



Certified Literate Community Program of Georgia

ABOUT US

The Certified Literate Community Program is a creation of the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) (formerly the Department of Technical and Adult Education) and the brainchild of former TCSG Commissioner Dr. Ken Breeden and Dr. Vernon Crawford, the first chair of the Georgia Council on Adult Literacy (GCAL). Jean Bowen, a consultant, was hired to formulate the plan.

Breeden, Crawford and Bowen, along with other GCAL members, traveled the state to introduce and roll it out. They received help from a welcomed and reliable source when Zell Miller was voted in as Georgia governor and Mrs. Miller joined the program, helping to canvass the state.

The CLCP was launched in 1990, beginning with five pilots: Columbus-Muscogee, Washington, Elbert, Gordon and Keysville. It was determined that the CLCPs each achieve and maintain credibility by becoming a Certified Literate Community, a certification gained through various efforts of improving literacy via helping adults who have dropped out to get back into school and raising numbers of graduated students in high school or equivalent programs.

CLCP asks a community to establish a non-profit collaborative to promote, support and enhance local community literacy efforts.

By making literacy a community-wide commitment, the problems of scarce funding and a need to recruit adult students in greater numbers are addressed. The purpose of the CLCP is to harness the power of communities through a coalition that mobilizes all local resources to fight illiteracy. It is a business-education-government partnership resulting in improved literacy levels for children, families and workers.

As a coalition, CLCP is an umbrella organization that brings all sectors of a community together with all literacy providers to map out the best use of resources already available as well as how to acquire the additional resources necessary to meet local literacy needs.

Accomplishments of CLCPs throughout the state of Georgia are many and varied, extending from support of literacy efforts by providing dictionaries and other learning aids for K-12 students to adults seeking a GED diploma and postsecondary scholarships for those continuing on in their education.