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MCAE Presents Outstanding Educator Award to ABE Educator Leah Gregory

BOSTON, MA – The Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education (MCAE) recently presented the annual Outstanding Educator Award to Leah Gregory, an Adult Basic Education (ABE) educator at East Boston Harborside Community School (EBHCS) in Boston, MA.



MCAE Board President Roberta Soolman presented the award to Leah Gregory in a ceremony held via Zoom.

[Watch the award ceremony video here](#)

Ms. Gregory wears many hats at EBHCS. She is the Program Coordinator, teaches several classes, and serves as overall Student Advisor. When the pandemic hit last March 2020, she took steps to ensure students were taken care of – not only educationally, but socially, emotionally, and physically. She reached out to local organizations to bring weekly food distributions to students and the community at large. In addition, she started a Go Fund Me page to assist those students who lost their jobs due to the pandemic, including those who were unable to secure other assistance. Ms. Gregory also worked with another teacher to create an entire Digital Learning Curriculum to transition the program to remote learning in 2020. She

created five professional development workshops over the summer for EBHCS teachers to ensure every class was able to use the Google Classroom and Zoom platforms when school resumed in September.

In accepting the award, Ms. Gregory shared that COVID-19 hit the communities served by EBHCS hard, and everyone at the school was doing much more than they imagined they every would. “I know I’m not alone, and many communities and educators stepped up; for me personally this year proved the greater responsibility of educators: not only do we teach and support our learners, but we empower our students to advocate for themselves. As educators we are privileged to have direct impacts on our students’ lives...I know we all deserve [this award] this year.”

The MCAE Outstanding Educator Award is presented annually to an ABE teacher, counselor, administrator, or volunteer who has improved the life situation(s) of learners/colleagues as a result of the learning/teaching experience; demonstrated leadership within the teaching/learning/counseling/ administrative environment; met significant challenges in an effective way; been supportive of others engaged in teaching or learning in the field of adult education; and demonstrated achievements which show selfless dedication, service and commitment to the principles of adult and continuing education.

Based in Boston, MCAE is a statewide membership organization dedicated to championing the right of all adults to acquire the 21st century literacy, English language, and numeracy skills that lead to economic prosperity, strong families, and vibrant communities. Since 1992, MCAE has advanced quality adult basic education in the Commonwealth through professional development opportunities, strategic communications, and sophisticated advocacy. Its annual NETWORK Conference is the largest gathering of its kind in New England and routinely attracts more than 500 adult education professionals from across the Massachusetts and beyond. For more about MCAE, visit www.mcae.net.

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