

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

## Raymond Peters

The staff at the East Boston Harborside Community School Adult Education Program would like to celebrate the dedication and perseverance of a shy, hardworking man named Raymond Peters. Raymond is a Wampanoag Indian and a Native Alaskan.

Raymond knew he needed stronger basic education skills in order to obtain his goal to work in the culinary field. This is how he came to enroll in evening GED preparation classes at Harborside. For the last 4 years, Raymond would arrive at Harborside for his evening GED preparation classes still wearing his work clothes from his job at a warehouse where he ships shoes from email orders.

While in class, Raymond would diligently work to improve his academic skills, convinced that if he kept at it, he would successfully obtain his GED and continue on to work in the culinary field. Raymond simply would not give up.

Even when Raymond took all 5 GED tests and did not reach an average high enough to obtain the GED credential, he did not quit. "This is my chance. I'm not giving up." Fully aware that he would have to improve his skills and retake all 5 GED tests, he would not be dissuaded. Raymond kept coming to class. He kept working hard. He never missed a class and finally, in April 2009, he passed all 5 GED tests with a high enough average to obtain the credential. With this first goal attained, now it's on to working in the culinary field. Does anyone doubt that Raymond will achieve it? Not if you've seen Raymond firsthand, hard at work at Harborside.



**Age:** 57

**Adult Education Program:**

East Boston Harborside Community School Adult Education Program

**Adult Education Coalition:**

East Boston Adult Education Coalition

## 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)



**Age:** 27

**Immigrated from Guatemala in 2002**

**Adult Education Program:**

Gardner Pilot Academy

**Adult Education Coalition:**

Allston-Brighton Adult Education Coalition

## Sara Bautista

Sara started attending ESOL classes at the Gardner because her daughter was a student. She was interested in helping her daughter succeed in school, and she thought that improving her own English skills would be a great place to begin. She was happy to learn that ESOL classes would teach her more than just English. She has improved her computer skills and has become more aware of other community programs in the area.

Sara began taking ESOL classes at the Gardner Pilot Academy in 2007. She has been enrolled in the Advanced level where her listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills have all improved.

Sara's life has improved in many ways since she first enrolled in adult education classes at the Gardner. Because of her ongoing success, she has not only grown fluent in English, but also confident in her ability to help her family. These classes have helped her find a better job, go to the doctor, and meet with her daughter's teacher. She has also introduced her husband to the program, who has been participating since 2008.

Sara's goal is to continue studying English so that she can go to college. She is a bright, hard working and motivated student who is doing everything possible to give her family a better life.