



## Adult Education You've Got Options!



Graduates from Wood County Vo-Tech Center in Parkersburg, WV

*Adult education gives learners the chance to increase their knowledge, develop new skills with assessments like the Tests of Adult Basic Education (TABE®) and gain high school equivalency credentials.*

### **Economic Benefits for Adult Workers with Low Measured Skills 1**

Across the total U.S. working age population, ages 16-65 — data confirms that there is a significant portion of employed adults with low measured skills.

- 14% of the employed population have low literacy skills
- 23% have low numeracy skills
- 62% have low digital problem solving skills
- 50% of all low-skilled workers are not engaged in any learning opportunities like Adult Education

### **Labor Market Outcomes<sup>1</sup>**

- 2/3 of Americans with low literacy skills are employed — totaling 20-23 million adults.
- Nearly 60 % of lower-skilled adults earn incomes in the bottom quintile, or less than \$16,000 a year.
- These workers tend to be employed in retail and auto mechanic services, health and social work, hospitality and food service, manufacturing, and construction. These five industries account for 62% of the low-skilled workforce.
- Both literacy and numeracy skills pay off for workers, with a strong positive correlation between proficiency and income, but numeracy is even more strongly correlated than literacy.

### **The Solution...**

Investing in adult education can help close our skills gap and increase college-going rates, leading to the filling of jobs and the breaking of generational poverty. Source: Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE)

1. U.S. Department of Education Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education, Survey of Adult Skills. (2016). Retrieved from <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/AdultEd/factsh/adultworkerslowmeasuredskills.pdf>



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