

Two elementary schools honored as leaders in *Leader in Me* program

Lindbergh and Whitmore-Bolles elementary schools in Dearborn have received the prestigious Lighthouse Milestone certification through the international *Leader in Me* program.

The two schools were recognized for their ongoing effort, and success, implementing *Leader in Me*. Lighthouse certification shows “schools have produced outstanding results in school and student outcomes,” according to Franklin Covey Co., owner of the *Leader in Me* program.

The *Leader in Me* system fosters student leadership, helping students find their strengths and teaching them the skills to be successful in life. It is linked to the popular *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*.

Lindbergh and Whitmore Bolles both started *Leader in Me* in the 2015-16 school year.

“For me, the *Leader in Me* really aligned with our needs for a whole school transformation to empower students and provide them with the leadership and life skills that they need to thrive in today’s world,” said Whitmore Bolles Principal



These Lindbergh Elementary students are part of the student Lighthouse Team. The students help in planning, decision making and implementation of initiatives for their classes.

Kristin Waddell. “The Habits truly are the core principles that serve students their entire lives, and the program has done wonderful things for our culture. Through our journey we have been able to boost student, teacher and parent engagement; instill goal setting and personal planning; and instill leadership for all of our students.”

For Lighthouse certification, each school has to meet a number of criteria such as staff engaged in ongoing learning, students who are taught leadership methods in different ways, family and school communications about the program, and students creating and pursuing their own academic goals.

“Our role as educators is to provide our students with endless possibilities,” said Lindbergh Principal Zainah Tiba. “The *Leader in Me* provided us with an avenue to instill in each child the belief that they are a leader and to create a culture of practices and opportunities to be ambassadors both within the school and the outside community.”

Schools keep Lighthouse status for two years and can then apply for recertification.

Students Speak shows importance of Adult Education

Their backgrounds are as different as the path that led them to the Adult Education program, but one-by-one a group of students shared their compelling and inspirational story of success during a recent Students Speak event in April.

Students Speak events are held throughout the state and provide community members, elected officials, school administrators, and other guests an opportunity to hear directly from the students in Adult Education programs. Dearborn operates one of the most successful and longest running Adult Education programs in Michigan and partnered with the Michigan Association of Community and Adult Education to host the event.

Maryam Al Daas was one of twelve students who shared their stories with the crowd of about 100 people gathered at the Berry Career Center.

Al Daas came to America as a teen bride, was kept isolated from other people, and had limited access to her children. After overcoming tremendous social and economical obstacles, she was

able to connect with relatives in Michigan and relocate to the Metro Detroit area. Attaining her G.E.D. through the Adult Education program in Dearborn has allowed her to continue her education at the college level, secure employment, and begin to build a better life for her and her children.

Although the details of Al Daas’ story were unique, the message from the students at the event was clear: education is key to improving your life, and the lives of your family.

“Balancing jobs, family, and other obligations the journey for these students is not always easy, but perseverance and the great support they receive from their teachers is instrumental in their success,” said Maha Makki, Adult Education College & Career Navigator, and emcee for the event.

Adult Education programs help students achieve high school completion or high school equivalency, learn English as a Second Language, and enhance workplace readiness skills for high-need, in-demand jobs.



Students in the Adult Education program shared their success stories during the first Students Speak event held at the Michael Berry Career Center.

Adult Education helps workforce partners, post-secondary stakeholders and business leaders create the workforce of the 21st century. A video of Students Speak will be posted this summer on the District YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/user/dpscommdept. For more information on the District’s Adult and Community Education program visit <https://dearbornschools.org/departments/adult-community-education/>.