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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. TRAILS OTHER NATIONS IN THE ABILITY TO READ
Nashville Adult Literacy Council and Nashville Public Library
Host Meeting to Brainstorm Solutions

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. – March 14, 2014 – The results from the latest international study of adult skills revealed that the U.S. workforce trails many other developed nations in the ability to read. Nationally, 32 million adults cannot read, along with 21 percent of adults reading below a fifth-grade level.

President
Nancy DeKalb

Poor literacy skills remain a problem in Nashville where one in eight adults can't read. These adults struggle with what are commonplace activities for most of us, like helping kids with homework, reading bills, answering emails, and applying for jobs.

Vice-President
Joe Buford

To address this issue, the [Nashville Adult Literacy Council](http://www.nashvilleliteracy.org) and the [Nashville Public Library](http://www.nashvillepubliclibrary.org) co-hosted a meeting on the afternoon of March 13 at the main library. Attendees included representatives of Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, Probation and Parole, Alignment Nashville, Goodwill, the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute, and the Tennessee Literacy Coalition.

Secretary
Tara Tenorio

Treasurer
Christina Lael

While many topics were discussed at this meeting, the most important subjects included the importance of public awareness that such a problem exists, the need to develop more online resources with a focus on fundamental skills, and the desire to include industry representatives in the effort to solve this problem.

Board Members
James Bradshaw
Caitlin Congdon
Jim Currey
Anthony Davis
Wayne Edwards
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Katherine Knight
Ashley Larmer
Melia Leedy
Jennifer Littlejohn
Brandt McMillan
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Mike Worrell

Feedback from the meeting will be included in the Office of Vocational and Adult Education's [Time to Reskill](http://www.timetoreskill.org) initiative as they work to develop a National Action Plan. More information about this initiative can be found online at www.timetoreskill.org.

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Executive Director
Meg Nugent

Since 1982, the Nashville Adult Literacy Council has been teaching reading to adult Americans and English to adult immigrants. Annually, they serve 1,500 learners, work with 500 volunteer tutors, and conduct 30 classes throughout the community. To find out more, visit www.nashvilleliteracy.org