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A former student and tutor in the SSC Adult Volunteer Literacy Tutoring Program work on a reading activity.

Free Learning Opportunities Available and Volunteers Needed for the South Suburban College Literacy Tutoring Program

OAK FOREST, IL—South Suburban College (SSC) is seeking participants for the Adult Volunteer Literacy Tutoring Program. The program is structured to train volunteers to become one-on-one tutors for adults in need of basic literacy skills. Instruction in basic literacy includes the development of phonetic reading skills combined with communication skills. Local residents are welcome to volunteer as tutors and encourage others to take advantage of this free opportunity.

Once certified, SSC's volunteer literacy tutors visit adult learners at locations in or near their neighborhoods. Tutoring is flexibly scheduled based on the availability of the tutors, learners and tutoring sites. The following locations have been established as tutoring sites: Acorn Public Library, Oak Forest; Glenwood-Lynwood Library; Harvey Public Library; Phoenix Public Library; Calumet City Public Library; Grande Prairie Library, Hazel Crest; Homewood Public Library;

South Holland Public Library; South Suburban College Library, Main Campus; South Suburban College Oak Forest Center Library, Oak Forest; Lansing Public Library; Dolton Public Library; Riverdale Public Library; Blue Island Public Library; Dixmoor Public Library; Tinley Park Public Library; Markham Public Library and Midlothian Public Library.

Illiteracy can be debilitating in many ways for adults who never received the proper instruction. Adults who are unable to read experience difficulty completing many daily activities that others may take for granted, along with a disadvantage in today's competitive job market.

SSC's Office of Adult Education administers the Adult Volunteer Literacy Tutoring Program in addition to High School Equivalency (HSE), English as a Second Language (ESL), and Adult Basic Education (ABE). These opportunities are made possible by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library (ISL), a division of the Office of Secretary of State, using state funds designated for literacy.

Tutor training will take place at the South Suburban College Oak Forest Campus, located at 16333 South Kilbourn Avenue Oak Forest, Illinois on Tuesdays and Thursdays from August 9 through August 25 from 4–6 p.m. Online training is also available. This 12-hour program culminates with literacy training certification. Tutors will continue to receive free professional development services throughout this program. Successful tutors are also eligible for letters of support or recommendation for jobs, scholarships, educational opportunities and more. For additional information, or to register, please contact David Stephens, Adult Literacy Grants Manager, at (708) 596-2000, ext. 2558, or email DStephens@ssc.edu.

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