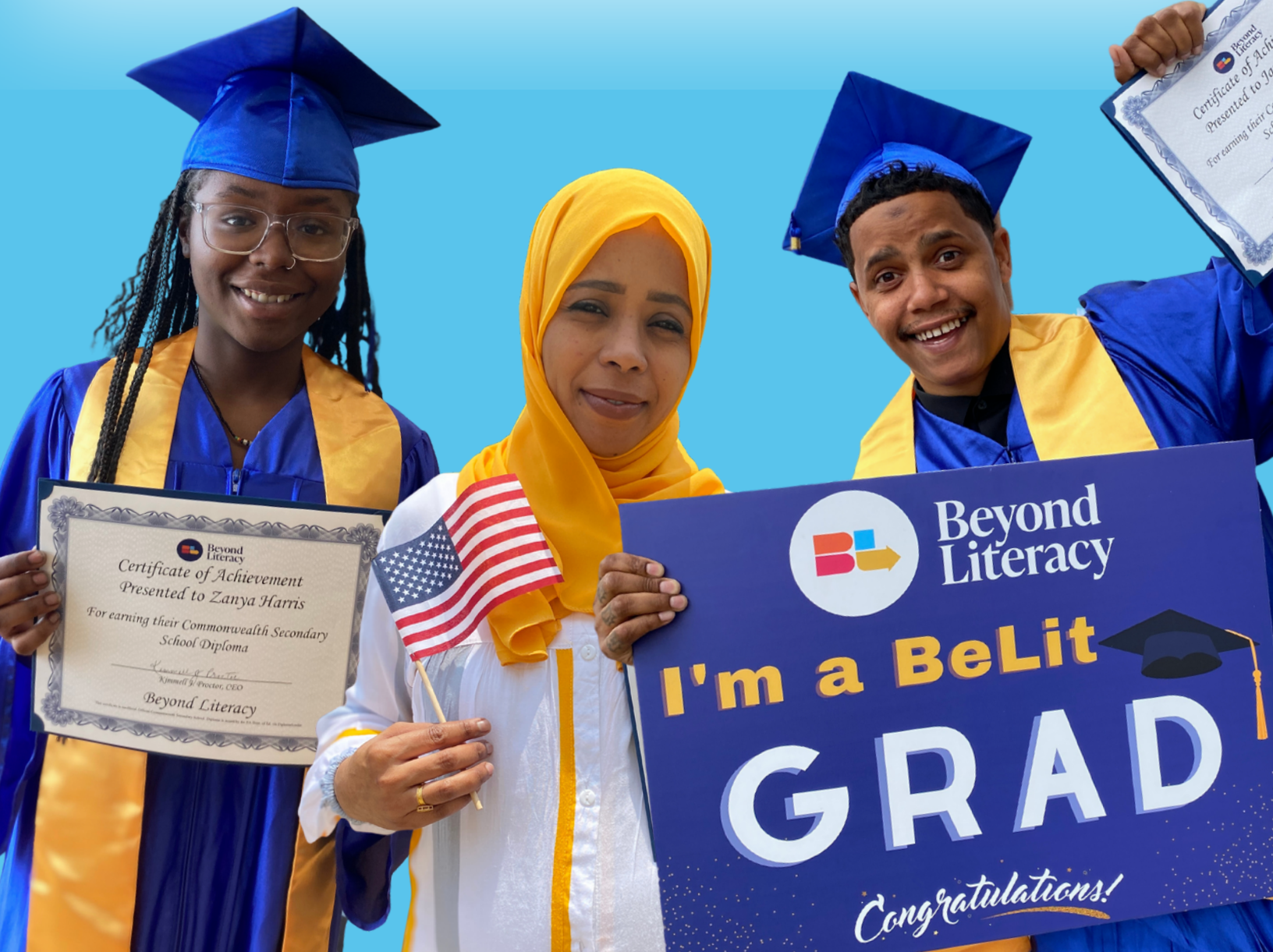




Beyond Literacy

CLASS OF 2023



CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

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FROM OUR
BOARD OF
DIRECTORS



WAY TO GO!

*From Everyone
at Belit*

Our Staff:

Niema Alfred | Intake Coordinator

Michael Antosch | Instructor & IHPDS

Debbie Arnold Brown | Communications Specialist

Lurriel Balaurea | Instructor

Karen Bennett | Instructor

Mitch Berger | Instructor & IHPDS

Dzemila Bilanovic | Workforce Development Manager

Lindsay Blade | Student Support Coordinator - ESL

Ivry Bland | Student Support Coord. - ABE & Workforce

Scott Bostwick | Intake Coordinator

Gianna Brisbane | Director of Education

Tiffani Clemons | Receptionist & Pearson Vue
Administrator

Suzanne Czarkowski | Instructor - Family Literacy

Rebecca Curry | Communications Intern

Lynette David | Data Entry Specialist

Jemal Davis | Facilities and IT Coordinator

Warren Dobney | Instructor - Workforce

Kieran Farrell | Student Support Manager

Nicole Ford | Data Entry Specialist

Carl Gugasian | Instructor

Amara Gregorek | Student Support Coordinator -
Workforce & Digital Navigator

Kelly Griebert | Director of Enrollment & Placement

Patricia Haggerty | Instructor

Song Han | Instructor

Dawn Hannah | Chief Program Officer

Steve Hawkins | Instructor

Al Haynes | Instructor & Intake Coordinator

Clarece Hicks | Intake Specialist

Kristen Hodge | Intake and Data Coordinator

Roberta Hodges | Receptionist & Admin. Assistant

Mercy Howard | Student Support Coordinator - ABE

Barry Johnson | Instructor - Community Schools

Shaina Kapeluck | Instructor

Amanda Labrador | Director of Communications

Lorna Laster Jackson | Receptionist & Community
Outreach Coordinator

Joanne Laub | Instructor

Nancy Lawrence Hill | Instructor

Victoria Lynam | Chief Administrative Officer

Zaire Martin | Digital Navigation Specialist

Carolanne Mitchell | Tutor & Class Aide Coordinator

Tim Morris | Instructor - Workforce

Carlie Muessig | Data Quality Manager

Maryellen Norek | Student Support Coordinator -
Workforce

Gulsen Ozdemir | Digital Navigation Specialist

Kimmell Proctor | Chief Executive Officer

Megan Reamer | Instructor

Iris Rivera | Intake Coordinator - Workforce

Robin Robinowitz | Chief Development Officer

Heather Robinson | Instructor

Christopher Rothschild | Instructor

Vivian Sevcik | Intake Coordinator

Alex Smith | Instructor, Digital Literacy Specialist & In-
House Professional Development Specialist (IHPDS)

Mike Stevens | Instructor

Victoria Szondy | Instructor

LaShonda Thomas | Finance Manager

Nicole Tomassi | Instructor - Community Schools

Claire Tucker | Instructor & Lead Data Quality
Specialist

Mackenzie Tygh | Instructor

Tammy Walker | Instructor - Community Schools

Dan Waters | Instructor

Jelani Wilson | Student Support Coordinator - ESL

Samira Woods | Instructor

DEAR GRADUATES,

On behalf of the entire Beyond Literacy community, congratulations on your successful completion of our rigorous education and training programs!

How did you get here?

You overcame many challenges that adult learners face along the journey toward graduation. Between working one or multiple jobs, raising children and caring for your families and communities, you made the decision to invest in your future, and then put in the hard work necessary to achieve your goals. Your strong commitment and unwavering persistence inspire us all. Whether earning U.S. citizenship, becoming proficient in the English language, gaining valuable workforce credentials, or receiving your high school equivalency diploma, your impressive accomplishments have unlocked a bright future of limitless possibility.

What next?

You, our amazing graduates, will forever be a part of our BeLit family. I invite you to become a peer mentor to our new learners, or consider enrolling in one of our graduate program pathways to an Associate Degree or workforce training program that connects you to high-wage careers in the energy industry. In any endeavor you undertake next, know that we are here for you, cheering on your continued success.

Thank you!

I want to take this opportunity to appreciate you for putting your trust in us to help guide your journey. Fueled by your success, hundreds of other adult learners will now look to you as role models and be that much more motivated to succeed themselves. We are beyond proud of you, our inspiring Class of 2023!

Onward and upward,



Kimmell Proctor, BeLit CEO



**Beyond
Literacy**

Class of 2023 Grads

High School Equivalency

Shaka Anu	Dennita Hardy	Jennifer Marenbach	Rashada Rasheed
Cierra Benson	Zanya Harris	Chynna McDowell	Lauren Ruiz
Venesia Bentley	Francisco Hernandez	Lorraine Morris	Anthony Santiago
Mariah Bocachica	Rakim Howell	Amilleona Muhammad	Ciara Santiago
Tyrone Clemons	Malika Igess	Tanisha Muhammad	Isaac Serrano
Shanda Ellington	Breeanna Josaphat	Zaahir Muhammad	Amira Sloan
Tamara Furman	Amna Khan	Jamo Oberlton	Gilberto Torres
Joshua Gallashaw	Judah Lester	Qiqi Ou	Jordan Torres
Gabriella F. Ganadi	Ru Lin	Rashawn Parson	Darrell Williams
Mariah Gayle	Linda Lopez	Taiyon Peace	

English Language & Citizenship

Noorussabah Aizaz	Qing Li	Ayana Yamina	Xiu Fang (Helen) Li
Felicitas Glafira Cano	Meihua Liu	Wen Yeung	Domowah J. Lobeh
Jean Charlies Djenane	Sara Salah	Barbara Zavgorodnya	Tu Phuong Luu
Yelena Dubchak	Louis Spencer	U.S. CITIZENSHIP	Daniel Minaya
Cecilia M. Estrada	Tatiana Soulama	Duaa Abdallah	Nabila Shirzad
Lenz Jean Francois	Nilay Vurgun	Tetyana Hykava	Ilbania Taveras
Valentyna Kuznetsova	Zhong Juan Wang		Barbara Zavgorodnya

Workforce Programs

PECO Helper	Anthony Rodriguez	Dominique Slaughter	Robert Jackson
Naim Al-Amin	Giovanni Rodriguz	Matthew Spangler-Flynn	Thomas Kraft
Andy Andino	Akeem Simpkins	Nicholas Watkins	Jakob Lowinger
Andre Brown	Anthony Wallace	Darrell Williams	Arezki Medrough
Aaron Castro	Maurice Warner Wilson	CAST-Prep	Tanae Nickerson
Marc Coleman	Pre-Apprenticeship	Amed Bamba	Brandon Pembleton
Ramon Colon	Christina Carrasquillo	Mark Borzillo	Zahir Rawls
Quinton Ellis	James Dent	Rachid Boukhelfioun	Roberto Ruiz
Benjamin Forrest	Shanice Green	Karen Bivens-Flagg	Anthony Turner
DeShawn Goodwin	Zeidane Javar	Jayson Collins	TECH-Prep
Byron Holley	Jennifer Marenbach	Anthon D'Amore	Cherry Clifford
Sharif Jones	Jamo Oberlton	Donald Green	Denzel Johnson
Samir Logan	Gilberto Torres	Leandro Grullon	Thomas Kraft
Oscar Marquez	Jordan Torres	Yacine Hamama	Yacine Hamama
Jesse Martinez	Bernard Johnson	Henry Harrison	
Marcus Ortiz			

SHAKA ANU

"My teachers molded the knowledge and skills I already possessed, helping me build upon them. With dedication, determination, and teachers that made it interesting and fun to learn, I excelled."



At our *Hidden Figures* event, Shaka shared inspirational reflections on behalf of the BeLit Book Club.

"The book club was not just exciting, but enlightening and aligned beautifully with my love of reading."



**Cierra
Benson**



VENESIA BENTLEY

"No matter how many times you fail, never give up. Keep pushing. One day you will obtain success."



"It took me six years, and today I am a graduate with my GED."

TYRONE CLEMONS



"Once you get over that little hurdle of self doubt, the world is limitless.

The teachers took steps to make sure I was comfortable and not alone by checking in on me regularly."

SHANDA ELLINGTON

"I learned to never give up! No matter how hard it gets, keep pushing through."

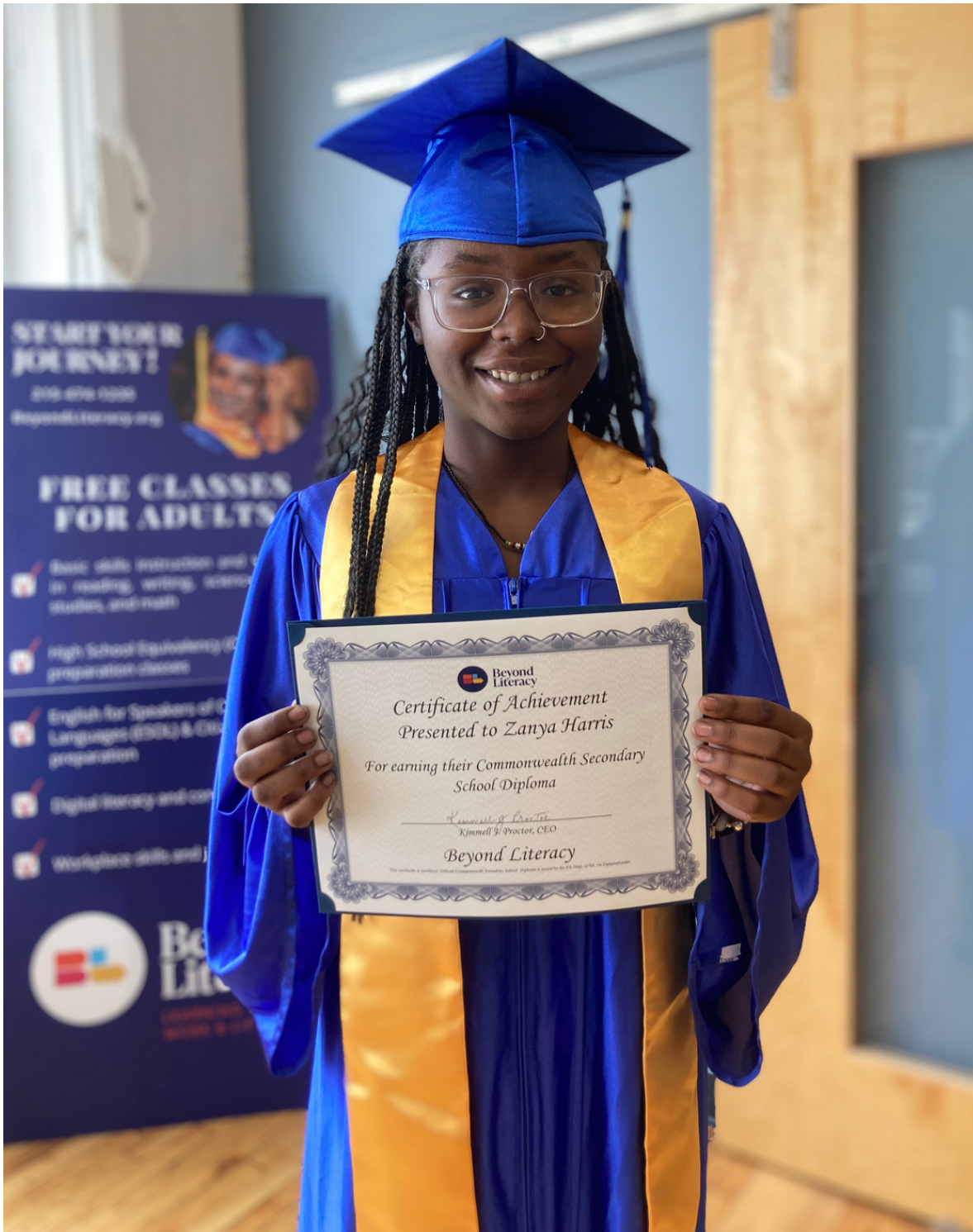


"Now I can continue my education and get my bachelor's degree, like I've always dreamed."



Tamara Furman

"My advice to other adult learners is to stay focused, believe in yourself, and know that it's ok to take your time. Learning at your own pace is key."



Zanya Harris



Francisco Hernandez

**"Education is
power and freedom."**

RAKIM HOWELL



DUAL
PROGRAM
GRAD
(HSE & Workforce)



I want my children to see that giving up is not an option. You can do anything you want to do, as long as you work hard to achieve your goals.

When times start to get tough or you feel like giving up, remember why you started this journey. Keep going until you finish what you started.

Malika Igess



**Breeanna
Josaphat**

AMNA KAHN



"I'm so proud of getting my diploma. This is a big day for me."

"All of the teachers at Beyond Literacy helped me so much. I've learned that I can do a lot, and I'm more motivated."



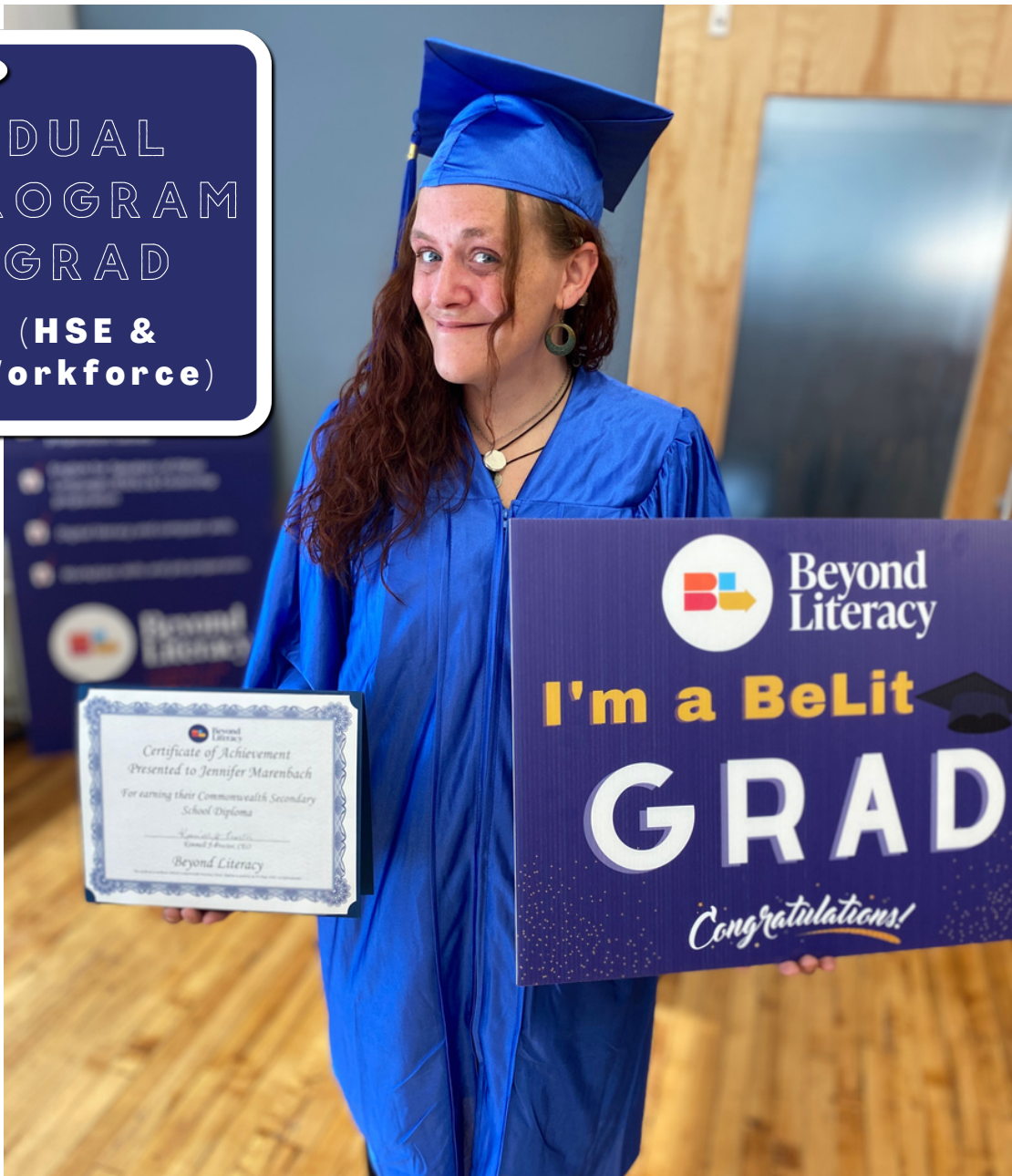


Ru Lin

"It was important for me to further my education."



DUAL
PROGRAM
GRAD
(HSE &
Workforce)



Jennifer Marenbach

"Don't give up, you have an opportunity to do better for yourself, your family, and your community."



“
At Beyond Literacy,
I've learned to stay
consistent and always
work toward my goals.
Getting my high school
diploma is very
important because it
will help me move
forward into the
career I want.

**Chynna
McDowell**

”

LORRAINE MORRIS



"I wanted to prove to myself that at my age, I can still work and study."



"I learned that I am a very persistent person."



T. Muhammad

"I learned that I do better in life when I am educating myself. Now that I have my diploma, my path towards my career has begun. My advice is to not give up. Being persistent will help you reach your goals."

JAMO OBERLTON



"I've learned that I am very resilient. Graduating makes me want to keep on going and achieving."



DUAL
PROGRAM
GRAD

(HSE &
Workforce)



Anthony Santiago

"I refuse to let my kids grow up in a home where they think it's ok to not be educated!"



It's never too late
to complete your
goals. I wanted to
prove to myself
that I could do it.

**Isaac
Serrano**



AMIRA SLOAN

"I've always wanted to finish school. Once I heard about BeLit, I jumped at the chance."



"I'm a lot more courageous and strong than I gave myself credit for."



GILBERTO TORRES



DUAL
PROGRAM
GRAD

(HSE &
Workforce)

JORDAN TORRES



"The pre-apprenticeship program allowed me to grow and learn new things."



DUAL
PROGRAM
GRAD

(HSE &
Workforce)

DARRELL WILLIAMS



"Getting my diploma is a big confidence boost. It feels great knowing that I can start something and follow it through to the end."

DUAL
PROGRAM
GRAD

(HSE &
Workforce)





Noorussabah Aizaz

"Consistency is the key, no matter what your pace."

YELENA DUBCHAK



"I am so happy I had this great opportunity to continue my education."

"I really enjoyed being able to practice my English with other people."





Cecilia Margarita Estrada

"I can achieve my goals. All I need is patience, perseverance and dedication."



Valentyna Kuznetsova

"Our teacher was very supportive. We all had challenges and were able to share our experiences and not feel so alone."



Qing Lee

"I am very grateful to Beyond Literacy and my teacher, Ms. Shaina. I am now a student at the Community College of Philadelphia for my bachelor's degree. Thank you!"

MEIHUA LIU



SARA SALAH



"I've learned that I don't know what I'm capable of until I take the first step and go for it."



"Study hard, do your homework, put forth your best effort, and believe in yourself."



Tatiana Soulama

"I loved the moments of group work at Beyond Literacy. It was very interesting and the students were very nice."



Zhong Juan Wang

"Beyond Literacy is a great learning platform, and the best key to unlocking your life in the United States."

WEN YEUNG



"I feel great, I can now work towards getting my high school diploma."

"I want to thank my teacher, Mitch. He is a very kind and patient person."



BARBARA ZAVGORODNYA

"I am now able
to vote and
travel almost
all over the
world without
visas."



"I have had an
excellent
experience at
BeLit. I started
four years ago,
and I have liked
my teachers."

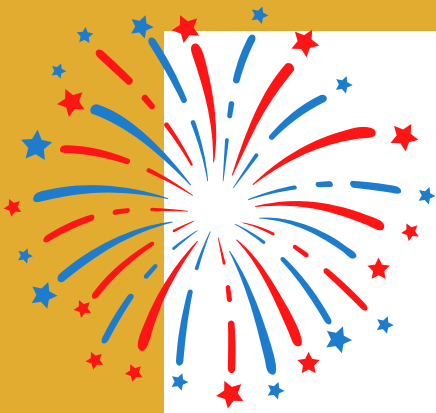
DUAA ABDALLAH



"Getting citizenship is important to me, because I want the right to vote."

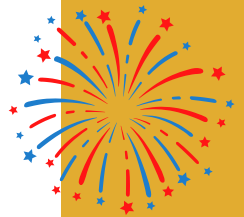


"Citizenship means Freedom!"



I want to be a
part of the
United States of
America to be
treated fairly.

**Xiu Fang
(Helen) Li**





Domowah J. Lobeh

"Getting my citizenship is important to me because I want to contribute to the nation."

TU PHUONG LUU

"I am really happy about getting my U.S. Citizenship and enjoyed learning about American History."



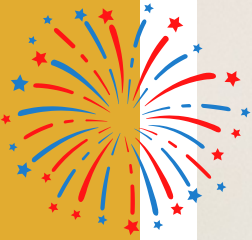
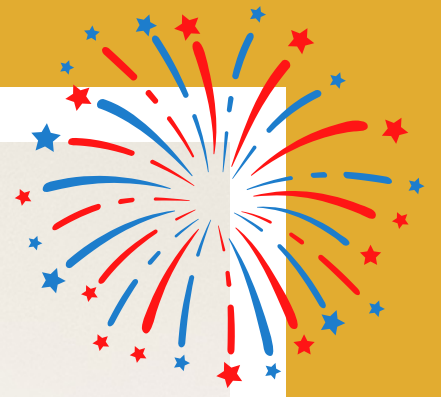
"I want to vote, run for office, and travel around the world by U.S. passport."



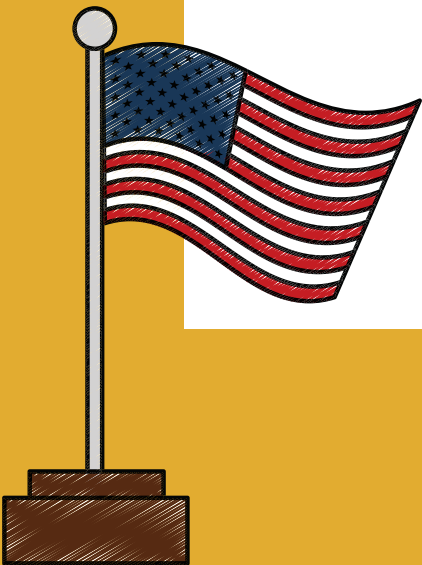


Daniel Minaya

"I'm so happy and excited to have become a citizen of the United States."



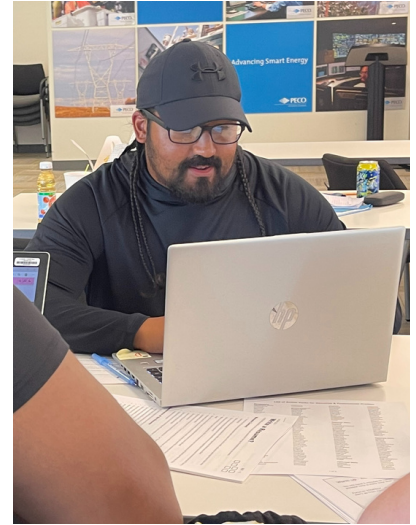
**Nabila
Shirzad**





Ilbania Taveras

PECO HELPERS



Way to power up, PECO Helpers!

Naim Al-Amin
Andy Andino
Andre Brown
Aaron Castro
Marc Coleman
Ramon Colon
Quinton Ellis
Benjamin Forrest
DeShawn Goodwin
Byron Holley

Sharif Jones
Samir Logan
Oscar Marquez
Jesse Martinez
Marcus Ortiz
Anthony Rodriguez
Giovanni Rodriguz
Akeem Simpkins
Anthony Wallace
Maurice Warner
Wilson





Green Energy Cohort 2

Christina Carrasquillo
Rakim Howell
Zeidane Javar
Jennifer Marenbach
Jamo Oberlton
Darrell Williams

“
To watch the leadership and comradery grow amongst the group truly assists all of us to grow together as we see them achieve their GED and job placement goals.

~Maryellen Norek,
Student Support
Coordinator

”



Green Energy Cohort 3

Jordan Torres
 Gilberto Torres
 Nakia Harris
 Nicholas Watkins
 Shanice Green
 Matthew Spangler-Flynn
 Dominique Slaughter
 Bernard Johnson

I am so proud of this year's Pre-Apprentices. Each day, they showed up for both themselves and each other reaching milestones along the way. I am excited about their new opportunities for career and personal growth.

~Dzemila Bilanovic,
 BeLit Workforce
 Development Manager

Interested in an Green Energy Career?

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PROGRAM INFORMATION

★ Free, Fast-Track 20 Week Program

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- Earn 5 Industry Training Certifications
- Simultaneously Complete your GED
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Beyond Literacy

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Visit BeLit's website to relive our Graduation Celebration by viewing event photos and the Class of 2023 Tribute Video featuring special guest, Sheryl Lee Ralph from Abbott Elementary!


www.beyondliteracy.org

Well WISHES


FROM OUR CUM LAUDE SPONSORS




Congrats on your
achievement...
Keep pushing
and striving for
greatness!!
~ Malcolm J.
Yates




Congratulations
on your graduation!
We are so proud
of your accomplishment
and the role models you
are for our community.
We look forward to your
next success.
Pay it forward, and
congratulations again.
~ Enrico Crispo



You worked
so hard and
YOU MADE IT!!
Now you have the tools
and credentials to
move forward and
change your life.
**CONGRATULATIONS
AND GOOD LUCK.**
~ Carol Saline



Congratulations!
Please know that your
future is filled with
opportunities because of your
commitment to making each
day better than the last for you
and your families! Remind
yourselves every day that you
are **AMAZING...** and **BELIEVE
IT!** Best wishes for a bright
future!
~ Julie Ann Jones




Today closes an important chapter in your life with Beyond Literacy. It also marks the beginning of a new chapter that's yet to be written. We can't wait to hear about what happens next! Good luck and congratulations!

~ Charlie Douglas

Well WISHES

FROM OUR CUM LAUDE SPONSORS




You have shown us what you can accomplish. Now show the world. Congratulations!

~ Bob Young

Congratulations and our warmest wishes to the BeLit Class of 2023. You have achieved great things, and we celebrate you now and beyond!

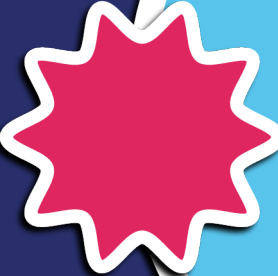
~ Ray & Ashley Del Bianco



"Surviving" is waking up insisting on living persisting in being

"Thriving" is surviving while insisting on living with dreams for tomorrow

~ Kathy Roberson,
BeLit Volunteer



Congratulations 2023 Beyond Literacy Graduates for surviving and thriving!

May all your futures be filled with many more dreams come true.
~ Kathy Roberson



pecoSM

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Congratulations, Class of 2023 Graduates!

A leader in Pennsylvania for more than 130 years, PECO is dedicated to advancing smart energy to provide safe, reliable, affordable and clean energy services.



Beyond Literacy thanks PECO for their outstanding commitment to providing life-changing opportunities for the communities we serve through innovative programmatic partnership.



Dual Program Graduate, Class of 2022

Beyond Literacy Distinguished Alumni Award

PRESENTED TO

Andre Brown

PECO Helper, Transmission and Substation Department



"From day one, I was welcomed with open arms and challenged to be better than what I was before. All the hard work and sacrifices I put forth made me realize how important it was to achieve my goals and become a leader in my family, community and amongst my peers."

~ Andre Brown

Meeting Mike Innocenzo,
President & CEO of PECO



The Staff and Board of Directors at Philadelphia Federal Credit Union are proud to support

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AND THE
GRADUATING CLASS OF 2023

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**CONGRATULATIONS,
CLASS OF 2023!**



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Visit a BeLit Campus!

Our centers are intentionally located in Philly's most in need communities, making classes accessible to our learners.

Center City Campus*

211 N. 13th St., 4th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107

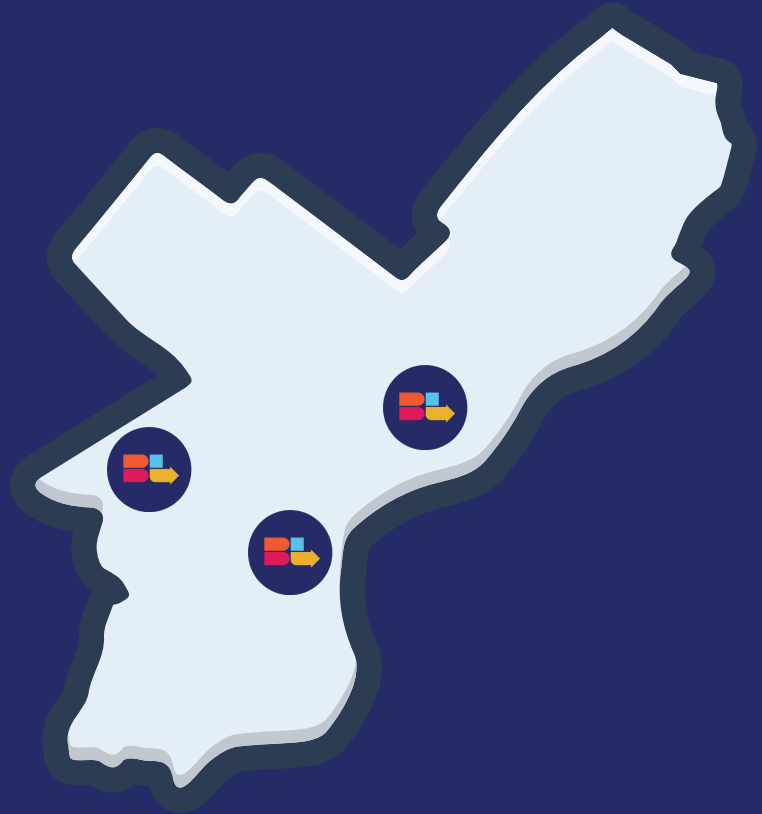
*Mailing Address

North Philly Campus

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Philadelphia, PA 19122

West Philly Campus

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Philadelphia, PA 19139



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- Financial Aid available
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LOCATION

Beyond Literacy
229 N. 63rd street Phila., PA
19139

CONTACT

Kieran Farrell
kfarrell@harcum.edu
215-292-7885



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