



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT**

March 31, 2021
Roberta Soolman
617-482-6223
508-479-4388
litvolma@aol.com

MCAE Presents Outstanding Student Award to ABE Student Rafaela Joseph of Worcester

BOSTON, MA – The Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education (MCAE) recently presented the annual Outstanding Student Award to Rafaela Joseph of Worcester, MA. Ms. Joseph is a student at Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester (LVGW) and at Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) studying English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). She also works as a Program Assistant at LVGW, where she helps new students access similar classes, and according to the staff, “she has made it her personal mission to make each student feel welcomed, valued, and encouraged.”



MCAE Board President Roberta Soolman presented the award to Rafaela Joseph in a ceremony held via Zoom.

[Watch the award ceremony video here](#)

knew that mastering the English language was the first step she needed to take...I am continually impressed by Rafaela’s work ethic and fortitude. Rafaela is a responsible, well organized, and driven young professional.” In nominating Ms. Joseph, the LVGW Executive Director, Elyse Waksman, said “Rafaela is an outstanding student who inspires and supports others, while remaining committed to her own educational and career pursuits. She exceeds expectations as an exemplary student and employee.”

During the award ceremony, Ms. Joseph shared some thoughts about her journey. “It wasn’t easy to start over in the United States, away from my family...I was so concerned about starting over despite having studied for a bachelor’s degree...and some English classes in Brazil...I have many personal and professional plans for example starting my Master’s degree and becoming a citizen. But the first job is to help people. This is what motivates me to continue to study every day. I see an opportunity to learn in all things, even my challenges.”

Upon emigrating to the United States from Brazil in 2018, Ms. Joseph held a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration from a top university in Brazil and had over ten years of financial and administrative experience, but she found herself working as a cashier without much room for career growth due to her lack of English language skills. While getting her degree accredited here in the U.S., she enrolled in a certificate program at QCC in both Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable and QuickBooks.

In supporting her nomination, Ms. Joseph’s program advisor at QCC shared that she “immediately stood out amongst her peers in the classroom. She is steadfastly determined to build a successful career for herself and she

The MCAE Outstanding Student Award is presented annually to an ABE student who has improved the life situation(s) of self/others as a result of the learning/teaching experience; demonstrated leadership within the teaching/learning environment; met significant challenges in an effective way; and been supportive of others engaged in teaching or learning in the field of adult education.

Based in Boston, MCAE is a statewide membership organization dedicated to championing the right of all adults to acquire the 21st century literacy, English language, and numeracy skills that lead to economic prosperity, strong families, and vibrant communities. Since 1992, MCAE has advanced quality adult basic education in the Commonwealth through professional development opportunities, strategic communications, and sophisticated advocacy. Its annual NETWORK Conference is the largest gathering of its kind in New England and routinely attracts more than 500 adult education professionals from across the Massachusetts and beyond. For more about MCAE, visit www.mcae.net.

###