



PRESS RELEASE

2019 COABE SCHOLARSHIP

CATHLEEN CODY

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 Cathleen Cody as the winner of this year's COABE Scholarship.

Cathleen Cody is an English teacher at Middletown Adult Education in Middletown, Connecticut. She holds a bachelor's degree in secondary education, English and a master's degree in special education. She is currently working toward her doctorate in educational organization with a concentration in special education. She has been married for 22 years and has three daughters, ages 21, 19, and 16. She started her journey in adult education a few months after she had her first child. At the time, she was looking for a way to continue teaching part-time. She planned to work at Middletown Adult Education for a limited time, until she went back to "real" teaching. Twenty-one years later, she is still teaching at Middletown Adult Education and cannot think of a better job. She tells anyone who will listen that she has the best job in the world. Her current course of study is in the doctoral program at Grand Canyon University. She has chosen to base her dissertation on adult education graduates who complete CNA training programs. She wants to highlight the success stories and explore the experiences of the students after they graduate from adult education programs. Her hope is that doing research on the successes of the adult education population will open people's eyes to the important and rewarding work involved in adult education.

In the future, Cathleen hopes to continue working at Middletown Adult Education and use the information she has gained from her coursework to advocate for adult education students. She also hopes to do more research on the adult education population, as it is sadly underrepresented. Her goal is to give her students the tools they need to be successful after they graduate from adult education, whether it is going on to postsecondary education, vocational training, the military, or the workforce. This course of study has given her insight into how to write grants, plan a budget, create learning plans for diverse situations, engage in multi-departmental planning, and work with multiple agencies to advocate for her students. COABE wishes Cathleen all the best as she pursues her educational goals!

To learn more about COABE's prestigious award program, go to www.coabe.org or contact awards@coabe.org.