MCAEL Hosts Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious May 3 Event

Grown-up spelling bee isn’t your typical fundraiser

Silver Spring, MD – MCAEL, the coordinating entity for all adult English language programs in Montgomery County, MD, hosts its 8th Annual Grown-Up Spelling Bee fundraiser on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 from 6:30-8:30 pm.

Hosted by Fox 5’s Maureen Umeh at Montgomery College’s Cultural Arts Center in Silver Spring, MD, the event offers something for everyone: a way to support essential programming for Montgomery County’s adult English language learners, while watching local pre-selected teams of adult spellers attempt to correctly spell challenging words aloud. Sponsors fielding teams include Burness, MoCo360, Montgomery College, BGE, the Next Execs from the Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce, CareFirst and M &T! Who’s to say what happens if the moderator throws out a next-level supercalifragilisticexpialidocious word?

“We thank our incredible supporters and look forward to this event every year, as it offers our community the chance to support important programming for our adult learners and enjoy a really fun, light-hearted program,” said MCAEL’s Executive Director Kathy Stevens. “The world is hard these days for many people; learning English as an adult is hard. The Spelling Bee offers a reprise from that, with lots of laughs and good-spirited reactions to this low-pressure bee. Truly everyone wins at the end of the day, from our happy audience to the appreciative adult learners, programs and instructors who benefit from the fundraiser.”

In addition to the Spelling Bee, MCAEL will recognize two outstanding recipients of the People, Power, and Potential Award: Emily Cordell, a volunteer with Christ Episcopal Church ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Program, and Yvonne Ellis, the volunteer program manager of the Seneca Creek Community Church ESOL program. Their work exemplifies the power of the people who make up the MCAEL coalition, one that supports nearly 60 adult ESOL and literacy programs serving approximately 11,000 adult learners.

Attendees will enjoy delicious local treats at Montgomery College’s Cultural Arts Center beginning at 6:30 pm, followed by the awards presentation and Spelling Bee, which includes three celebrity judges: Pedro Biaggi, from La Nueva 87.7; Dexter Manley, a former NFL star who is representing the Dexter & Lydia Manley Foundation; and Lily Qi, Maryland State Delegate from District 15. The evening’s co-pronouncers are linguist Robin Barr from American University.
and Karen Taylor de Caballero, Co-Author of The Color Vowel Chart. Special guests include the Bee and the Bee Keeper!

More information, ticket sales and sponsorships can be found at [www.mcael.org/mcael-spelling-bee](http://www.mcael.org/mcael-spelling-bee).

Leading event sponsors include Burness, MoCo 360, Montgomery College, M & T, CareFirst, BGE, National Cooperative Bank, Universities at Shady Grove, Cambium, Lerch Early & Brewer, Streamline Management, Tenleytown Lawn and Landscape, Saggar & Rosenberg, and Advance Business Systems. If you think your company has what it takes to steal the trophy from defending champion Montgomery College, contact kstevens@mcael.org to sponsor a team.

**About MCAEL**

MCAEL is a community coalition of public, nonprofit, and business partners that support nearly 60 adult ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages), more than 1,000 instructors and staff, and approximately 11,000 adult learners. MCAEL’s mission is to strengthen and build adult English language learning programs and instruction to further individual and family success at work, school and in the community. For more information, please visit [www.mcael.org](http://www.mcael.org).