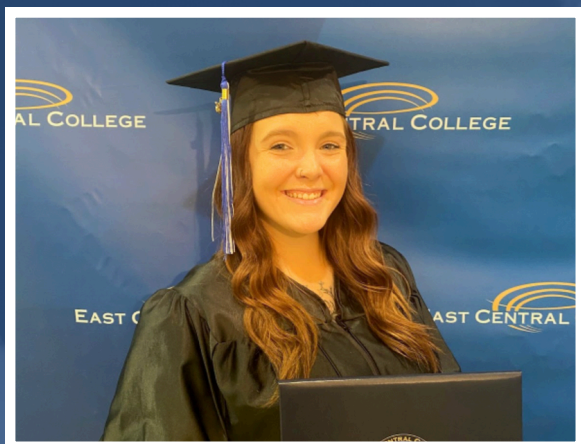




MISSOURI AEL CHANGES LIVES



EAST CENTRAL COLLEGE HELPS A MOTHER TO SUPPORT HER FAMILY

"I was a mom to 3 young kids with a husband who travels for work. I knew I wanted to do something that would allow me to create my own schedule that worked with my kids' schedule. When I went to ECC, I met a great teacher who believed in me and gave me the courage to finish my GED. I am now getting certified for lashes and nails, so I can provide for my family, have my own career doing something I love, and not miss out on my kids lives. I won't have to miss out on any of their games or events."

LITERACY KC EMPOWERS JUSTICE-INVOLVED INDIVIDUAL

"Just when I was about to give up, I found Literacy KC. They got me signed up and ready to go for classes. My experience was very positive and welcoming. I have learning disabilities and I'm on the spectrum, but everyone there made me feel welcomed and cared about! My teachers took the time to make sure that I had what I needed to be able to graduate. Literacy KC taught me to reach inside and pull out strength I didn't know I had. I learned to stop doubting myself and start dreaming again."



CROWDER COLLEGE HELPS AMERICAN NEWCOMER TO BEGIN NEW CAREER

Masoud came to Missouri as a refugee in 2023. He immediately enrolled in English Classes in order to ready himself for his new life and work. He was ambitious and spent many hours in and out of class studying the materials. When the opportunity came for a workforce training, he accepted the challenge.

He enrolled into the Crowder College Programmable Logic Computers (PLC) certificate program and joined the PLC-IET cohort, which aimed to assist the learners with the technical English that came with the training. With the added assistance from Crowder College AEL, he was able to graduate with his certificate and begin working with a Missouri employer.

TO SEE MORE STORIES OF LIVES CHANGED VISIT
[HTTPS://MAACCE.ORG/AEL-STUDENT-SUCCESS/](https://maacce.org/ael-student-success/)
OR SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION:





MISSOURI AEL WORKFORCE SOLUTION

MISSOURI AEL IS A KEY TOOL FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT!

INTEGRATED EDUCATION & TRAINING PROGRAMS

Since 2023, Missouri AEL has been ramping up its workforce education efforts through the creation of several Integrated Education & Training (IET) programs (listed below). These programs are designed to help individuals overcome barriers to education and employment by connecting basic skills instruction with occupational training in high-demand industries. Last year, 143 students earned industry recognized credentials through these IET programs. Missouri AEL also worked with several major employers in order to offer customized IETs to address skills gaps in the industry. IETs provide a valuable new avenue for more Missouri residents to access high-demand trainings.



MISSOURI EMPLOYERS ARE CONCERNED WITH THE WIDENING SKILLS GAP

Data from the National Skills Association shows that 53% of Missouri jobs fall into the mid-skill category, but only 46% of Missouri workers possess the needed skills to fill those jobs. If we are to attract new employers or to retain the ones that we have, then we must address this shortage!



MISSOURI AEL TACKLES TEACHER SHORTAGES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS!

In 2025, DESE collaborated with a group of AEL professionals to create a new integrated education and training program (IET) to address the teacher, substitute, & paraprofessional shortage in Missouri. This program was built using the content standards for educational professionals in Missouri as well as content deemed necessary for substitute teachers and paraprofessionals without any previous college credits. This program was piloted in Spring 2025 by adult education programs in Kansas City, Union, and St. Charles. This innovative new IET program creates an expanded pathway for motivated adult learners from various backgrounds to become certified as a substitute teacher/paraprofessional without any cost to the student. This program also enhances the rigor of training, includes district specific requests, and prepares students to be hired immediately into neighboring school districts. This collaboration has given each adult education program within Missouri the ability to easily train and prepare students for this work in our local K-12 and private schools.

MISSOURI INTEGRATED EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS:

Manufacturing: Forklift, Advanced Manufacturing – **Transportation:** CDL-A

Healthcare: Certified Nursing Assistant, Patient Care Technicians

Education: Paraprofessional/Substitute Teacher **Trades:** PACT Construction Certificate



MISSOURI AEL BY THE NUMBERS

12,356
STUDENTS
ENROLLED

8,032
Measurable
Skills Gains

1,383
HIGH SCHOOL
EQUIVALENCIES

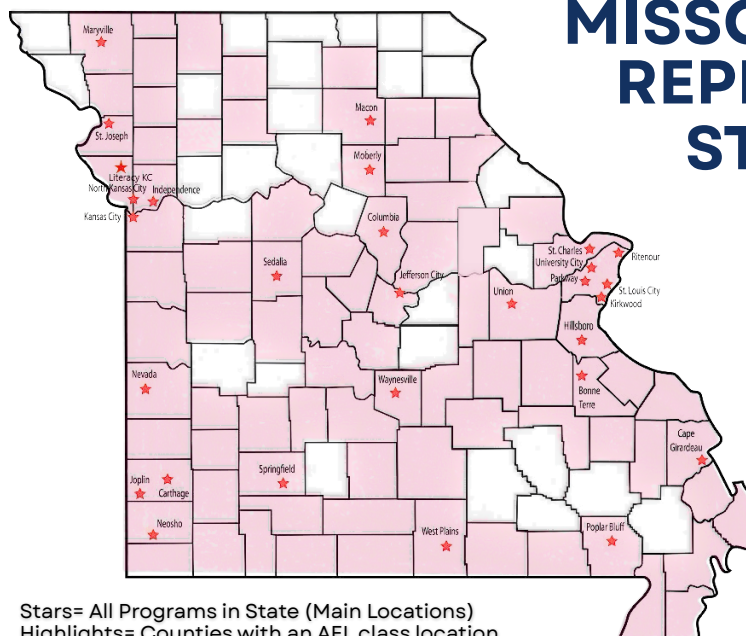
134
CREDENTIALS

#4

IN THE U.S. FOR
MEASURABLE
SKILLS GAIN
PERCENTAGE

#3

IN THE U.S. FOR
CORRECTIONS
SKILLS GAIN
PERCENTAGE

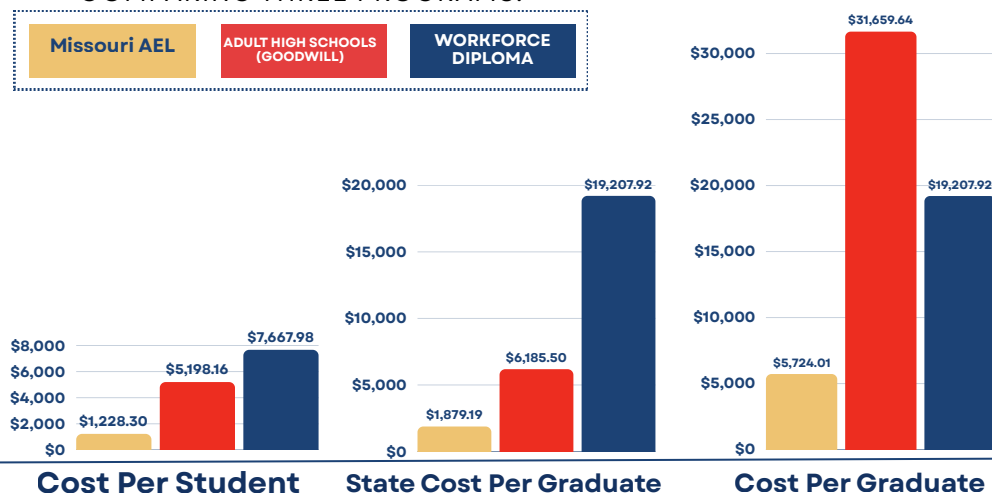


**MISSOURI AEL
REPRESENTS
STUDENTS
FROM
84
COUNTIES**

**112
CITIES
& TOWNS**

MISSOURI AEL: THE BEST RETURN ON INVESTMENT

COMPARING THREE PROGRAMS:



For sources scan QR or visit this website: <https://maacce.org/adult-education-literacy-facts/>

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT MISSOURI?

LOWER CRIME
AND RECIDIVISM

HIGHER WAGES &
TAX REVENUE

LESS RELIANCE
ON PUBLIC AID

HEALTHIER
INDIVIDUALS

