

Good afternoon.

My name is Joel Henriquez Acosta, and I'm here to share how learning English through the I-LEAD Adult Education Center in Allentown has changed my life.

Before I started these classes, I struggled with English. I felt nervous when I had to talk to people, and I didn't feel confident. But when I joined the English program at I-LEAD, with my teacher, Ms. Amy Markwood, things began to change. She and my classmates helped me improve every day. My speaking, reading, and understanding of English all got better.

Because of these classes, I can communicate better. I have more opportunities. I feel proud of myself. I have more confidence, and I know I can do even more in the future. Learning English has truly made a difference in my life.

There are many people like me in the Latino community who want this same opportunity. They want to work hard, get better jobs, and take care of their families. But without knowing English, it's very hard. These classes give us the skills we need to succeed. They help us find better jobs, earn more money, and feel proud of what we can achieve.

But we need more classes. Right now, there aren't enough English programs for everyone who needs them. That's why we desperately need more funding for programs like the one at I-LEAD. More funding means more people can join these classes, improve their lives, and help our community grow.

Thank you for listening to my story, and I hope you will support more funding for English programs. It's important for people like me and for our entire community.

Thank you.