

Janet Isserlis

It's hard to imagine what the Rhode Island Adult Education landscape would look like without the presence of Janet Isserlis, of the Rhode Island Adult Education Professional Development Center and the Swearer Center for Public Service at Brown University. For many decades, Janet has helped train, educate and support adult literacy practitioners in Rhode Island. She has been instrumental in expanding professional development opportunities and assisting in improving the delivery of services to all adult learners – including Adult immigrants and refugees. Her work has positively impacted the lives of thousands of Adult learners in our state.

For many years, Janet nearly singlehandedly organized the RI Adult Education Conference, and has consistently connected Rhode Island educators to excellent PD opportunities and initiatives from organizations like World Education, Nellie Mae, and the US Department of Education. Besides teaching students, and training educators, she has also been an incredible advocate for adult education at the state and national level.

Janet is also a respected author. Her many publishing credits include A co-author of Making Connections: A Literacy and EAL Curriculum from a Feminist Perspective, she has written about trauma and learning, assessment and practitioner research. Janet has also been a Literacy Leadership fellow of the National Institute for Literacy.

Janet's contributions have helped build and develop the ever expanding world of Adult Education services in RI, leaving a lasting impact on learners and practitioners in our state. Because of this, we at RITELL are so pleased to present our first annual Adult Practitioner Award to Janet Isserlis, 2013.