



## Inspiring stories show how literacy skills change lives

*Wisconsin Literacy Partners with Wisconsin Public Radio*

More than a million adults in Wisconsin struggle with literacy. A recent partnership between Wisconsin Literacy, Inc. (WLI) and Wisconsin Public Radio (WPR) tells stories of just a few of those whose lives have been dramatically changed through improved literacy.

The series of "Literacy in Wisconsin" stories aired in WPR's Wisconsin Life program February 15-19 and included an English language learner who expressed that learning the language is hard, but it's not impossible. An adult basic education student stated, "It feels good that society hasn't given up on you." A welder and artist struggled with reading his entire life, but now is working on reading blueprints for his job with his tutor.

The adult learners highlighted in the series, which is available for listening or download, are with five Wisconsin Literacy agencies: Journey House, Literacy Volunteers-Marquette County, Winnebago Literacy Council, International Learning Center at Neighborhood House, and Literacy Network of

Dane County. Also featured are interviews with WLI Executive Director Michele Erikson, Wisconsin Health Literacy Medical Advisor Dr. Paul Smith and others working in the field.

**If you missed these inspiring stories, visit [www.wpr.org/series/literacy-wisconsin](http://www.wpr.org/series/literacy-wisconsin) to learn more.**



Adult learners at Milwaukee's International Learning Center work on tasks to help them navigate day-to-day life.

## Taking the Mystery Out of Dyslexia

Imagine a room full of 30 adults and children. Six of those individuals most likely struggle with dyslexia and may have difficulty tying letters to specific sounds, and then manipulating those sounds. This can lead to poor spelling and writing, inaccurate reading, and mixing up similar words. Many in this group are likely to benefit from systematic, explicit, multi-sensory instruction in reading, writing, and language.

According to the International Dyslexia Association, dyslexia occurs in people of all backgrounds and intellectual levels. Parents with dyslexia are very likely to have children with dyslexia. For some people, dyslexia is identified early in their lives, but for others, their dyslexia goes unidentified until they get older. Since dyslexia is a lifelong condition, early identification and proper instruction are critical to helping individuals with dyslexia achieve in school and in life.



Dyslexia was the featured topic on a recent Adults & Dyslexia webinar, hosted by WLI regional consultants. The first webinar filled up so quickly that a second was scheduled to continue the learning. All Wisconsin Literacy webinars are recorded and placed in the Members Portal on the website. WLI also created a networking group for member agencies who specialize in serving learners who have dyslexia.

**Visit [www.eida.org](http://www.eida.org) to find Fact Sheets for parents and tutors from the International Dyslexia Association.**

## Making Medication Labels Easier to Understand

Wisconsin Health Literacy (WHL) is launching a two-year project to make prescription medication labels easier to understand. The Medical College of Wisconsin's (MCW) Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment has awarded WHL \$255,600 for the project. WHL will work with three Wisconsin pharmacy systems, with 48 pharmacy locations, to implement label improvements based on recent guidelines published by the US Pharmacopeia.

This is Phase II of a three-phase project. Phase I involved a study of pharmacy stakeholders to determine the potential of implementing the new standards in Wisconsin.

**The White Paper with Phase I findings is available for download at <http://bit.ly/MedLabel>.**



In Phase III, WHL will expand adoption of the new label formats to other pharmacies in the state. The ultimate goal is to reduce medication errors, improve medication adherence, and improve patient satisfaction through adoption of uniform, patient-centered medication labels.



wisconsin  
**health  
literacy**

For more information, contact Steve Sparks, Health Literacy Director, [steve@wisconsinliteracy.org](mailto:steve@wisconsinliteracy.org).

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

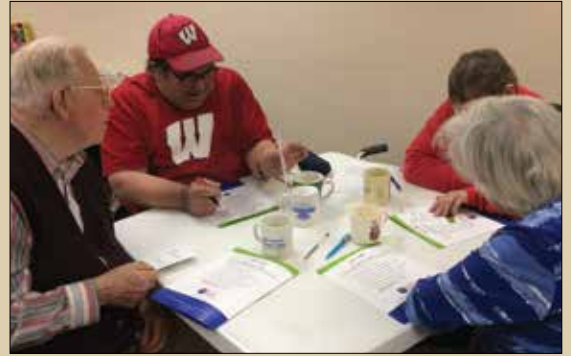


## 2017 Wisconsin Health Literacy Summit

Monona Terrace Conference Center  
Madison, WI

**April 3-5, 2017**

## Health Literacy Briefs



Participants share experiences at the Platteville Senior Center workshop.

The Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation awarded Wisconsin Health Literacy \$15,000 for two grants. These funds will help continue the series of medication workshops previously funded by WMSF and expand WHL's effort to distribute *What to Do When Your Child Gets Sick* books to new parents through Reach Out and Read clinics.

Wisconsin Health Literacy's series of medication workshops has been expanded and customized for refugee and immigrant populations through a new grant from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services Minority Health Program.

Thanks to support from Security Health Plan, Wisconsin Health Literacy is continuing medication workshops funded by SHP last year, as well as distribution of *What to Do When Your Child Gets Sick* books in Marshfield Reach Out and Read Clinics. New initiatives involve providing the books to help parents know when to bring their children to hospital emergency rooms and working with hospitals and urgent care centers to help patients better understand and follow discharge instructions.

Wisconsin Health literacy welcomes Project Coordinator **Lauren Werner**, MPH, and intern **Suriya Xiong**, who will be working on the Medication Label project.



Lauren Werner



Suriya Xiong



# What Does a Literacy Advocate Really Do?

*A message from Michele Erikson, Executive Director*

One of Wisconsin Literacy's focus areas is government advocacy. Much of this work is done at the state Capitol, where I meet with legislators to tell them about the important, life-changing work happening every day at our member agencies and in our Wisconsin Health Literacy division. Advocacy work however, doesn't have to take place only in the marble hallways and offices of our senators and representatives. In fact, I would argue that it can be even more powerful if it happens when program staff, board members, learners and volunteer tutors share their success stories in a variety of ways among many different audiences.

We all have a voice and it is critical that we use it to tell the stories of adult learners who may not be comfortable yet with the written word and persuasive communication strategies. They might not be ready to tell their own stories, some of which include escape from war-torn countries, learning disabilities left undiagnosed, or family situations that required them to work instead of attend school. If you want to make a plea on behalf of literacy or adult learners, here are a few things you can do to truly be a literacy advocate:

- Attend the April 11th Celebration of Literacy in Madison to be inspired by the many literacy stories of our members. Registration is on our website: [WisconsinLiteracy.org](http://WisconsinLiteracy.org)
- Make a visit to a literacy agency in your community to learn more. You'll see our members listed on our website under the Find a Literacy Program tab at the top of our home page.
- Share your connection to literacy with colleagues, relatives, and friends.
- Invite city officials, state representatives, and business leaders to literacy events.
- Become a literacy tutor
- Become an annual donor

***“Advocate: one that pleads the cause of another.”***

(M. Webster Dictionary)

An advocate is a champion · upholder · supporter · backer · promoter · campaigner · fighter · crusader.

***Which one are you in your literacy advocacy?***

## Job Center Website Offers New Easy-to-Use Features

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) has launched additional improvements to [JobCenterofWisconsin.com](http://JobCenterofWisconsin.com) (JCW), the state's free online public labor exchange that connects talent with opportunity 24 hours a day. Highlights include:

- The introduction of MyLMI, which allows users to customize, access, and store searches of labor market information to explore careers and drive employment decisions based on data, forecasts, and skill sets.
- New Quick Job Search options with the flexibility to retrieve and view basic information about current job postings.
- Advanced mapping to locate available talent and job openings geographically and make informed decisions about job opportunities, business relocation/expansion, and recruitment.
- A redesigned and searchable Workforce Events Calendar to find recruitment events easily.



The new MyLMI feature is a great way for parents, instructors, counselors and advisors to provide students with relevant labor market information (LMI). MyLMI uses widgets to allow the user to customize their LMI searches and save their personalized dashboard. The new features also include a “How to MyLMI” page with introduction descriptions, step-by-step videos and picture instructions to get users started.

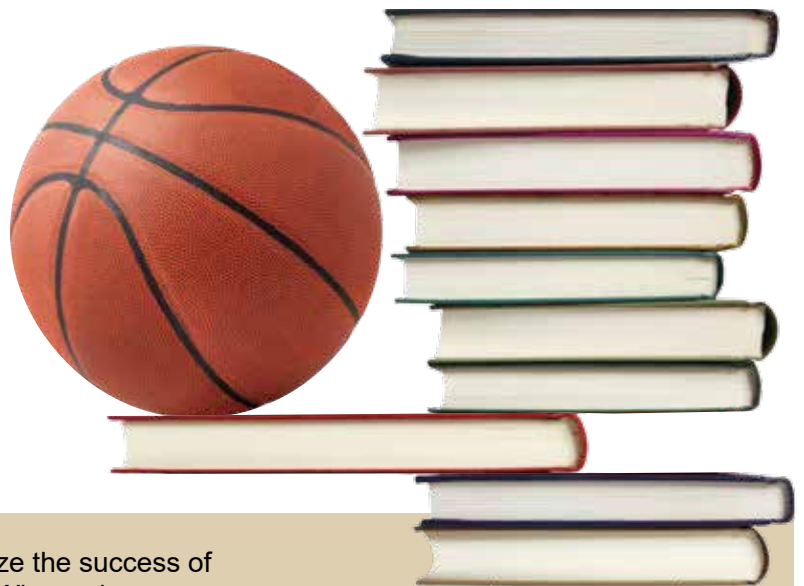


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# STRONG INSIDE

A Celebration of Literacy



Join us for a celebration and awards to recognize the success of adult learners, tutors and literacy advocates in Wisconsin.

**Monday, April 11, 2016 | 11:00 am – 1:15 pm | Monona Terrace, Madison**

Featuring Andrew Maraniss, author of *Strong Inside: Perry Wallace and the Collision of Race and Sports in the South*

**\$40 per person.  
Register by April 4, 2016.**

