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*The Voice of
Adult Education
in Massachusetts*

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STATEWIDE COALITION RECOGNIZES TEACHER FROM WOBURN YMCA ESOLTeacher Wins Outstanding Teacher Award

Boston, MA: More than 50% of adults who seek adult basic education (ABE) services each year cannot enroll because there aren't adequate resources to fund needed ABE programs statewide. Teachers like Catherine Waddington are responsible for attracting thousands of adult learners to Adult Basic Education programs. Cathy, who has been a teacher of beginner English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) for more than twenty years, is this year's recipient of the Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education's (MCAE) Outstanding Teacher Award.

"I consider it a great privilege to recognize Cathy for her outstanding contributions to adult basic education and for going above and beyond what is asked of her," said Kenneth Tamarkin, MCAE's Executive Director. "Adult basic education creates a pathway to success leading people to better jobs, higher education and civic participation."

"Cathy gives her students the necessary tools to become lifelong learners. Her students learn study skills, organizational skills, and self-advocacy. She facilitates real-life experiences that encourage students to participate in community life," said Elaine Dougherty, Director of the YMCA Learning Center in Woburn. "Her students gain confidence while increasing their English language skills. Even after leaving the class, students often come back for advice or support."

As the Curriculum Coordinator of YMCA International Learning Center in Woburn, Cathy has led the collaborative effort to develop an authentic curriculum. Her enthusiasm and expertise have been essential to the project. Cathy is adept at recognizing the strengths of individual teachers, soliciting their input, and incorporating their perspectives. As a result, the YMCA Learning Center curriculum has evolved into a model for the field. For more information regarding the YMCA Learning Center visit <http://www.sciwoburn.org/content/ymca-adult-learning-center>.

Cathy has been challenged over the last few years both professionally and personally. She has led curriculum development with creativity, diligence, and patience. During this time she was diagnosed with cancer. She has been through several surgeries and has been receiving chemotherapy every other week for nearly a year. "Throughout adversity

she tirelessly teaches, works with curriculum, and supports other staff members, in particular a new staff member to whom Cathy is a mentor," said Dougherty. "She is an inspiration for all of us."

Cathy will point out that she is inspired by the learners that come to the Learning Center. "They also often face overwhelming obstacles in their lives. Many work more than one job, are far from family, and yet they manage to come to English classes cheerful and ready to learn."

MCAE is the statewide organization for practitioners, adult students, individuals and organizations supporting equal educational opportunities for all adults. MCAE is dedicated to the advancement of adult education through high quality services and professionalism in the field from basic literacy and English for Speakers of Other Languages through preparation for a high school credential such as the General Educational Development (GED) test to programs such as family literacy, workforce development, and workplace education to transitions to post-secondary education. For more information about adult basic education in Massachusetts visit www.mcae.net.

MCAE annually honors outstanding students, businesses and practitioners in adult education at the Network conference each fall.

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Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education

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