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It is with great pleasure that the NJ Association for Lifelong Learning presents the **2024 President's Award to Gary Altman.**

Gary has been working in the field of workforce development, job training and adult education for the past 43 years. In that time, he has worked in Passaic County and in Trenton, and through his positions has traveled throughout the country, and worked with colleagues nationwide. Because he lives in North Jersey his commuting time has surpassed a visit to the moon and back! This impressive travel record has always been in the pursuit of improving the education and job opportunities for New Jersey adults.

Gary began working at the Passaic County Employment and Training Administration. He served in several administrative positions, first in Passaic County, and then in the New Jersey Department of Labor. A self-described "policy wonk", the core of Gary's vision was a commitment to enhancing programs and services by offering customers foundational resources they needed for lifelong success, including crucial basic skills and literacy. He established adult basic education and ESL programs within the Passaic One Stop, as well as linking to Youth Corps and adult providers. In Passaic County as well as in Trenton, Gary was always available to offer guidance and assistance wherever it was needed.

Of course, Gary is also known for his partnership with Howard Weiss of Essex County in bringing comic presentations to GSETA conferences. The Howard and Gary Show provided a satiric, tongue in cheek, and very entertaining view of the status of workforce services in NJ—definitely a highlight that all looked forward to.

More recently, Gary worked for the State Employment and Training Commission, and through that, served as Executive Director of SCALES, the State Council for Adult Literacy Education Services. He once again proved himself to be a knowledgeable and important friend to the adult education community.

All those working in adult education in New Jersey will miss Gary's help, guidance, commitment, and expertise. We are delighted to present him with this well-deserved award.

New Jersey Association for Lifelong Learning  
PO Box 125, Allenhurst, NJ  
email: [njall@njall.org](mailto:njall@njall.org)  
website: [www.njall.org](http://www.njall.org)