

## **Adult Literacy Hearing**

On May 11, CFL tutor coordinator Vann Delaine (on left) and student Fred Richardson (on right) traveled to Harrisburg to attend the Senate Education Committee's hearing on adult literacy. Opening remarks were given by Chairman Sen. Lloyd Smucker, a Republican representing Lancaster and York counties, who emphasized the transformational impact of adult literacy programs.

The testimony was organized by Pennsylvania Association for Adult Continuing Education (PAACE). JoAnn Weinberger, former president/executive director, CFL, is co-chair of PAACE's Public Policy Committee and gave testimony that included three policy recommendations:

1. Additional resources are needed. I understand that this is a difficult request; however, I hope you will support Governor Wolf's request for an additional \$3 million in our line item. This will not bring us back to the 2007-08 appropriation, but it will be start in the right direction.
2. New options for adults to attain the Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma or a high school diploma should be explored. Other states have adopted competency-based programs as well as adult charter schools. Multiple pathways are important.
3. The Adult Basic and Literacy Education Interagency Coordinating Council, created under Act 42 of 1996, should be reactivated. Its goals of improving the delivery and outcomes of adult basic and literacy education services, and developing the communications strategies to increase awareness and benefits of basic skills services, continue to be important in utilizing the Commonwealth's resources.