

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

June 15, 2022

English At Large (EAL) recently held an in-person Learner Graduation event to celebrate the achievements of local immigrants enrolled in its Tutoring Program. Hosted at the Lexington Historic Depot, the ceremony honored the efforts of 35 learner graduates from 14 different communities who completed more than 100 hours of virtual English language instruction during the pandemic, as well as the dedication of their volunteer tutors.

Maureen Willis, EAL Executive Director, who served as emcee for the ceremony, acknowledged the challenges of remote learning during the pandemic in her opening remarks. “COVID may have kept us apart, but we, the English At Large family, along with your volunteer tutors, have supported your progress and celebrated your achievements ... You are the reason for our work and our mission and we could not be more proud of your accomplishments.”

In a special message to EAL volunteers, she noted, “Your can-do spirit and dedication to your learners during such challenging times has inspired the admiration of your learners and your community. You have made a difference in so many ways, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.”

The ceremony was followed by a short reception, with refreshments donated by Flatbread Pizza of Bedford, Food Link Arlington, and Stop & Shop Lexington.

English At Large is a nonprofit organization that helps adult immigrants gain greater understanding of the English language and U.S. culture through personalized instructional programs designed to support their highest aspirations. Our learners benefit from a large network of volunteers and community partners in Greater Boston committed to their success. We envision a world in which all people have the skills, knowledge, and confidence they need to take advantage of opportunity, enrich their communities, and achieve their life goals. EAL serves more than 400 learners each year in 24 communities in Greater Boston. Learn more at [www.englishatlarge.org](http://www.englishatlarge.org).

Learner graduates participating in the ceremony include:

Acton: Yu (Lucy) Wang tutored by Margot Dushin

Arlington: Maria Serna tutored by David Dejardins

Billerica: Ashot Karapetyan tutored by Katrina Menzigian; Neeta Rana tutored by Mary Saltus

Concord: Yuhong (Rainbow) Wang tutored by Geeta Kannan

Lexington: Akiko Kitazume tutored by Carol Kelso; Xunzhong (Sam) Liu tutored by Peter Belknap

Lincoln: Kseniia Gorbachenko tutored by Eileen Entin

Medford: Olga Sinelnikova tutored by Rosalind O'Sullivan

Waltham: Kilda Souza tutored by Bonny Saulnier

Winchester: Sergey Pilipchuk tutored by Mary Barrone

Woburn: Ana (Betty) Caravajal de Marquez tutored by Rita DeBellis

Congratulations to all our 2022 graduates of the English At Large Tutoring Program!

