

# Adult Literacy Center celebrates new director, education coordinator

## Nonprofit honors volunteers with a special event

GRAFTON — The Adult Literacy Center Board of Directors last month hosted an event for tutors and students to welcome its new staff and honor the work of its volunteer tutors.

ALC tutors were recognized for their ongoing work with students and making it possible for the ALC to achieve its mission. Student success stories were shared, including one student who recently became a U.S. citizen and another who is about to finish her GED testing and looking forward to college.

“It was a great evening. I really enjoyed meeting so many of our tutors and students – they all had such great stories to share,” said ALC treasurer Nichole Lyon.

ALC board members are also extending thanks to the United Way of Northern Ozaukee, Shopko and Mequon-Thiensville Woman’s Club for their donations this past fall. The funds will be used to support ongoing and new educational initiatives, including health and financial literacy.

ALC provides a wide range of adult literacy and educational services including: English as a second language, adult basic education, GED preparation for high school equivalency, college entrance preparation for adults and citizenship exam preparation. ALC always welcomes new students and tutors.

Daniel von Barga joined the center as its new executive director, focused on community and donor relations. Von Barga has worked more than two decades in public service as a program administrator with the state of Minnesota, in leadership roles in various youth and family service organizations and as an entrepreneur.

Von Barga also serves as the president of Beacon Educational Consulting, serving individuals and families nationwide whose loved ones are struggling with addiction, mental health and behavioral health issues, assisting them with program research, placement, interventions and personal coaching/life navigation. Von Barga said he is thrilled to be working with individuals to help them



Submitted photos

**Top**, new Adult Literacy Center Education Coordinator Amy Schmelzer is pictured with new Executive Director Daniel von Barga. **Below**, ALC board members Celeste Giunta, left, and Linda Borkenhagen, right, meet with Shopko Assistant Manager Debbie Elliot to accept Shopko’s foundation grant to the ALC.



achieve their literacy and academic goals.

Amy Schmelzer also joined the ALC recently as its new education coordinator, providing a critical resource for tutors and students, as well as leading all ALC educational initiatives. She brings a wide range of teaching and assessment experience to the position, applying her Bachelor of Science in education and master’s degree in history. She has taught at the elementary, middle school and adult levels, including working with adults at Ranch Community Services as a training specialist and as a teacher for the University of Phoenix.

To learn more, go to [www.AdultLiteracy-OZ.org](http://www.AdultLiteracy-OZ.org) or contact von Barga at 262-546-0020 or [adultliteracycenter@gmail.com](mailto:adultliteracycenter@gmail.com).