could earn approximately \$400,000 during a working career."



FLAG Receives Grant Funds from Two Sources

The **Dollar General Literacy Foundation** supports programs that extend hope to students as they pursue their educational goals and achieve their dreams. FLAG received a grant of \$10,000 from Dollar General in May, 2022. These funds help supply study materials for students, classroom supplies, promotional materials and advertising for recruitment. It also funds our FLAG parapro and director positions to assist the NGTC Adult Ed program.

In November 2022, FLAG received a \$5000 grant from **L4GA**, the new Georgia program designed to improve literacy outcomes in communities.

FLAG Thanks Kiwanis for Support

In October, FLAG Director Teresa Ross and Instructor Patrick Smith spoke to the Kiwanians about Adult Ed. Teresa is shown with Kevin Panter and Mike Guerra.



Spirit Week!



During Spirit Week in October, students earned prizes for attendance, dressing according to the theme of the day, educational games, and posting flyers in the community to promote Adult Education. Above, students dress for Hawaiian Day. L-R Lauren Hogsed, Amber Reed, NGTC Instructor Patrick Smith, Alicia Nix, Parapro Teresa Ross, and NGTC Instructor Paula Ary. Right, Ethan Robinson on Camp Day.

Food Talks Continue

Six students completed Food Talk classes, taught by Becca Pritchett of the University of Georgia Extension service. They left the class with new ideas about providing their families with healthy food on a budget.



Students Learn about Library Services

In September, Fannin County Library Branch Manager Monica Clark visited the Adult Ed Center to celebrate National Literacy Month and provide information about local library services, including free wi-fi availability. Students can actually do online studies in the Library parking lot. Ms. Clark also helped students apply for PINES Library cards.

L—R, Monica Clark, students Louisa Alonso and Ginger Jones

Fannin Literacy Action Group (FLAG)

According to the U.S. Census Bureau & Technical College System of Georgia, up to 20% of Fannin County residents have less than a high school diploma. By 2024, 90% of the fastest growing jobs in Georgia will require at least a high school diploma or equivalent.

FLAG's Mission is: To provide opportunities for adult learners to acquire basic skills in reading and math so they can compete for jobs, strengthen family foundations, and exercise full citizenship.

FLAG is a 501C3 non-profit organization that supports the Adult Education program of North Georgia Technical College. Our Adult Ed Center provides free GED & College prep classes, English Second Language instruction, and tutoring.

Please help us improve Fannin County through Adult Literacy!

Please completed form:

_____	\$25	Individual Donor	_____	\$500	Master's Donor
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Thank you for your support of FLAG Adult Education.

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