

# COABE

COALITION ON ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

*To inspire educators so adults succeed and communities thrive*

## PRESS RELEASE

### COABE Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award Winner:

### Holly Heintz, Florida



COABE's mission is to inspire educators so adults succeed and communities thrive. COABE exists to provide leadership, communication, professional development, and advocacy for adult education and literacy practitioners to advance quality services for all adult learners. One way that we engage in these activities is by spotlighting excellence in the field.

The Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE) represents the field of 55,000 adult educators and provides a variety of services, including professional development through annual, state-of-the-art national conferences, more than 40 webinars annually, and a peer reviewed journal. COABE also recently launched an award winning national public awareness campaign and an advocacy campaign that has enabled more than 50,000 connections with legislators since April 2017. COABE also highlights excellence in the field of adult education by providing competitive national-level awards valued at \$10,000 each, incentive grants to encourage and promote best practices in the field, and scholarship opportunities through special funding provided by The Dollar General Literacy Foundation. Holly Heintz was nominated for COABE's Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award, and we are pleased to announce that she is this year's winner.

Holly Heintz has twelve years of experience in adult education and four more as a K-12 substitute teacher for Pinellas County Schools in Clearwater and Saint Petersburg, Florida. During that time, she has trained many instructional staff members by modeling the best practices in adult education, as well as the proper testing, reporting, and data analysis for each student. She has designed tailored educational plans to ensure her students' success. Holly achieved her associate degree from Eckerd College in Saint Petersburg, Florida, and graduated from Florida International University in Miami with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in international relations. Holly is an advocate for students with learning disabilities, especially those on the autism spectrum. She specializes in taking on any challenge where a student has not been able to successfully thrive in a regular academic setting. She helps students apply for accommodations and customizes subject material to incorporate new behavioral and learning strategies. Should someone observe Holly's classroom they would see students who enter, sign in, grab their folder, and after checking their learning plan, go directly to work—with no wasted time. The students know the plan because they were in on the process with Holly; they developed it together. When a student needs help, Holly provides what is needed, whether it's another way to look at a geometry problem or a shortcut to remember the steps in writing a persuasive essay. Her years of experience and constant curiosity provide her a trove of strategies from which to draw, and rather than growing dependent on Holly for her encouragement and help, Holly's students grow into independent learners. They become less and less likely to call for help before they have really thought through the problem and tried to find a solution. That commitment to thinking and problem solving builds her students' stamina and confidence, both essential in the real world. "She's the most caring, helpful, and thoughtful teacher I've ever known," states one of Holly's students, Ray Booker. COABE is proud to award Holly Heintz this year's Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award.

To learn more about COABE's prestigious award program, go to [www.coabe.org](http://www.coabe.org) or contact [awards@coabe.org](mailto:awards@coabe.org).