Southwest Michigan Community Literacy Initiative

Phase II Update

Southwest Michigan Prosperity Initiative

Michael D. Evans
Executive Director
PH: (269) 382-0490 ext. 222
Email: mevans@goodwillswmi.org
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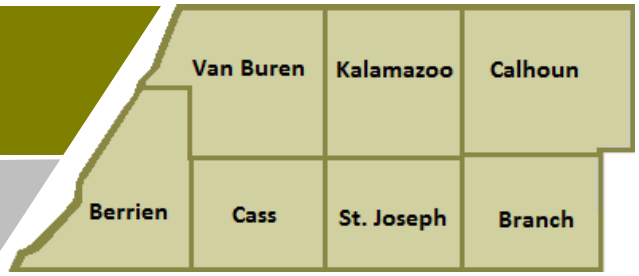
Southwest Michigan Community Literacy Initiative

OVERVIEW



The purpose of the **Southwest Michigan Community Literacy Initiative** is to establish a sustainable regional model that effectively prepares adults who lack basic literacy and language skills to more capably meet employer expectations and help them successfully transition from **"literacy to work."**

- Establish a Distance Learning Network.
- Provide Training and Professional Development.
- Integrate career-focused content into instruction.
- Support new and existing Community Literacy Centers.

Connect no less than 875 adult learners in the region to services.

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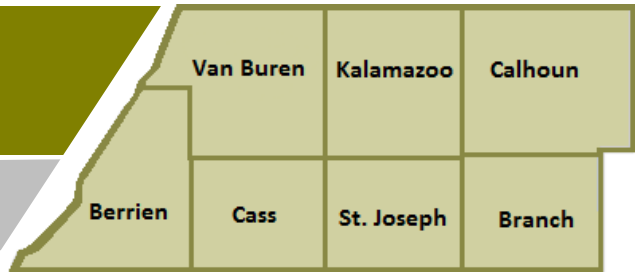
Southwest Michigan Community Literacy Initiative

HISTORY



2015 **Southwest Michigan Community Literacy Initiative – Phase I**

- Adult Literacy Research and Training Symposium established.
- 22 Community Literacy Centers supported in the region.
- ESL of Southwest Michigan Program supported.

2016

- Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding secured.
- ESL of Southwest Michigan Program supported by WIOA.

2017

- Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS) Curriculum developed.

2018 **Southwest Michigan Community Literacy Initiative – Phase II**

- Distance Learning established in eight sites in the region.

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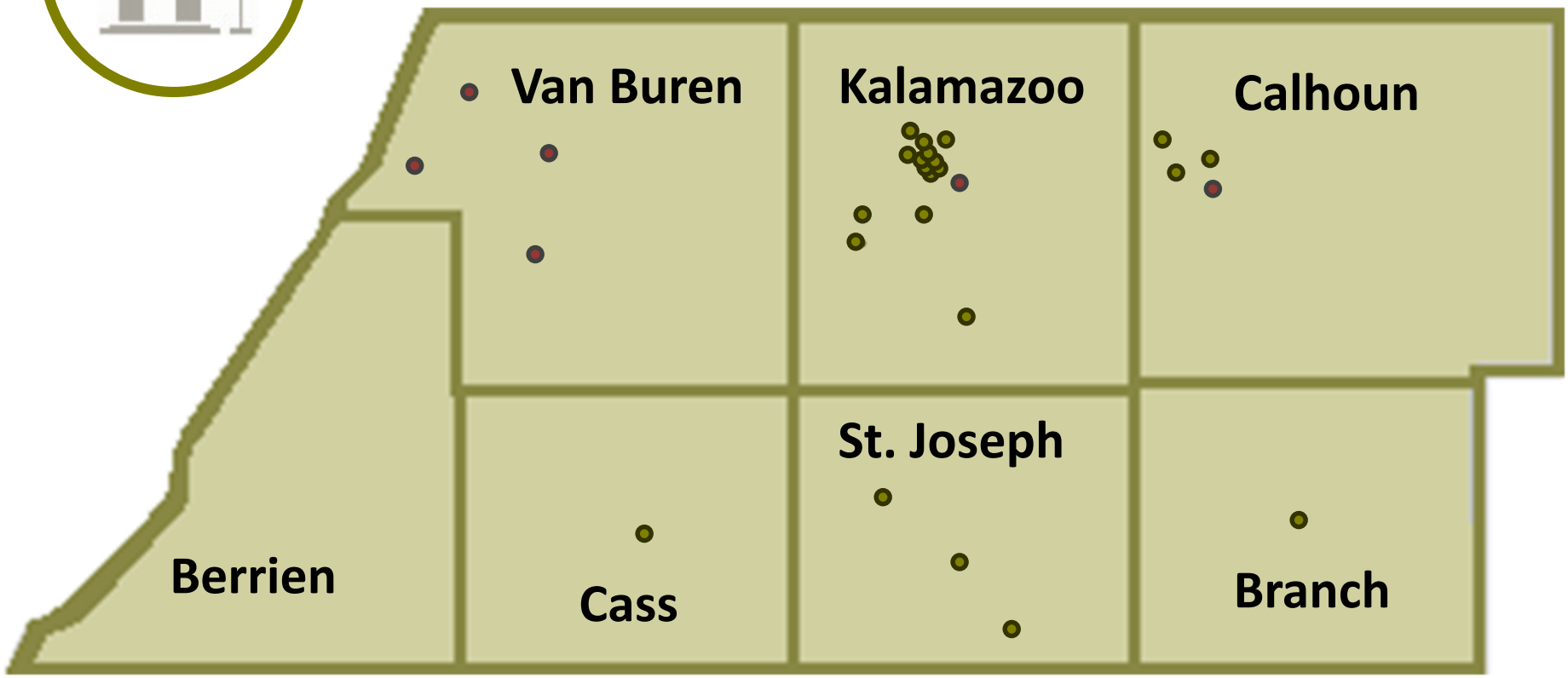
22 Community Literacy Centers in Southwest Michigan



8 Sites Connected to Distance Learning Services

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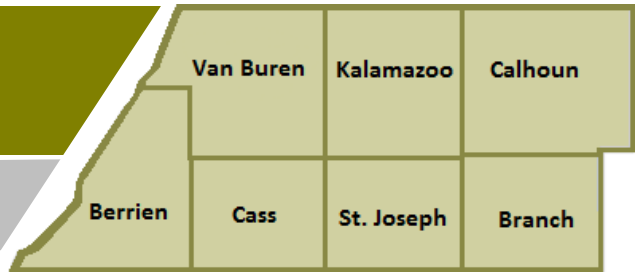
CAREER-FOCUSED CONTENT



JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND BASIC SKILLS (JOBS)

A Workforce Literacy Curriculum

A COLLABORATION WITH

MICHIGAN WORKS! Southwest
Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo & St. Joseph Counties

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EMPOWERING ADULTS TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

goodwill industries
of Southwestern Michigan

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND BASIC SKILLS (JOBS)

A Workforce Literacy Curriculum

OVERVIEW

The purpose of this curriculum is to provide adult learners with the **literacy skills** they need to engage in workforce development activities. This includes equipping learners with the vocabulary, reading, writing, and critical thinking skills necessary to become proficient in services provided by workforce development and talent development agencies.

- Classes scheduled on a 10-week cycle.
- Average learner receives 6 hours of instruction per week.
- Curriculum focuses on use of O*NET and writing cover letters and resumes.
- Distance Learning directly from Michigan Works Southwest and Goodwill.

Distance Learning has to potential of connecting any site equipped with the technology and training.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND BASIC SKILLS (JOBS)

A Workforce Literacy Curriculum

INSTRUCTION

Topics Covered

- Reading and Writing for Your Job Search
- Workplace Expectations
- Identifying Your Marketable
- Job Applications
- Resumes

Additional Instruction

- JOBS Tutoring Session
- Computer Class
- Financial Literacy
- ExpressWays 2 Success
- Situational Math
- Drivers Class

Next Steps

- Referrals to other agencies
  - Michigan Works!
  - Goodwill Industries
  - Momentum
- Post-testing/surveys
- Planning for next cycle

75% of learners have participated in additional instruction.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND BASIC SKILLS (JOBS)

A Workforce Literacy Curriculum

Role of Tutors

- **Provide one-on-one and group instruction.**
- **Provide computer instruction.**
  - ExpressWays 2 Success
  - Basic Computer Class
- **Leads classes:**
  - Financial Literacy
  - Health Literacy
  - Driving Class
  - Situational Math

Career Specialists

- **Provides instruction on workforce readiness topics.**
- **Connects learners to Michigan Works services.**
- **Advises on curriculum.**

MICHIGAN WORKS! Southwest
Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo & St. Joseph Counties

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND BASIC SKILLS (JOBS)

A Workforce Literacy Curriculum

Instruction Materials

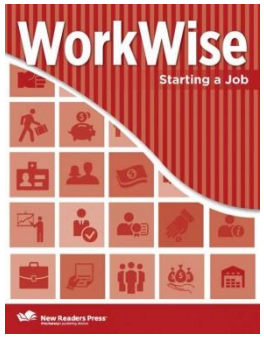
Online Learning

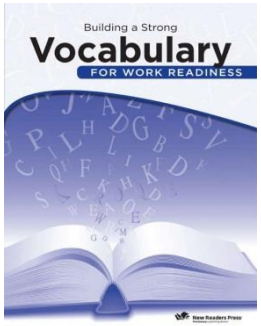
PLATO COURSEWARE

BURLINGTONENGLISH®
THE PUBLISHER THAT CARES

o*net®

Books

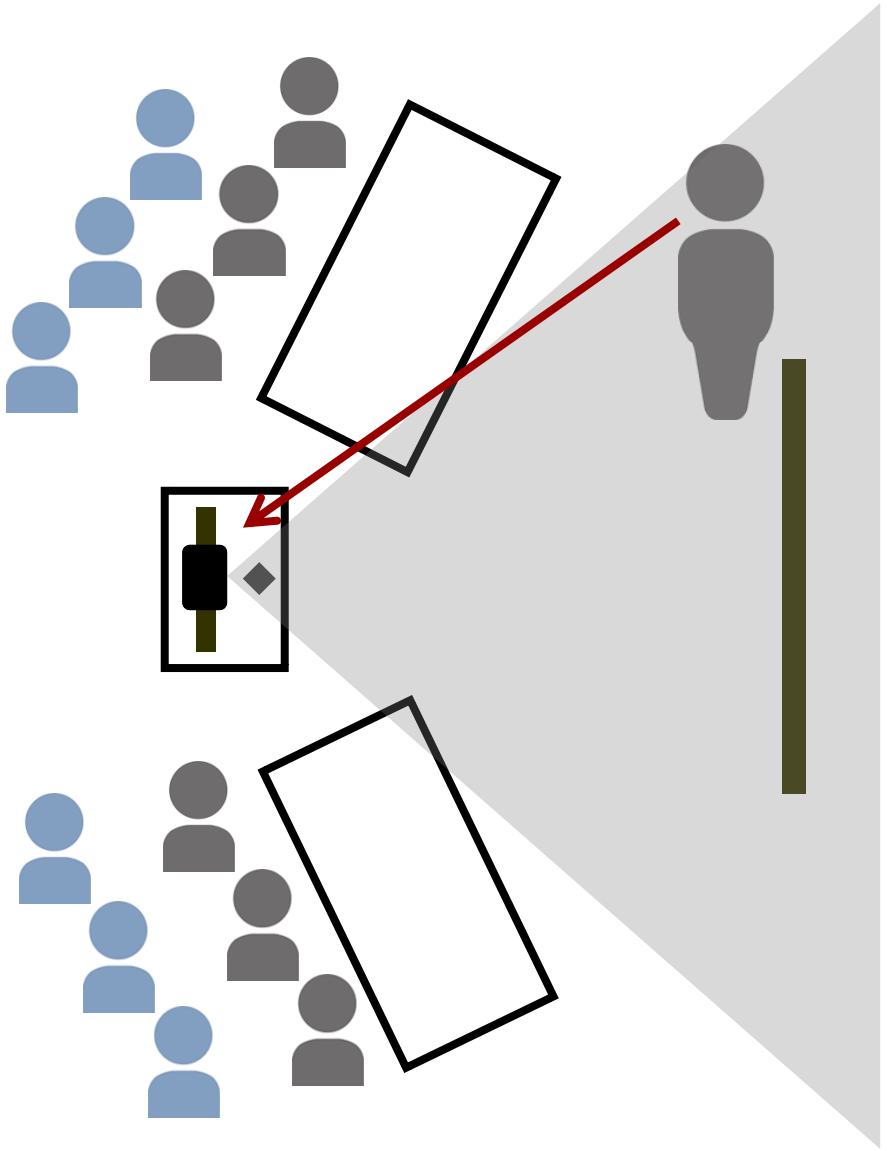




Existing Writing and Tutoring Sessions

Distance Learning

How does it work?



Distance Learning

How does it work?

One Instructor
Multiple Sites

Distance Learning

Applications

Instruction

Classes, groups, or
one-on-one tutoring sessions.

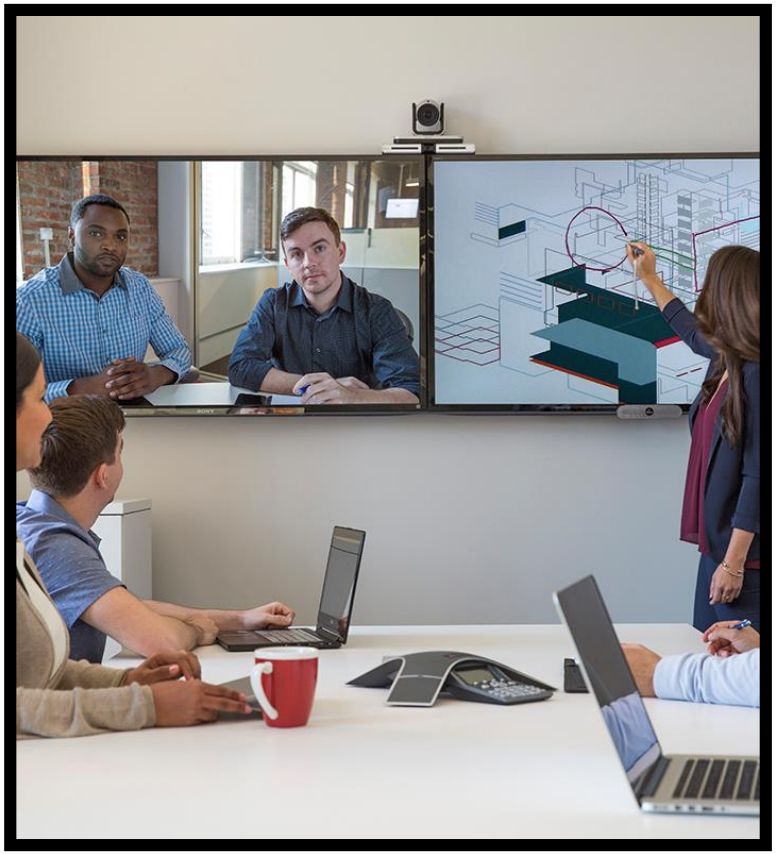
Training

Tutor Training, Workshops,
and Certification.

Navigation Services

Adult Learning Plan interviews
and consultations.

Resource Navigation.



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December 12, 2018 WMU Fetzer Center

8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Western Michigan University

Business Connection
Extended University Programs
Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine
Lewis Walker Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

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KALAMAZOO Community FOUNDATION love where you live

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Branch County Literacy Council
E3 Achievement—Calhoun County
St. Joseph County Literacy Council
Van Buren Intermediate School District

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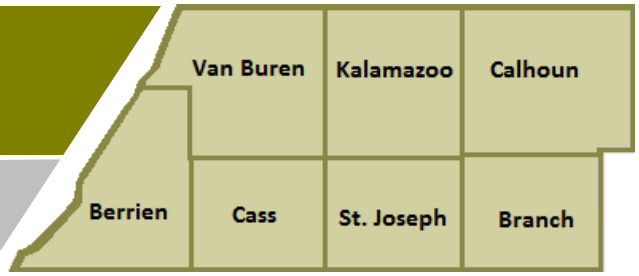
NEXT STEPS



- Equip more Community Literacy Centers in the region to implement Workforce Literacy and connect learners to jobs.
- Host Workforce Literacy Tutor Forums to implement Career Pathways.
- Host the 2018 Adult Literacy Research and Training Symposium.
- Adapt distance learning network to deliver other services such as **virtual field tours**, **tele-medicine**, and **resource navigation**, among other uses.

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Questions?

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