

English At Large Tutor-Learner Graduation

June 7, 2024

Follen Church, Lexington MA

Words from Master of Ceremonies, EAL Board President Matt Roper

Learner Graduates, Volunteer tutors, friends, family and distinguished guests...

Good evening. My name is Matt Roper and I am President of the Board of Directors. On behalf of the staff and board of English At Large, I am pleased to welcome you to our Annual Learner Graduation Event.

We are so excited to have this opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the work you have done with your volunteer tutor to not only learn English but to achieve your life goals.

Because while you might have felt that you were working alone with your tutor, you are actually part of a large family of learners who benefit from programs offered by English At Large.

During the past year, over 80 learners have enrolled in our tutoring program, meeting weekly with their volunteer tutors.

You are a diverse group, representing 21 different countries and speaking 18 different languages.

But your reasons for wanting to learn English are the same:

- To start your career or get a better job here in the U.S.
- To enroll in school or training
- To obtain citizenship
- To access services, support your children in school, to connect with your neighbors and to participate in community life.

And with the help and partnership of your volunteer tutors, you have achieved your goals and so much more.

And during your time in the tutoring program, we, the English At Large family, along with your volunteer tutors, have supported your progress and celebrated your achievements.

You have inspired the commitment of our board and our staff, the efforts of our volunteers and the support of our donors.

You are the reason for our work and our mission and we could not be more proud of your accomplishments.

Congratulations to you, our learner graduates, and to your volunteer tutors. Thank you for outstanding efforts.

Congratulations again to our learner graduates. You have worked so hard and come so far, and we know that your learning will not end when you stop meeting with your tutor. Your relationship with English At Large does not end here! We do offer other programs that will continue to support you on your journey. We also have other opportunities for you to stay involved with us and to support others who will come behind you and benefit from our tutoring program. We have put all this information together for you into a packet that you will find attached to the back of your graduation certificate. Please take a moment to review the materials and feel free to contact us with any questions you have or for more information. You are part of the English At Large family and we would be happy to support your continued growth and learning.

Our thanks also to the local businesses who donated items for our refreshment table this evening: The Chateau Restaurant in Burlington, and Reading Cooperative Bank.

And finally, to our tutors and all English At Large volunteers.

Your spirit of community and dedication to your learners is the driving force behind the success of English At Large. You represent the best of what people can be and you truly are the change that we all want to see in the world. We, together with the learners whose lives you impact in so many ways, say thank you, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.