



2023 Outstanding Administrator of the Year Sophie Tan

Sophie Tan, the Administrator for Adult Basic Education and GED® Programs at the Rhode Island Department of Education, has been named Outstanding Administrator of the Year.

Sophie's tenacity in advocacy, student engagement, and leadership has produced an increase in recruitment of new adult learners. Over the last fiscal year, Sophie has overseen a network that has increased recruitment from 5,342 to 6,371, grown enrollment from 3,836 to 4,555, and driven completion rates from 1,323 to 1,929.

Due to Sophie's hard work and determination, Rhode Island's government increased funding for adult education for the first time in ten years, providing an additional \$5 million in ARPA relief funding and a yearly increase of \$500,000 in state general revenue. They specifically highlighted Sophie's contributions to the field of adult education when passing the legislation.

Sophie has served in many capacities in adult education. She currently leads adult education policy and programming as the Administrator for Adult Basic Education and GED® Programs at the Rhode Island Department of Education. Sophie manages a statewide network of 19 providers to deliver high-quality programming to around 5,000 learners annually. She is very involved with local programs and has created an environment that incentivizes collaboration—not competition—to streamline services.

Allison Peters, an education specialist, states, "She has helped programs become more responsive to learner needs during and after the pandemic, has increased student accessibility to program information, has created innovative distance and blended learning opportunities, and has bolstered job training services along with professional development systems for educators and staff."