

## **Future Is Bright for Literacy Activity in Scioto County**

**Susan J. McComas, Director  
Literacy Council of Scioto County**

Since the inception of the Literacy Council of Scioto County (LCSC), steps have been taken to improve literacy competencies in Scioto County. It is evident that there is a need to increase high school graduation rates and for the county to have a larger “employment ready” workforce pool. In addition, more adults need to be enabled to transition into higher education and post high school certification programs.

The mission statement of the organization including phrases such as “*fosters and supports community literacy efforts*” and “*to serve as the catalyst to improve the communication and collaboration efforts*” will give the leaders, advisors, volunteers, and community a guide to ensure the success of children, individuals, and families in Scioto County.

In the next few weeks Scioto County citizens will begin to see and hear more about literacy services. Quality literacy services that are currently available through agencies, schools, early childhood development programs, adult basic education, family literacy centers, healthcare providers, community centers, faith based organizations, shelters, tutors, libraries etc. are Scioto County’s best kept secrets.

The Board of Trustees and the Director of the LCSC encourage everyone to watch for headlines, events, and new programs. New messages encouraging adults to read with children, inviting adults to classes to improve reading skills, “learn to read and meet new friends” will be broadcast. An effort to increase awareness of the “state of literacy” in Scioto County will be evident.

In addition, new initiatives will be implemented in the future to enhance current programming. A monthly newsletter: *The Letter* is published and is a venue available to providers and advocates sharing stories and event information pertaining to literacy; a helpful website [www.literacyscioto.org](http://www.literacyscioto.org) is accessible, as well. Those who are passionate about making a difference are coming forward to show their concern and willingness to be involved.

If there is an opportunity to participate in a literacy activity through attending, contributing, or volunteering it will be the best investment of personal time and resources that you can make. Improving the literacy outlook in Scioto County will be the responsibility of everyone. Why is this all so important? Statistics prove that higher literacy competencies bring about improved quality of life for individuals and families, increased economic development, a healthier population, and a decrease in incarceration. What a return on our investment!

Through the generosity of Southern Ohio Medical Center, Shawnee State University, Portsmouth City Schools, and the Scioto Foundation the Literacy Council of Scioto County has become a reality. Its future will rely on the support of the community and beyond.

For additional information or questions regarding the Literacy Council of Scioto County and to express your interest to volunteer by serving on a committee, becoming an adult tutor, or to receive the monthly newsletter please call: **740-351-3514** or email: [smccomas@literacyscioto.org](mailto:smccomas@literacyscioto.org).

Monthly meetings (excluding December) are currently held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. in Room 253, Clark Memorial Library, Shawnee State University. Committees to participate in planning that will be available in the near future will include: public outreach, media, provider collaboration, fundraising, professional development, events, and volunteer recruitment.

Will you join us? The vision of the Literacy Council of Scioto County is to create a community in which each individual has attained a level of literacy skills needed to succeed. Together it is possible.

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