

Learning Resource Program

Newsletter



May 2026

A Note from the Directors

It is said that time flies when you are having fun, but it turns out it flies even faster when you are hard at work. While our bi-annual newsletter schedule took a bit of a sabbatical, it is because we have been so busy at the Learning Resource Program (LRP). We are thrilled to be back in your inbox. We have well over a year of wins, stories and growth to catch up on. These are all possible because of you. Thank you for being such an integral part of the LRP community. Enjoy the update!

With gratitude,

Diann Cameron Kelly, Interim Director and Associate Provost of Student Success

Krista Diaso, Associate Director



Launch of Executive Function Coaching

This academic year the LRP took a major step forward by introducing executive function coaching as a program service. First-year students, as well as interested returning students, were scheduled for individual weekly coaching sessions, along with twice a week learning specialist sessions. The addition of this service was designed to address the particular challenges in time management, task initiation and sustained attention often experienced by students with a learning difference. Emily Tullo, previously a Clinical Educator transitioned into the position of Executive Function Coach, guiding students with dedication. In addition to individual coaching sessions, Emily offered weekly workshops on such topics as Body Doubling and Routines for Regulation. Due to its success, planning for next year includes expanding the availability of executive function coaching. This will allow us to continue supporting this year's engaged students while also welcoming our incoming students into this service model.

A Place to Thrive

When students returned from Spring Break, they were welcomed into a reimagined space. Thanks to the generosity of our 2025 Giving Day donors, the former Student Computer Lab has been transformed into the LRP Learning Lounge. Freshly painted and outfitted with warm overhead lighting to replace the harsh fluorescent glare, the room is designed to support students in how they learn best. This neuroinclusive study hub features a variety of flexible seating and movement options, such as active sitting stools, rocking chairs, a standing desk and an under the desk pedal foot swing. The transformation was made possible through the collaboration with our university partners in Facilities Management, Purchasing and Advancement. In just a few short weeks, this underutilized lab is now a high-traffic space for independent focus and collaborative student study.



Student Spotlight: Luke Davis

The LRP community is shining a light on Luke Davis '27, who was recently recognized by the Communication Department for his incredible talent in filmmaking. This May, Luke won Second Best Film in the Adelphi Student Fall Film & Video Festival for his piece, *The Wanted Dead*. This impressive nod follows his Best Film win last May in the very same university festival.

The LRP has been fortunate to see Luke in action through his student employment as an Adelphi Social Media Team Member and Content Creator. Most notably, Luke directed, produced, and starred in *Welcome to The Learning Resource Program*. The video was recently featured on the main Adelphi University Instagram account (@adelphiu) and permanently resides on our own feed (@adelpi_lrp). Congratulations, Luke, and thank you for sharing your talents to help tell the LRP story. We can't wait to watch your next film!



A Lasting Legacy, Introducing Arturo Iriarte and Susan Parks Iriarte

We are thrilled to celebrate a new chapter of generosity at the LRP. Arturo Iriarte MA '67 and Susan Parks Iriarte '66, Adelphi "met and married" alumni, have established **The Parks and Iriarte Learning Resource Program Endowed Scholarship Fund**. The Iriartes' roots at Adelphi run deep. Susan's father, Stuart Parks, was the head track and field coach and an Associate Professor for Physical Education at Adelphi for many years. Through him, the family formed a close friendship with Janet Ficke. Arturo and Susan remain deeply connected to the university, contributing annually to the Ficke Golf Outing and supporting Adelphi at the leadership level for the last several years.

With this new endowed scholarship, Arturo and Susan wanted to create a lasting legacy that honors their parents, Stuart and Florence Parks and Ulises and Lilia Iriarte. Drawing from his background in special education, Arturo was driven to support students enrolled in the LRP, where a student's first step into a college classroom is likely already a victory hard won for them and their families. This fund will provide financial assistance to full-time LRP students with demonstrated need. We are grateful to Arturo and Susan for their support, and we officially welcome them to the LRP community.

Fond Farewells and Warm Welcomes

The LRP has been fortunate to have a strong staff to shape our community. As we catch up on the semesters since our last newsletter, we want to recognize some shifts within our staff.

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to Lauren Lavoie, Dashnyam Puntsagnorov, Emmy Caravella, Dennis Cowan and Jade Tabor who have moved on from the LRP. We are grateful for the footprint they left on our program and wish them the absolute best.

As we said farewell to familiar faces, we are also thrilled to introduce those who have stepped into LRP positions. Please join us in giving a warm welcome to Clinical Educator, Samantha Kolb and Math Tutors, Mustafa Shadman and Santiago Rodriguez. We are proud of the driven team we have to serve our students today.

Caps Off to LRP Graduates!

It's May and the LRP community is bursting with pride as we celebrate our students reaching the milestone of graduation. For the 2024-25 academic year, we celebrated 19 undergraduate graduates and 1 masters-level graduate. This academic year, we honored 1 December graduate and were thrilled to watch 7 LRP students cross the stage at the May commencement. This is a momentous time to honor their academic success and personal growth. We wish them well as they step forward as confident professionals into the world of work.

A special acknowledgement to two of our May graduates, Sierra McDaniel and Thomas Pezzella, for their exceptionally high level of academic achievement throughout their undergraduate journeys.



Sierra and Thomas are this year's recipients of the **Barbaro Award**, a financial award recognizing their success.

Congratulations to all of our graduates! You will always have a home at the LRP.

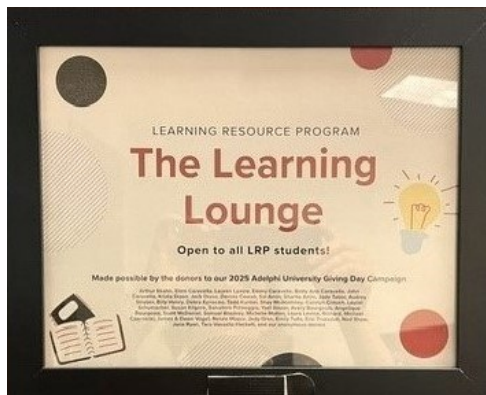
Celebrating Our Giving Day Success

The LRP has been incredibly fortunate to participate in Adelphi's annual Giving Day campaigns, and the results have been transformative for our students. Our 2025 campaign reached an unprecedented \$11,300. This milestone, bolstered by a generous \$2,750 donor match, allowed us to strengthen our Immediate Impact Fund, providing much-needed scholarships and emergency financial assistance. Also this giving reimagined our physical program space. The former Student Computer Lab has now been officially transformed into the Learning Lounge, a welcoming environment designed to support access for all LRP learners.

This most recent Giving Day again exceeded our goal, raising \$7,150. The 2026 campaign was particularly meaningful as it included a \$2,500 gift from **AU Board Trustee, Nicholas Iadevaio Jr., MBA'00 and his wife, Susan Iadevaio**. We are also grateful for the repeated generosity of our anonymous donor for their \$2,750 match.

This year we introduced High 5 to the LRP!, a fun initiative that encouraged \$5 donations from students and families to show the collective power of our community. The response was heart warming. These gifts, combined with our major donors, ensure that for the coming 2026-27 academic year, we can replenish the Immediate Impact Fund for scholarships and emergency aid to students. We will also be able to continue office upgrades to include additional collaborative student spaces with flexible seating.

Thank you for believing in the LRP.



Your Generosity in Action

Investing in a college education is a significant commitment, one that is often amplified for students in support programs. At the LRP, our goal is to ensure that finances never stand in the way of the education and services our students deserve. This academic year we are grateful to have provided several demonstrated need scholarships. Two students were awarded support through the **Driscoll Family Scholarship** and the **Lenore Nemirow LRP Scholarship**. They joined two additional students who are benefitting from their second year of the renewable awards from the **Brian McGovern Learning Resource Program Scholarship** and the **Endowed Kiken Family Scholarship**.

Thanks to the incredible generosity during Giving Day 2025 five additional students were awarded a one-time \$1,000 Immediate Impact Scholarship this academic year. Also our Immediate Impact Fund provided assistance to students facing financial hurdles to their academic success. We are excited to carry this momentum forward. Using funds raised during our recent Giving Day 2026, students will have an opportunity to apply for a new round of Immediate Impact awards this coming Fall.

Staff at the LRP

Administration: Interim Director Diann Cameron Kelly, Associate Director Krista Diaso, Administrative Assistant Sandra Renee Moore-Washington, Student Employee Gabrielle Jaipersaud

Learning Specialists: Senior Clinical Educator Glenn Suchy, Senior Clinical Educator Erin Truesdell, Clinical Educator Samantha Kolb

Executive Function Coach: Emily Tullo

Math Tutors: Mustafa Shadman, Santiago Rodriguez

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Follow the LRP on Instagram

We now have an official Adelphi University Instagram account to keep our community connected. Follow us at [adelphi_lrp](https://www.instagram.com/adelphi_lrp) for a mix of important program updates, event highlights and celebrations of our amazing students. Stay connected and see what makes the LRP so special.

Our inaugural post features *Welcome to The Learning Resource Program*, a video directed, produced, and starred in by this newsletter's Student Spotlight, Luke Davis. In the video, Luke highlights how the dedicated staff and services at the LRP have helped him and fellow LRP student, Katie Higgins, experience success at the Adelphi.