**Talking points for possible funders of adult education**

**“Adult illiteracy is a fundamental barrier to every major challenge facing Kentucky, including early childhood education, education reform, economic development, and improving the health and well-being of Kentucky’s families and communities.” – The Adult Education Act of 2000.**

**Program History**

Boone County Adult Education started in 1978. At that time instructors would visit students in their homes to do individual tutoring. Later in history, programs would operate on a drop in basis. Students would come and go as they pleased and instructors would hop from table to table to help them with their studies. Currently, the program operates on a managed enrollment platform. Students are required to attend a new student orientation and attend classes, if they need them. These classes are taught by faculty members of Gateway Community and Technical College. Our mission use to be solely helping students obtain their GED® and improve their basic skills now we are that and much more.

The program delivers English as a second language to international students trying to acclimate to our culture and workforce. We assist international students in learning to read, write and speak the English language for work so they can be more productive and provide the services that local employers need. Our services also assist them in helping their children at school. The more involved parents can be and the better able they are to assist in their children’s education the better off the children will be.

**Services**

Boone County Adult Education offers the following programs:

GED® – high school equivalency which can elevate a person’s employment, allow them to continue to postsecondary education and play a more active role in the lives of their families.

English as a second language – helps international residents learn the English language so they can become a full member of the community in which they live and work

GED+Plus - dual enrollment in the GED® program while taking a college course.

Workplace Skills – workplace skills are incorporated into each of our adult education classes. Class requirements can mimic those of the workplace, being on time, appropriate or no use of cell phone, working as a group, working independently and last but not least an attendance policy. Soft skills are vital for the workplace.

Kentucky Skills U (Boone County Adult Education) is committed to ensuring that Kentucky adults have the opportunity to earn the credentials they need (including the GED® diploma) to gain the long-term employment in high-demand fields that provide sustainable wages. Of additional concern is the fact that low-skilled adults are two times more likely to be unemployed, three times more likely to live in poverty, four times as likely to be in poor health, and eight times as likely to be incarcerated. Through their services, Kentucky Skills U (Boone County Adult Education) helps individuals enact transformational, generational changes that not only affect the individuals themselves, but their families, their communities and the Commonwealth.

**Facts**

Give Kentucky Skills U profile provided by the state

**Costs**

Boone County Adult Education provides services for free but the cost of the GED® test can be a burden for some students. If not for the free services adult education offers, many of our students would not be able to seek out our services and the cost of the tests can stop them dead in their tracks. Each test costs $30.00 which is a total of $120.00 for all required tests. It’s a shame that $120.00 could make the difference between getting a much needed GED® and not getting a GED®. Will you help us make an investment in our students and our community? Any donation is greatly appreciated. All funds will only be used to purchase GED® test vouchers for Boone County Adult Education students.