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Dominican Learning Center Seeks Solutions for Adult Literacy Crisis
*—Attending first-ever national conference on adult basic education and literacy
to represent state and local needs —*

COLUMBUS, OH – The Dominican Learning Center (1111 E. Stewart Ave, Columbus) is one of hundreds of organizations from around the country attending the first-ever national conference on adult basic education and literacy in Chicago, Ill., the week of March 15. In light of this historic conference, Dominican Learning Center is asking the people of Central Ohio to urge local Congressional representatives to support increased funding for adult education.

“With more than 90,000 adults in Columbus functionally illiterate, and with the economic struggles so many are suffering, greater attention needs to be focused on the adult literacy needs of our community,” said Sr. Shawn Fitzpatrick, OP, Director of the Center. Noting that the adult literacy crisis is estimated to impact one in seven adults in the United States, she hopes that this conference will help to draw attention to the crisis, both locally and nationally. “Federal funding is critical to our organization’s ability to help adult learners in need, and we are asking the Central Ohio community to urge our local representatives to support adult education and help make this a national priority.”

A ministry of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, the Dominican Learning Center provides free tutoring to help adults improve their skills in reading, writing, spelling, speaking, listening, mathematics, and basic computer use. The organization relies on a large pool of volunteers who conduct one-to-one weekly tutoring sessions, with training and assistance from the Center. Financial support from grants and individuals’ donations sustain the Center and enable it to provide crucial adult literacy services.

The Dominican Learning Center is a member of ProLiteracy, the world’s largest organization of adult basic education and literacy programs, with 1,200 community-based members in the U.S. The conference, co-hosted by ProLiteracy and the Commission on Adult Basic Education (COABE), will bring together more than 1,500 education experts, political leaders (including Obama administration representatives), and adult learners to discuss strategies to address funding shortages and increase collaborations as the demand for services continues to grow across the country.

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