

THE RETURNING WARRIOR

A RESOURCE FOR AND ABOUT ADULT LEARNERS AT
WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

 RETURNING WARRIORS

 ADULT LEARNERS

 WARRIOR WAY BACK

Falling into a new routine, embracing change

The fall semester is always a time of change, whether that be the adjustment to a return to campus or simply the color of the leaves. This year, the Warrior Way Back program and adult learner services is seeing its own changes. Please continue reading to learn more about programmatic and support updates that will surely have a positive impact on you as an adult learner!

This semester, our newsletter opens with a warm message from Carmelita Steele, a student in the Warrior Way Back program. Ms. Steel is always an advocate for the program and adult learners on campus. Presently, she is organizing a group of students to form an organization of adult learners. If you are interested in joining this initiative, please read her statement on the next page, then email me directly at aneher@wayne.edu. I will be happy to connect that group. Thank you for sharing your expertise, Carmelita!

We are also growing the support of the program – both in terms of finances and personnel. If you have already graduated, please consider applying for either the (Near) Peer Mentor or the Career Coach position. These roles will work directly with me in providing enhanced support to current adult learners. If this interests you, read more on page 3 and complete an application as soon as possible. We will be filling the positions quickly. We are also looking for volunteers to help with a new Giving Day project. While any potential scholarships would likely be too late for current students, I encourage you to participate and support future classes of adult learners like yourself.

If you don't have enough to keep you busy – don't forget to sign up for our three remaining Tuesday Talks of the year and check out other virtual events this semester! I am now hosting Friday Chats every Friday at 11 AM, so please stop by to say "hello." The direct Zoom link is on the adult learner website. Note that the 2022-2023 FAFSA is now available – complete it NOW if you plan to take courses next fall. For help completing it, attend a FAFSA Friday any Friday through December 3rd (excluding November 26th). RSVP at <https://slate.wayne.edu/portal/fafsa-fridays>.

As always, I am available through email or by appointment for virtual meetings. I look forward to virtually seeing you at our Tuesday Talks and Friday Chats this semester, I continue to be inspired by each of you. Thank you for welcoming me into your success stories!

Warmest regards,

Amber Neher

Advisor for Warrior Way Back, CLAS Phoenix, and Adult Learners
aneher@wayne.edu or (313) 577-8908



Carmelita's Journey

by Carmelita Steele

Carmelita is a senior, working on her BA in Liberal Arts & Sciences: Political Science, Peace & Conflict St (Co-Major)



What inspired you to return to Wayne State as an adult learner?

I have always embraced the learning environment. My initial journey to WSU started a couple weeks after I graduated from high school. Interruptions of life events and competing priorities delayed my continued enrollment at WSU. The determination to continue was always the plan. I knew it was time; and I was ready. At that ready point, as I continued to receive information and e-mails about how to get it done from the Warrior Way Back Program, I decided to push forward. I knew that my past would not dictate my future; and my desire to return to school would be met with a full commitment.

How does your current experience on campus differ from your previous experience?

All things become new, technology has changed the learning environment and the way you access services from WSU. The process of moving from traditional to non-traditional has allowed access to remote and different learning environments.

What has been your biggest challenge as an adult learner? Proudest moments?

My biggest challenge was beginning my journey again after being away from academia for some time. The questions of the unknown and how I would manage back on a campus among a new generation of students. My proudest moment was my first semester back, my GPA was 3.55.

What are your goals moving forward academically, professionally, and otherwise?

My goals moving forward include but are not limited to graduate school to obtain a Master's in Peace & Conflict Studies and/or International Studies; while continuing Spanish classes. Professionally, I have been in the Legal environment serving 18 years within the court system. I'm looking to expand my reach to serve vulnerable and marginalized people.

What advice would you give an adult learner struggling with the day to day grind?

My advice is don't allow the challenges and your fears to defeat you. Completion of your degree is possible; your dreams and goals are attainable. Maintain your focus, accept, adapt and embrace change on your new journey. Ask for assistance, direction, and participate in support environments that are offered, and remember to take full advantage of the resources you will find and be offered from WSU. Make sure you take a breath and reflect, do not compare or contrast your journey with anyone else, just keep walking. The party is not over, it was extended, and you are the guest of honor. Make your way back to WSU, show the world what a Warrior is made of.

"Make sure you take a breath and reflect, do not compare or contrast your journey with anyone else, just keep walking."





Spotlight On: Opportunities for Adult Learners

The Warrior Way Back Program is Hiring

Thanks to a generous grant from the Kresge Foundation, the Warrior Way Back program is expanding to offer more professional support to adult learners. This growth will come in the form of two positions: a Career Coach and a (Near) Peer Mentor.

The **Peer Mentor** position is a two-year grant funded position designed to support the skill development of program participants as well as assist with student success program development. This includes support with programming, social media, communication, and more. Warrior Way Back graduates are a great fit, but this position is open to adult learner graduates from any institution.

The **Career Coach** will provide career planning and coaching specific to the needs of adult learners. This position is a two-year grant funded position designed exclusively for the career exploration and needs of adult learners. Along with other functions, this position will provide support and assistance for students considering a career change and will also provide one-on-one appointments to explore job-hunting strategies, interview techniques and assistance with resume writing.

Warrior Way Back students and adult learners alike will benefit from the support of these positions, so it is essential that we identify excellent candidates! To learn more, go to jobs.wayne.edu and search for posting numbers 045874 and 045873.

Help Secure Funding for Adult Learners

One item most adult learners can agree on is that there is NOT enough funding available to cover tuition and fees, especially near the end of their program. We want to help! This year, Warrior Way Back will be asking for donations to support a scholarship fund for adult learners.

To help make our case, we are asking for past, present, and current Warrior Way Back students to tell their stories. This could be in the form of a short testimonial video, or a written statement about what the program has meant to you. If you would like to contribute with your perspective, please send Amber Neher an email at aneher@wayne.edu.

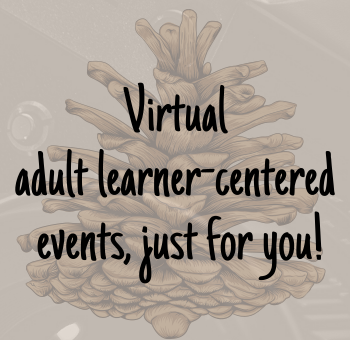
We will keep the community updated as this project progresses!



Mark your Calendar!

October

- 11th @ 11 AM - Effective Resume Writing Tips Workshop (CS)
- 12th @ 3 PM - So, You're Thinking of Grad School (GS)
- 12th @ 5 PM - **Tuesday Talk: Brain Science Behind the A's for Adult Learners***
- 13th @ 12 PM - To Email my Professor or Not (ASC)
- 14th @ 1:30 PM - Study Smarter Not Harder (ASC)
- 20th @ 6 PM - Business Graduate Programs Information Session (MISB)
- 22nd @ 1 PM - Welcome to Student Disability Services (SDS)
- 22nd @ 4 PM - Gimme Some Credit! Managing debt and your credit score (ASC)
- 27th @ 12 PM - Intersectionality and the New Work-Life Balance (COSW)



November

- 1st @ 2 PM - Successful Interviewing Techniques (CS)
- 2nd @ 5 PM - **Tuesday Talk: Libraries & Research Resources for Adult Learners***

December

- 7th @ 1 PM - Career Services: Tools & Resources (CS)
- 7th @ 5 PM - **Tuesday Talk: (Reverse) Transfer, Testing Out, GPA & Debt Forgiveness for Adult Learners***
- 9th @ 10 AM - Fall Finals Prep Workshop (ASC)

TO REGISTER:

- *RSVP at wayne.edu/advising/adult-learners
- (ASC) register at success.wayne.edu
- (CS) register at careerservices.wayne.edu
- (GS) register at gradschool.wayne.edu
- (MISB) register at ilitchbusiness.wayne.edu
- (SDS) register at studentdisability.wayne.edu
- (COSW) register at <https://gecworklife.eventbrite.com>

