

LETTERS

More English classes needed

April 13, 2006

Carolyn Y. Johnson's article describing long waiting lists for English classes ("Language Barriers," Globe South, April 6) highlights one of many barriers facing vulnerable workers.

I work at an adult education program in Boston. Although the majority of our students are from Boston, some travel from as far as Brockton and Dedham in order to participate in our program. We see the ever-increasing language and educational needs of adults struggling to move out of poverty. Funds to meet these needs simply don't keep pace; the demand across the state has far outgrown capacity.

John Schneider's assessment that the future will depend on a collaboration of public and private partnerships is correct. The investment will surely pay off. Education leads to good jobs with decent wages, a sense of belonging, stronger families, and a better community. Essentially, education leads to transformation, which is something that happens every day here at Project Hope.

Patricia Hembrough
Director of Project Hope Adult Learner Program in Dorchester ■