

Prince William Public Library Foundation and Prince William Public Libraries: Enhancing Programs for ESL Learners

The Prince William Public Library Foundation (Foundation) serves as a conduit to acquire grants and raise funds through community interaction, all of which support programs otherwise unavailable to Prince William Public Libraries (PWPL).

The Foundation secures funding needed to fulfill PWPL's vision of being the hub connecting people to the transforming power of information and to excel on its mission of bringing people, information, and ideas together to enrich lives and build community in a welcoming, inclusive environment.

The Tina B. Carver grant funding enabled the Foundation to enhance PWPL's programs for ESL learners. PWPL serves a richly diverse, minority-majority community with high proportions of residents with limited English proficiency and immigrant residents. ESL programs such as ESL Class, ESL Assessment, English Conversation, and 411 on Citizenship and Naturalization are important components of PWPL programming. English Conversation, currently a virtual program, had 110 participants during 10 meetings in December 2020 and 104 participants during eight meetings in January 2021.

With the Tina B. Carver grant funds, PWPL purchased teaching materials that will enhance learning experiences. Titles such as "How to Be An American, A Field Guide to Citizenship; American Ways, An Introduction to American Culture" and National Geographic United States Atlas will make the ESL programs more engaging and enjoyable, and subsequently, more effective. Students will more easily memorize not only English but also interesting and important facts about the United States.

It is anticipated that the funding provided by the Tina B. Carver grant will serve more than 1,000 residents annually in PWPL's efforts to provide more programming and resources for ESL learners.

