Literacy Coalition of Central Texas

Dedicated to improving the quality and increasing the availability of literacy instruction for Central Texans.

Why is literacy so important?

- 121,074 adults in Central Texas cannot read or struggle with reading.
  (2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy)

- 43% of all adults with lowest literacy levels live in poverty.
  (2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy)

- Children's success in school depends on the literacy level of their parents or guardians.

LITERACY COALITION
OF CENTRAL TEXAS
REACH · TEACH · UNITE

Literacy Illuminates
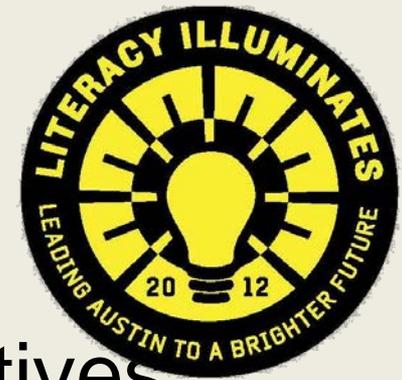
A community campaign with 3 objectives

- **Raising community awareness** of the need for literacy services in Central Texas.

- **Connecting individuals in need** to available services.

- **Helping parents** improve their children's literacy.

WERC

- Workforce and Education Readiness Continuum
- City of Austin-funded network of 13 strategic partners
- Seamlessly provide services from GED/ESL through job-readiness and college-level training
- "No wrong door" for workforce and education services

VISTA

- Capacity Building
  - Grant writing
  - Building volunteer programs
  - Building community partnerships
  - Streamlining and improving communication

Texas Family Literacy AmeriCorps

- Literacy Tutoring & Classroom Instruction
  - English as a Second Language (ESL)
  - Adult Basic Education (ABE)
  - GED
- Early Childhood
- Volunteer Engagement

Literacy Forward

- Volunteer Referrals
- Volunteer Instructor Trainings
- Classroom Resources
- Ongoing Professional Development

Direct Service Programming

- English @ Work
- Low-Level Reading
- Learner Web

Why Learner Web?

Research shows…

- One in three adults ages 16-65 lack the digital technology skills necessary to perform simple tasks such as completing online forms and navigating across multiple web pages at one time

- Using and accessing technology on the job affects a worker's earning power

- An estimated 80% of today's jobs require computer and internet use

Why Learner Web?

- Unique Features
  - Tutor-facilitated AND self-paced
  - Logins for each learner
  - Customized lessons based on geographic location, skill level, and goals

- 20 Lessons

LITERACY COALITION
OF CENTRAL TEXAS
REACH · TEACH · UNITE

Learner Web

- Individuals…
  - improve digital literacy skills
  - explore career pathways and Austin job trends
  - prepare for the new computerized GED exam

- Community Partnership
  - Workforce Solutions Capital Area
  - Austin Public Library
  - Goodwill Industries of Central Texas

LITERACY COALITION
OF CENTRAL TEXAS
REACH · TEACH · UNITE

Learner Web

Race/Ethnicity

Other 3%
Asian 6%
White 24%
Black/African American 24%
Hispanic/Latino 43%

LITERACY COALITION
OF CENTRAL TEXAS
REACH · TEACH · UNITE

Learner Web

Gender

Female 56%

Male 44%

LITERACY COALITION
OF CENTRAL TEXAS
REACH · TEACH · UNITE
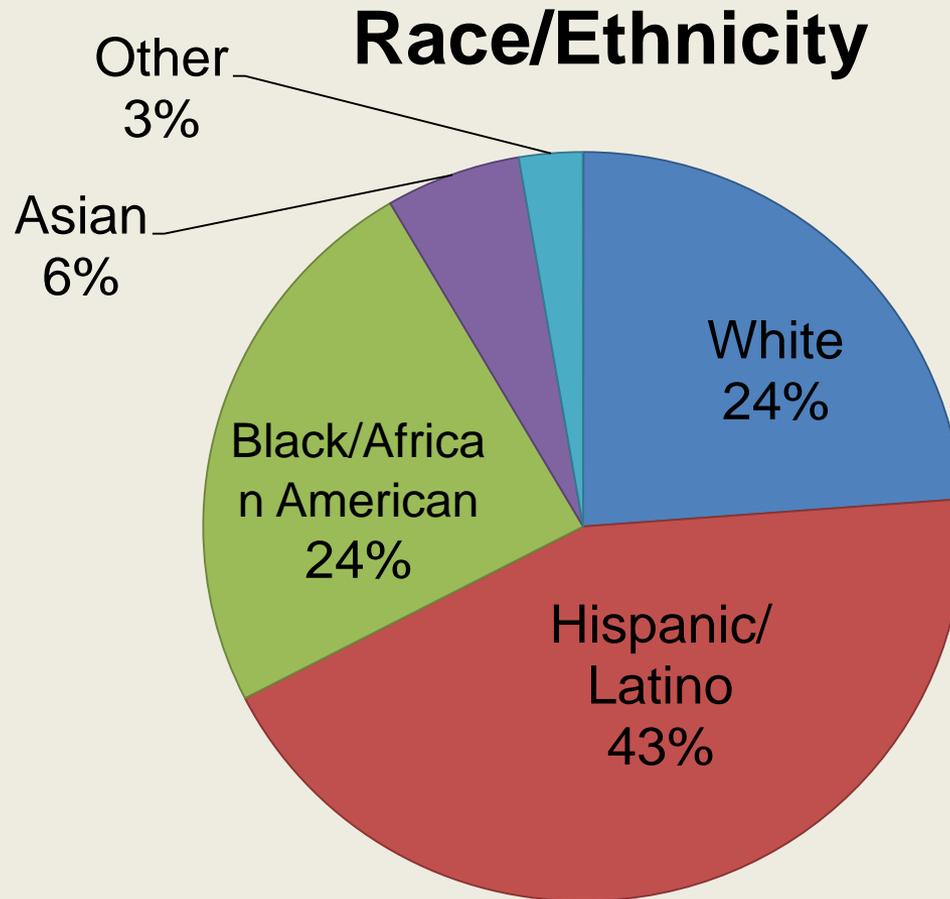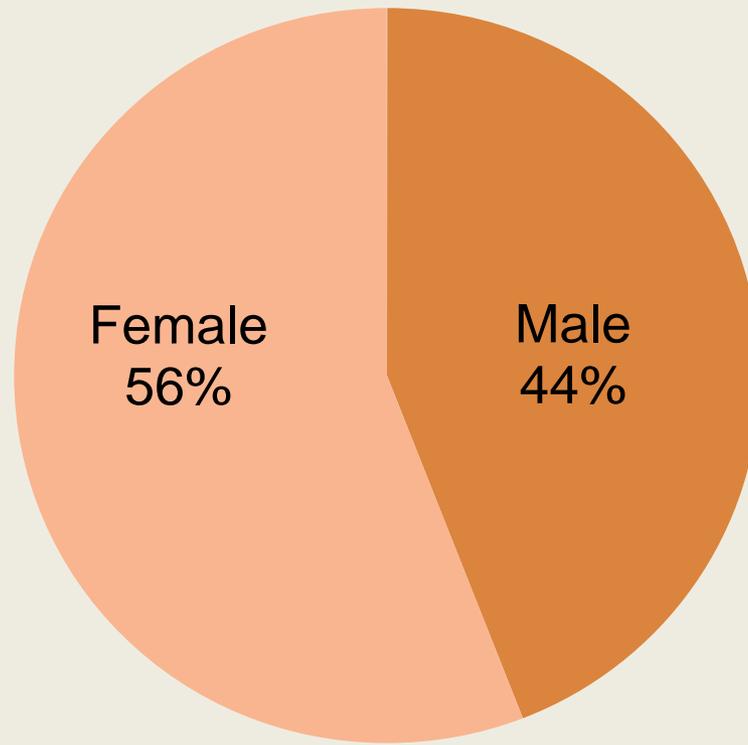
Learner Web

Highest Level of Education Completed

- Elementary School 4%
- Middle School 15%
- High School/GED 45%
- Some College 18%
- Technical/Vocational School 6%
- University Graduate 12%

LITERACY COALITION
OF CENTRAL TEXAS
REACH · TEACH · UNITE

Learner Web

Age pie chart showing learner distribution: Under 18 — 2%, 18-24 — 6%, 25-44 — 30%, 45-64 — 52%, 65+ — 10%

LITERACY COALITION
OF CENTRAL TEXAS
REACH · TEACH · UNITE
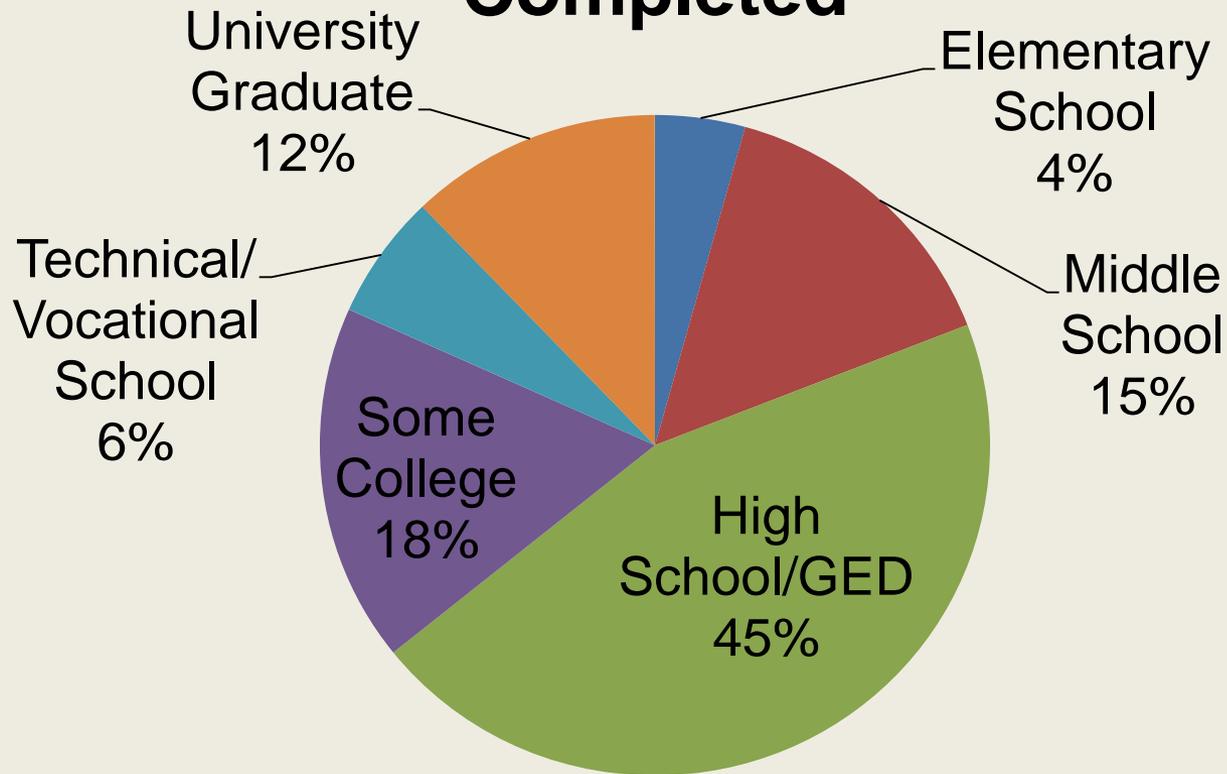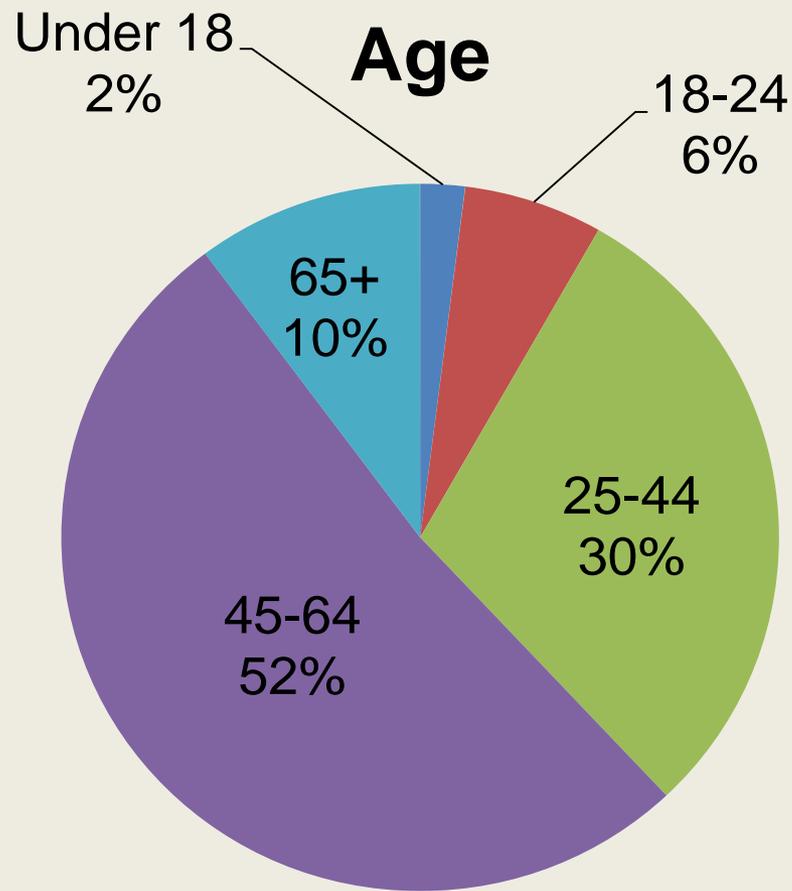
"There's a whole world in the computer and I didn't know that. I suspected it, but I had no idea how to access any of it. But these classes showed me how."

-Learner Web Student
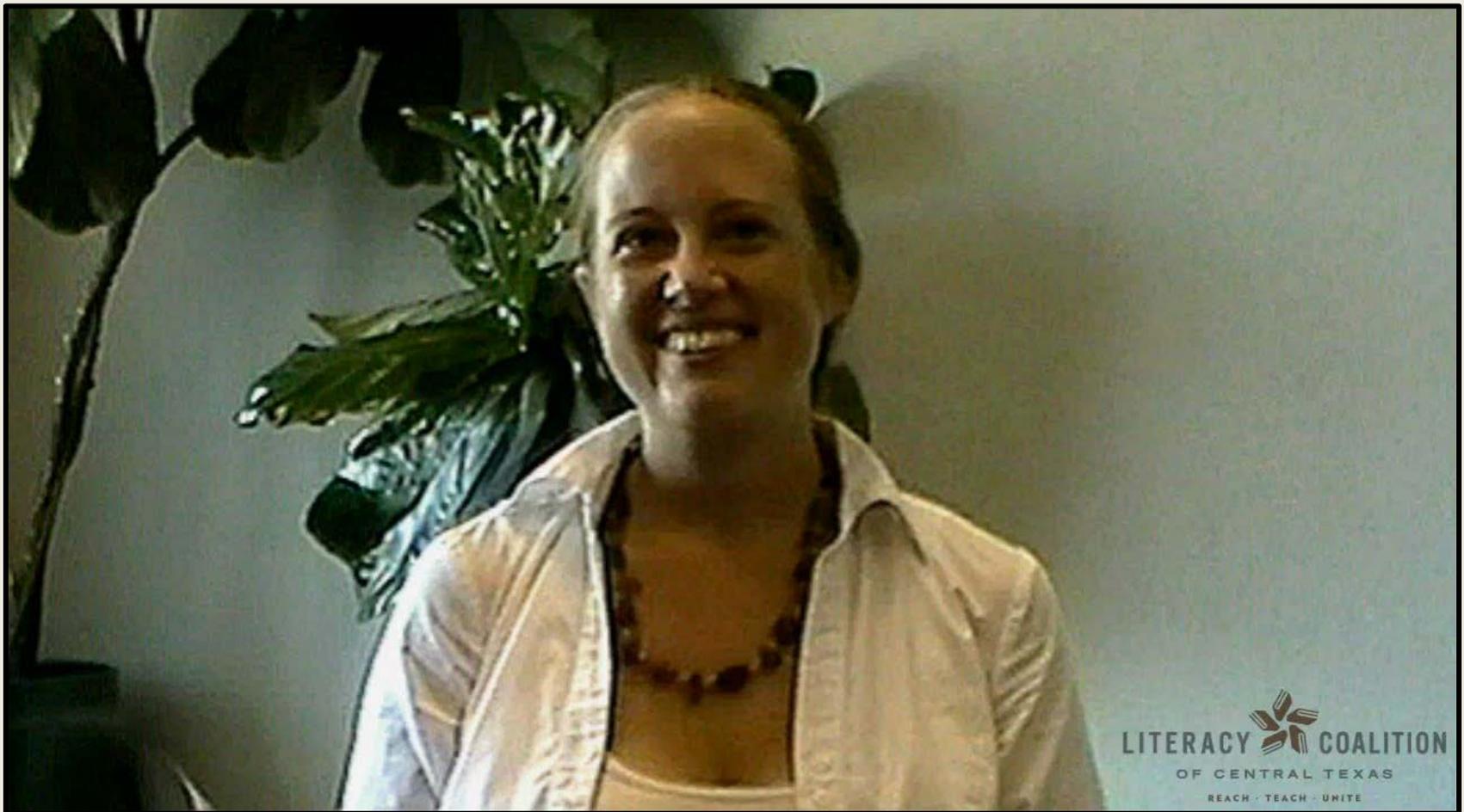
I'm entering university in the fall. And I'm going to use the computer for I suppose all my classes, any research I'm going to do."

-Learner Web Student

Thank You!

Wendy Taylor Wampler

Director of Literacy Support Services

wtwampler@willread.org

www.willread.org

LITERACY COALITION

OF CENTRAL TEXAS

REACH · TEACH · UNITE