

# The Faces of Adult Learners: 25 Years in the Making



## ***Nebal Omar***

Nebal Omar and her husband, Essam, immigrated to the United States with their two young children in 2002, in search of a better education for all. Through the partnership between BPS Family Literacy Program and Haynes Early Education Center, Nebal was offered

**Age:** 44

**Immigrated from Egypt in 2002**

**Adult Education Program:**

Boston Public Schools (BPS) Family Literacy Program

**Adult Education Coalition:**

Dorchester Adult Literacy Coalition

the opportunity to attend ESOL classes in Dorchester. She was placed in the highest class, based on her receptive language skills, but she pleaded to move back to build her skills in writing and her confidence in speaking. This proved to be a good decision and Nebal made steady progress.

In the fall of 2007, she enrolled in the culinary arts program at Madison Park High School through Jewish Vocational Services and BPS Adult Education. She excelled in this eighteen week training program, and was placed in a job at Northeastern University right after graduation in January 2008. She has increased her hours and still works there five days a week. When asked about the effect of ESOL classes on her life, Nebal responded enthusiastically.

**"Totally different. I could not go anywhere before; afraid to ride transportation. (Now) I can go to the doctor, the children's schools, shopping. Now I can talk at my job. I can study with my kids."**

On February 18, 2008, Nebal Omar took the oath of citizenship. She is very proud to be a citizen of the United States of America.

## **This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Boston Adult Literacy Initiative. (ALI)**

### **What is ALI?**

**We are Boston adult basic education providers that receive funding from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education or/and the City of Boston.**

### **What do we do?**

**We provide services that help adult learners reach their educational and career goals as workers, parents, and community members:**

- ◆ **GED preparation**
- ◆ **English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)**
- ◆ **Adult Basic Education: literacy and numeracy**
- ◆ **Transition to college and job training programs**
- ◆ **Adult Diploma**

**These profiles highlight the accomplishments and challenges of just a few of Boston's 6,500+ enrolled adult learners; another 5,500 are waiting to enroll.**

***Education: Improving Lives and Creating Opportunities!***

For more info: Brunir O. Shackleton, Mayor's Office of Jobs and Community Services, (617) 918-5244 or [brunir.shackleton.jcs@cityofboston.gov](mailto:brunir.shackleton.jcs@cityofboston.gov)

## ***Humberto Pina***

His friends and relatives still call him Kode (co-day), the endearing Cape Verdean Creole term for the last child born to parents. But Humberto Pina is no kid, especially when it comes to education. When he arrived in Boston in 2006, friends told him about FDNH Log School, the neighborhood place to learn English. He registered for ESOL classes, progressing rapidly and eventually transitioning to the ABE program with the goal of gaining high school credentials and eventually enrolling in college.

Armed with a positive attitude and applying his language skills outside the classroom, he gained the notice of the banquet hall manager at the Four Seasons Hotel where he works. "I was talking with the manager and he noticed that my English had improved," Humberto explains. That encounter resulted in a promotion from stewarding to banquet houseman.

Of course, these accomplishments have not come about by chance. Humberto worked hard at home poring over books, doing research at the library, and practicing math. Humberto enjoys the respect of his classmates and coworkers. He is currently president of the student advisory council at the Log School, a position that is enabling him to develop leadership skills and experience.



**Age:** 37

**Immigrated from Cape Verde in 2006**

**Adult Education Program:**

Federated Dorchester  
Neighborhood House (FDNH) Log School

**Adult Education Coalition:**

Dorchester Adult Literacy Coalition

