



## PRESS RELEASE 2019 COABE INCENTIVE GRANT CAROL HILL

February 15, 2019

COABE's mission is to inspire educators so adults succeed and communities thrive. We exist to provide leadership, communication, professional development, and advocacy for adult education and literacy practitioners to advance quality services for all adult learners. One way that we engage in these activities is by spotlighting excellence in the field. The Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE) represents the field of 55,000 adult educators and provides a variety of services, including professional development through annual, state-of-the-art national conferences, more than 50 webinars annually, and publication of the *COABE Journal*. COABE also launched an award-winning national public awareness campaign and an advocacy campaign that has mobilized the field to more than 100,000 connections with legislators since inception in April 2017. COABE also highlights excellence in the field of adult education by providing competitive, national-level awards valued at \$10,000 each, special recognition awards valued at \$2,000 each, incentive grants to encourage and promote best practices in the field, and scholarship opportunities, all through special funding provided by The Dollar General Literacy Foundation. It is with great pleasure that COABE announces Carol Hill as the winner of this year's Incentive Grant.

Carol Hill first graduated from Carroll College in Waukesha, WI with a BA in English. She moved to South Carolina in 1989 and began teaching English and coaching at South Florence High School and then later at Pendleton High School. She was one of the first fifteen teachers in the state to become National Board Certified. She was principal at South Florence High School for five years and is currently Director of Adult Education for Florence School District 1 & 4. Since moving to SC, Carol earned a master's degree in professional communication from Clemson University and a master's degree in educational leadership from Winthrop University. Carol Hill is a nationally recognized trainer of Adaptive Schools, Cognitive Coaching<sup>SM</sup>, and Habits of Mind. She trusts the process of building community in order to support student and adult learners. Her wealth of knowledge and experience led to the inception of the HABITS Initiative, which will be funded by the 2019 COABE Incentive Grant Award.

The Honoring Adult Behaviors; Influencing Thinking Skills (HABITS) Initiative came out of a need to increase retention rates in the South Carolina Florence School District 1 & 4 Adult Education Program. The first of four objectives will be to celebrate and honor adult education students through showcasing their achievements in the school setting. Through the use of a television in the lobby, students will feel recognized for their positive academic behaviors and sense they are part of a community that honors adult learning. Secondly, Carol plans to increase AE relevancy for students. From site visits to local industries and colleges and alumni visits to the school, students will gain clearer pictures of themselves on a campus or in a new workplace, practice soft skills and workplace readiness they have learned, and lead through the practice of thanking those who take time to visit or host. The third approach will be to promote long-term sustainability for teachers to embed Habits of Mind into the curriculum, their lives, and the lives of their students. Internalization of the Habits will also result in giving students a stronger sense of efficacy and community. The final objective, to increase retention by 5 percent, will come as a result of these innovative changes. COABE wishes Carol Hill and her team at SCFSC 1 & 4 all the best in the coming year as she implements this exciting new initiative.

To learn more about COABE's prestigious award program, go to [www.coabe.org](http://www.coabe.org) or contact [awards@coabe.org](mailto:awards@coabe.org).