

PALO ALTO



Date: December 8, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dave Hoshiwara
Phone Number: (650) 329-3752

Palo Alto Adult School receives International Award for Most Successful Online class

Palo Alto Adult School has been awarded the Most Successful Online Class award by the Learning Resources Network (LERN), an international association in lifelong learning. The Adult School's Intermediate Genealogy entry was recognized in a showcase of exemplary educational programs at the LERN Annual Conference held virtually this year on November 16-19, 2020.

"Our International Awards are for innovation in the field of lifelong learning and serving our communities," noted LERN President William A. Draves. "With more than 100 award nominations every year from multiple countries, receiving an International Award is an outstanding achievement."

The Online Class category was introduced this year in response to a major shift in education delivery due to COVID-19. Student feedback and teacher innovations were important criteria for this award. Adult School instructor, Christine Green used many Zoom video communications features in the Live Online version of her Genealogy class. One of her students, James Sutherland states, "Christine Green's Genealogy Class is excellent. We are able to ask questions online as easily as in-person. The online version of the class enables students to easily share their written materials via the shared screen function. Students also save lots of time by the elimination of traffic and commuting problems. Saving of Chat inputs also aids in more error-free note taking of students' comments."

Another student, Susie Hodges sees the positive in some of the transitions to an online class. She shares, "People in the class have always been helpful about sharing resources and tips, but usually it occurred in small groups. Now that we are on Zoom and only one person can ask for advice or assistance at a time, we are able to benefit from the shared knowledge of ALL class members as well as Christine. My favorite thing about the class is being part of an intellectually active and engaged community of life long learners who are happy to share their expertise and lessons learned."

Palo Alto Adult School Principal, Dave Hoshiwara states, "We strive for the highest quality in all of our programs. I am very proud that we were able to transition to Live Online classes during this difficult period. It is truly an honor to be recognized on an international level by the LERN organization."

For information on Palo Alto Adult School, contact Principal Dave Hoshiwara at 650-329-3752 or by email at dhoshiwara@pausd.org. For more information on the LERN organization, visit www.lern.org or call 1-800-678-5376.

About Palo Alto Adult School

Palo Alto Adult School (PAAS) was established by the Palo Alto Unified School District in 1921. PAAS is committed to excellence in providing a broad range of educational programs that meet the diverse lifelong learning needs of our community. The Adult School's goals are to support a skilled workforce, successful schools and a vibrant community by providing programs in English as a Second Language (ESL), Career Technical Education, Parent Education and Community Education. Palo Alto Adult School is self-supporting and annually serves a student population of more than 5000 students. For additional information, visit the PAAS web site at www.paadultschool.org.