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Durham Literacy Center and Achievement Academy of Durham announce merger

Programs at both organizations will continue uninterrupted

[DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA, Wednesday July 18, 2018] As of July 13, 2018, Durham Literacy Center and Achievement Academy of Durham (AAD) have merged into a single organization under Durham Literacy. All programs will continue as usual, uninterrupted, and are currently welcoming new volunteers and students.

As a combined organization, Durham Literacy will continue to empower Durham County residents who want to improve their lives and the lives of their families by improving their literacy skills as it has done since its founding in 1985.

The merger brings the strength of AAD's classroom approach of its High School Equivalency program to an organization whose services include:

- Teaching adults to read and write
- Providing English classes for immigrant and refugee adults
- Tutoring to prepare out-of-school youth (ages 16-24 years old) and adult learners to pass high school equivalency tests, such as the GED[®], and improve workforce readiness

- Teaching Durham adults basic computer skills
- Providing high school equivalency and job-readiness/life skills classes for incarcerated individuals at the Durham County Detention Center

“I’m excited about how this merger will help us have an even greater impact in Durham and promote the sustainability of our mission. Our collective student body will have more options to get their high school equivalency diplomas. Graduates of these programs are able to get better jobs, support their families and participate more fully in the community,” said Durham Literacy Executive Director Lizzie Ellis-Furlong.

“This is a perfect match because both organizations are so passionate about serving the people who live in this community and changing their lives through education,” said former AAD Executive Director Nancy Cox, who will continue to contribute as a consultant to Durham Literacy throughout the transition.

Durham Literacy Center is the leading independent organization dedicated to providing free literacy services to adults and out-of-school youth in Durham County (www.durhamliteracy.org).
Achievement Academy of Durham is a free, non-profit program for students pursuing high school equivalency (www.achievedurham.org).

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If you would like more information about this topic, please call Lizzie Ellis-Furlong at (919) 489-8383, or email info@durhamliteracy.org.