

Press Release: English At Large Celebrates the Achievements of Local Immigrants

June 18, 2018

English At Large (EAL) recently hosted its first-ever learner graduation to celebrate the achievements of local immigrants enrolled in its Tutoring Program. Hosted at the Lexington Historic Depot, the event featured a formal ceremony to acknowledge the efforts of 50 learner graduates from 18 different communities who completed up to 200 hours of English language instruction to support the achievement of their life goals.

Attendees had the opportunity to hear first-hand the impact of the EAL Tutoring Program. Learner graduates Babak Biparva of Acton, who recently attained his citizenship, and Elbis Dominguez of Concord, who is working towards her credential to teach in the public schools, each spoke of their experience, with high praise and gratitude for EAL and their volunteer tutors.

Hicham Mouhsin, EAL Board President acknowledged the graduate learners in his remarks. “You have inspired the commitment of our board and our staff, the efforts of our volunteers and the support of our donors. You are the reason for our work and our mission and we could not be more proud of your accomplishments.”

Maureen Willis, EAL Executive Director offered this message to the tutors and all EAL volunteers. “Your spirit of community and dedication to your learners is the driving force behind the success of English At Large. You represent the best of what people can be and truly are the change that we all want to see in the world. We, together with the learners who lives you impact in so many ways, say thank you from the bottom of our hearts.”

Special thanks to refreshment donors Lexington eateries Alexander’s Pizzeria, Nick’s Place and Via Lago, as well as Food Link Arlington, Stop & Shop Lexington and Reading Cooperative Bank. Printing of the event program was donated by Standard Duplicating Machines of Andover.

EAL is a local nonprofit that provides individual and small group instruction through a volunteer network to adult immigrants and other newcomers who want to acquire English in order to adapt to life in the United States. Programs serve more than 500 learners in 21 communities each year, giving them the language skills they need to obtain a job or advance their career, enroll in school or training, obtain citizenship, support their children in school, and participate in community life. Learn more at www.englishatlarge.org.

Learner graduates participating in the ceremony include:

Acton:

Mohammad Ali (Babak) Biparva, tutored by Denis Bradford; Kati Gorharkaboudi, tutored by Arlene Weiss; Nora Marigliano, tutored by Margot Dushin

Arlington:

Leila Dehak, tutored by Susan Keane; Maria Dewani tutored by David Desjardins; Olga Solovyeva, tutored by Sherry Reisner

Concord:

Elbis Dominguez, tutored by William Feiring; Qinghua Yu, tutored by Peggy Claybrook

Lincoln:

Ja Leekim, tutored by tutor Jim Boucher

Medford:

Fadumo Kaynan, tutored by Brenda Bernier; Christina Lysakowski, tutored by Nasrin Lin

Waltham:

Lucia Rendon, tutored by Amanda Mathiesen

Winchester:

Jiwei (Josie) Li, tutored by Anne Doyle

Congratulations to you and to all our 2018 graduates of the English At Large Tutoring Program.

