

Anixtercenter DISABILITY SERVICES

Spring 2026

Literacy Spotlight: Literate Learners Pass Written Driver's Test

The Anixter Adult Literacy Program is proud to celebrate a major accomplishment by two dedicated learners, Lelia Vincent and Stanley Julien, who both passed the Illinois written driver's license exam in April and have officially earned their driver's permits!

For Lelia and Stanley, obtaining a driver's license represents much more than passing a test—it is an important step toward greater independence, autonomy, and opportunity.

Both learners studied the Illinois Rules of the Road handbook with their literacy tutor, Tom Williamson, who worked tirelessly to help them reach their goal. Tom drilled Stanley and Lelia for weeks, providing weekly practice tests, quizzes, and study sessions to ensure they were fully prepared for exam day.

Stanley has been part of the Adult Literacy Program since June 2021 and has worked with Tom since October 2022. When he entered the literacy program, he was reading at approximately a fifth-grade level. Recently, Stanley achieved another significant milestone by advancing to an eighth grade reading level. Such growth requires remarkable consistency, focus, and hard work.

Lelia is equally determined in her pursuit of independence. Lelia enrolled in Anixter's Adult Literacy Program to strengthen essential life skills that support her everyday living and long-term goals. Last year, she specifically requested a tutor to help her prepare for the Illinois driver's license exam. Lelia committed herself to studying the Rules of the Road handbook and mastering the knowledge needed to succeed. Now that they have earned their permits, Lelia and Stanley are setting their sights on the next challenge: passing the behind-the-wheel driving exam and obtaining their official Illinois driver's licenses. Congratulations, Lelia and Stanley!



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CRS Legacy: Urban Adventures

CRS Legacy participants have had a very busy and active spring. Neither wind nor rain kept these clients from traveling about the city to explore. They continued to give back to the community by volunteering at Feed My Starving Children, Cradle to Crayons, and Bernie's Book Bank. In addition, participants had opportunities to go to the Chicago Botanic Garden, the Chicago History Museum, the Field Museum, Shedd Aquarium, the Lincoln Park Zoo, the local library, Adler Planetarium, and so much more. As the weather begins to get warmer, they are excited for all of the special events that come with summer.



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CRS Choice: Community Connections

CRS Choice participants have continued to keep up the pace this spring, taking part in a wide variety of on-site activities and classes like cooking, current events, knitting, arts & crafts, life skills, yoga and a variety of games. Community outings continue to be very popular among participants, and there were many opportunities to explore the Chicagoland area. Highlights this spring included Waveland Bowl, the Lincoln Park Zoo, the movie theater, the Nature Museum, Navy Pier, the Edgewater Athletic club for the Movement and Motion Class, shopping at a variety of stores, and the Field Museum. Participants are looking forward to what summer will bring.



Museum



Bernie's Book Bank



Yoga Class



Waveland Bowl



Movement and Motion Class

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Unity CLIA: Spring Fun

Unity residents had lots of fun this spring with a wide variety of activities. They took to the kitchen to bake some cupcakes and make homemade pizza. They worked on a variety of crafts and decorated their home for St. Patrick's Day, Easter, and Memorial Day. They also helped their friend, Joe celebrate his birthday. There were adventures to local parks, shopping, and the 360 Chicago observation deck to get a spectacular view of the city. However the most special event was an evening out at In the Game Hollywood Park for arcade fun!

