



Certified Literate Community Program of Georgia

CERTIFIED LITERATE COMMUNITY PROGRAM EQUALS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The greatest barrier to economic development and growth is the absence of a literate workforce. The Georgia solution for reaching adults effectively is the Certified Literate Community Program (CLCP). Created in 1990 by the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) and the Georgia Council on Adult Literacy (GCAL), CLCP asks a community to establish a non-profit collaborative to promote, support and enhance local community literacy efforts. Communities participating in the program analyze community needs, create awareness of those needs, ensure that learning opportunities are offered and evaluate progress so that the majority of citizens needing to improve their skills do so within 10 years. A network is formed to coordinate business, church, volunteer, social service, local government and schools, media and other efforts in the community to reach, influence and support those who want to improve their education.

CLCPs have provided the funding to build adult learning centers, they address transportation and child care needs, provide materials, equipment, tutors, volunteers, additional class locations and GED testing scholarships. CLCPs manage local "Dictionary Projects," after school homework programs and school reading initiatives. They work with students in high school to prevent drop-outs. They promote adult education services, recruit and retain adult education students in classes and provide a support system to students and literacy providers alike. Communities with CLCPs are able to have more workplace programs as well as higher enrollment, higher retention rates and more graduations for adult education students.

CLCPs are about economic development, workplace skills, parents able to help their children with their homework, adults able to understand and follow prescription medicine directions for themselves and their children, individuals being able to read a map or road sign, immigrants acquiring English language skills and anyone acquiring computer skills. CLCP is about lifelong learning and acquiring a new skill at any point in life.

In its implementation, CLCP has shown that communities can influence citizens to improve their individual lives while making their communities better places to work and live. The Certified Literate Community Program is proving that, given a sense of mission and direction, a community can become a powerful, self-managed force for literacy.