



**SPCLC serves as a vital and energizing educational force, helping New Americans learn English, teaching skills needed to transition into the workforce and higher education, and strengthening families to support K12 academic achievement.**

**Employers identify lack of qualified workers as the biggest barrier to economic growth in Minnesota.** As massive Baby Boomer retirements loom over the next 15 years, the lack of trained replacement workers will become acute. SPCLC, realizing the potential role for Adult Basic Education in helping address this reality, is expanding activities in programs to help adult learners gain the skills they will need to fill available jobs. For instance:



- ◆ The national **Work Readiness Credential** is being piloted in Minnesota through St. Paul Public Schools Adult Learning. The Credential assesses applied skills and skills that employers need. It will help identify the best candidates for entry-level jobs, while assuring that new workers have the capabilities and knowledge to become valued workers and progress within their careers.

- ◆ **An intensive training program for displaced workers**, provided through Lifetrack Resources under contract with Dakota County Technical College. Students, who worked in a manufacturing facility for several years before it closed, are intensely studying English language and literacy, computer technology, and math skills, all designed to help workers gain jobs comparable to those held previously.

- ◆ Providers are working to help New Americans gain **specific communication skills** needed to successfully complete professional training courses. For instance, a pre-Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) course through the Hubbs Center helps refugees and immigrants gain needed vocabulary, reading skills, background knowledge. In a recent class, all 18 students who took the Hubbs course then passed CNA training – a highly unusual success rate.

The St. Paul Community Literacy Consortium is larger (in budget and clients served) than the entire adult education programs of 12 states, including both Dakotas and Iowa, as well as Delaware, Indiana, Kansas, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Utah, and Vermont.

SPCLC includes 13 community based non-profit adult literacy providers representing diverse ethnic, refugee, immigrant, and linguistic groups, Saint Paul Public Schools Adult Learning, Lifetrack Resources, and the Saint Paul Public Library.