



Photo: MCL Spanish GED Instructor Kristine (right) helps a patron during a session at Midland Library.

Welcome Spanish GED learners

Bilingual GED instruction is now available for the library's Spanish-speaking GED learners at Midland and Rockwood libraries during drop-in adult tutoring.

Thanks to a \$15,000 grant from the State of Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission, MCL adult learners can get free GED testing, help with transportation and other supports. The response has been overwhelming. Since October 2018, Colleen, the library's GED coordinator, has connected with more than 100 learners, many of whom have attended drop-in tutoring for help with GED prep, learning math and navigating college resources. Colleen noted a couple of the recent patron success stories: Here are a couple of the recent patron experiences as noted by Colleen:

Jorge began his GED studies by learning how to calculate percentages. He works on a printing press and has to calculate and report the percent of wasted print each day. Each day for years, he has had to ask someone to calculate that for him. After an hour of tutoring, Jorge learned how to set those problems up and calculate them on his own. He was so relieved and surprised that there was nothing more to it.

Oscar has been getting tutoring at the library for both his GED and his upcoming citizenship test. He has talked about working in the field since he was 10 years old and never spending time on school. He is very excited for the first time in his life to occupy his mind instead of just his hands. He wants to complete his GED in order to get a job that allows him to spend more time with his kids rather than working 12-hour days and missing all their waking hours.

GED tutoring is available during adult drop-in tutoring sessions at St. Johns, North Portland, Midland, Central, Gresham and Rockwood libraries. The Spanish GED instructor is at Midland on Tuesday evenings and at Rockwood on Wednesday mornings.

First print book from Library Writers Project available at libraries in April



Multnomah County Library has partnered with [Ooligan Press](#) to publish the Library Writers Project selection, *The Gifts We Keep* by Katie Grindelwald. Print copies will be available at libraries in mid-April. Ooligan Press will host a [launch event](#) to celebrate the book on Thursday, April 11 at 5pm at Rogue Hall.

The unique partnership between Ooligan Press and the library helps celebrate Portland area's local authors by selecting a title previously only available as an e-book to be published in print. *The Gifts We Keep* is the first of a planned annual series of Library Writers Project books to be published by Ooligan Press.

Multnomah County Library staff have enjoyed *The Gifts We Keep* since first reading it in 2015. Readers who enjoy Elizabeth Berg, Anne Tyler or Richard Russo should give this a read!

The library annually accepts submissions from local authors to be added to its e-book collection. To learn more about the submission period and requirements, visit the Library Writers Project at multcolib.org/library-writers-project.



Rod Madison helps bring library materials from one neighborhood bookshelf to the next

With a few online clicks, a library patron can go from deciding what they want to read to placing that book on hold at their neighborhood library; thanks to a team of library staff led by Logistics Supervisor Rod Madison, that book, along with thousands of other books and other library materials, are moved around the county each day— taken off library shelves, sorted, routed to new locations, and put back on the shelves and ready for checkout.

Along with his team, Rod helps facilitate the movement of nearly 175,000 library items around Multnomah County each week — more than the entire collection held at Midland Library!

“I always want to help our patrons get the materials they want, where they want them and in the fastest way possible,” said Rod.

Brought to the library by a love of books and a background in academics — he holds a Master's Degree in History and taught classes at Oregon State University for more than a decade — Rod initially began working at the library's "sort center" (the operation he now manages), where all materials moving from one library location to another pass through, getting manually sorted for drivers to take to their destination.

After transitioning into a position as a library assistant and spending time at two of the library's largest locations — Central and Midland libraries — Rod pursued positions in library management, finding his experience in operations, public service, and as a library delivery driver, a perfect match for the logistics role.

Outside of the library, Rod has a fascination with aviation history and enjoys striking up conversations about classic aircraft and visiting local aviation museums, interests that stem from his father who was a naval aviator during WWII.

"My deep interest in aviation is just part of a broader fascination with transportation in general. I guess it's only fitting that I'm working in a job that involves trucks!"

Patron comments

"I am a member of Street Roots and I need to give a big kudos to the library team that helps with library forgiveness to Street Roots members— especially Karen. Everyone is so nice at the library. . .Keep seeing us as human beings. We love you!" — Street Roots member

"I am very much in favor of the Chinese Mandarin/Cantonese craft activities and the arrangements for reading Chinese characters and singing children's songs at 2:15 pm every Sunday. I am deeply grateful to the current responsible staff, because my kids used to go to the library playing games every Sunday, but it has been no games for four to five weeks, but the whole time staying in the activity room starts at 2:15 to around 4:15, doing hand-made works, communicating with other children around the same age in Mandarin or Cantonese, talking about Chinese characters, and discussing some Chinese books they read recently. I feel that those activities cultivated a good interest in my children, so I would like to express my sincere gratitude and gratitude to the library for such a good arrangement." — Shai, Holgate patron, (note: comment was written in Chinese and translated into English)

"I want to say how much I appreciated Stephen's [at Northwest Library] help today. I had a rather complicated problem and he helped me so calmly and efficiently and with a great

sense of humor! He must be a great asset to your library and I'm very impressed with your services just because of him!" — Laura (patron from Annapolis, MD)

"Lefoster is the name of a wonderful, patient, knowledgeable young man. This young man helped me upload a time-sensitive document with great patience. I was rather unsettled because my home printer was not working and I took a chance and drove to my local library. Lefoster calmed my anxiety by his gentle demeanor and knowledge. I do not frequent the library often. But this experience was above and beyond my expectations. Thank for for employing such a wonderful young man." — Cynthia, North Portland patron

"The '20 Years of Street Roots' exhibit was quite fascinating and very nicely displayed. I enjoyed learning about the organization and Portland is quite fortunate to have such an organization in its own city. I took a quick glance at the display while on a 'Behind the Scenes' tour a week ago and decided I wanted to come back for a more in depth look before it ends. I did this on 3/23; read every sign in every display. Very well done!" — Ann, Central patron

"It's been a career high point working with you and the Library." — Patricia, scholar and community member who helped curate the Street Roots 20th anniversary exhibit.

In the news

[Library offers Gresham woman's e-book](#) (Gresham Outlook, March 26)

[Street Roots celebrates community in 20th anniversary exhibit](#) (PSU Vanguard, March 18)

[Children Get Free Vision Screening](#) (Gresham Outlook, March 12)

Upcoming events

Note: Programming will be temporarily limited during May 2019 due to library staff training.

[Cooking Around the World: Seed Swap](#)

Saturday, April 13

1:30 pm

Holgate Library

[Unsung Heroes of the Civil Rights Movement](#)

Wednesday, April 17

6:30 pm

Hollywood Library

[Static Electricity](#)

Sunday, April 14

3 pm

Hillsdale Library

[Ants Ants Ants Family Music](#)

Saturday, April 20

11 am

St. Johns Library

[See to Read vision screening](#)

Monday, April 15

5 pm

Fairview-Columbia Library

[A Midsummer Night at the Savoy](#)

Sunday, April 21

2 pm

Midland Library

[Language Delays: Milestones & Caution](#)[Signs](#) (for childcare providers)

Tuesday, April 16

5:30 pm

Troutdale Library

[Makerspace Adult Open Lab](#)

Monday, April 22

6 pm

Rockwood makerspace

[Delicious Shakes and Smoothies for Teens](#)

Wednesday, April 17

4:15 pm

Hollywood Library

[Friends of the Library Spring Used Book Sale](#)

Friday, April 26 - Monday, April 29

Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel Exhibit Hall