

For Immediate Release

Contact Alisha Workman

Director of Marketing & Communications

aworkman@neuhaus.org**Coalition on Adult Basic Education Announces Scholarship Recipient**

BELLAIRE, TEXAS (February 16, 2023) – Lara Speights, Vice President of Family Support and Adult Literacy at Neuhaus Education Center (NEC), a Houston-based non-profit organization dedicated in promoting *Literacy for All*, has been named the recipient of the COABE Scholarship by the Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE).

Speights, a licensed dyslexia therapist, has found that many adult learners with dyslexia who come to NEC have not been given proper academic support. She states, “Since assuming my role at Neuhaus, I have realized that the Adult Literacy world is woefully under-aware of dyslexia and how to both identify and support learners with dyslexia.”

Speights has also noticed a lack of research in higher education about how to promote literacy in adults with dyslexia. In response, she applied for the COABE scholarship to help fund her part-time PhD program at Texas A&M University, where she found a shocking statistic. “This missed opportunity [of properly supporting students with dyslexia] poses significant economic consequences for our nation. It is estimated that around \$2.2 trillion dollars of annual income is missed due to the numbers of adults lacking functional literacy” (Rothwell, 2020). She hopes that her research will provide more strategies and tools for educators who teach students with dyslexia, and that it will empower students with dyslexia to improve their reading skills and find success.

Sharon Bonney, the CEO of COABE, states, “I applaud Lara for her outstanding contributions to our noble field of adult education! The prestigious award is granted for distinguished leadership, and this year's winner truly exemplifies the values described in this national award.”

COABE’s mission is to inspire educators so adults succeed, and communities thrive. The Coalition on Adult Basic Education provides leadership, professional development, and advocacy for our 79,000+ members in the field of adult education. We provide a variety of services, including annual national conferences, a peer-reviewed journal, advocacy tools and over 50 new instructional webinars each year. COABE highlights excellence in the field of adult education by presenting yearly scholarships, incentive grants and prestigious national awards to feature best practices in the field. Learn more at coabe.org or contact awards@coabe.org.

###

For more than 40 years, Neuhaus Education Center (NEC) has been a trailblazer in solutions for overcoming obstacles to literacy, including dyslexia, and today is a nationally recognized leader in the implementation of the Science of Reading. Its professional instruction for educators, referral and resource services for families, and classes for adult learners unlock a brighter future of Literacy for All. Visit www.neuhaus.org to learn more.