



2023 Outstanding Local Excellence in Advocacy **Sara Haghighi**

Sara Haghighi, Refugee Education Program Coordinator at Pima Community College (PCC) Adult Basic Education for College and Career (ABECC), has received the Outstanding Local Excellence in Advocacy Award.

Over the past year, Sara has met with eight state legislators to raise awareness about adult education, always showcasing student and program success stories.

During the Adult Education and Family Literacy (AEFL) Week, Sara helped to host an event at PCC El Rio Learning Community Center. She presented the COABE Adult Education Championship Award to Representative Grijalva and Mayor Romero. Sara secured three city-wide proclamations for the cities of Phoenix, Tucson, and Flagstaff during AEFL Week.

Sara has been a manager in the Pima Community College ABECC program for over three years and a co-leader of the Refugee Education Program and the English to Speakers of Other Languages program. She served as the COABE 2021 and 2022 Arizona State Advocate for Adult Education Fellow, which prepared her to advocate for adult education programs at the state and national level. She then mentored multiple advocate fellows from outside Arizona so they could become advocates in their states.

Sara helped to develop—and now co-hosts—COABE's Advocast, an adult education advocacy podcast to raise awareness about the issues that matter to the adult education community and to showcase student success.