

September 28, 2004

To the Editor:

More than 4 million adults in Illinois lack reading, math, or language skills sufficient to maintain a job or function effectively in their communities (Adult Literacy Survey). Residents of the Parkland district who fit this description can obtain help from the college's Project READ tutors.

Project READ trains volunteers to provide individual and group instruction for adults needing to improve reading or language skills. Although the program recently received \$65,000 in additional grant funding, there's still a need for more community residents willing to be trained as tutors.

Over the years, the Project READ staff has trained hundreds of volunteer tutors—dedicated men and women who have, in turn, spent thousands of hours working with adults 16 and older who read at the lowest literacy levels. The staff also works closely with local libraries and community organizations to recruit volunteers.

We need adult literacy services such as Project READ throughout all the 12 counties served by Parkland College. It has been said that “literacy is the foundation of a civilized society,” and it is certain that committed volunteer tutors increase the literacy levels in Parkland's district. Anyone wanting more information about Project READ or how to volunteer may call Parkland's Adult Education/Literacy Center at 217/351-2580.

Sincerely,

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