Non-traditional No More: Policy Solutions for Adult Learners

WICHE-facilitated Meeting
Comfort Inn & Suites Little Rock
June 25, 2008
Non-traditional No More: Policy Solutions for Adult Learners

- Lumina Foundation for Education
- Two-year project
Project Goals

• To increase access and success for the adult learner population in postsecondary education

• To stimulate and guide policy and practice changes that will make it easier for “ready adults” – those who are just shy of having enough credits to obtain a degree but haven’t yet returned to college – to earn their diplomas.
Five Areas of Focus

- Data
- Academic Affairs
- Communications
- Financing and Financial Aid
- Student Services
Three States

- Arkansas
- Colorado
- Nevada

$65,000 per state
Project Timeline

**YEAR ONE**
- WICHE-facilitated meeting by June 30, 2008
- Intrastate meeting by September 15, 2008
- Team leader meeting (October 16-17, 2008)

**YEAR TWO**
- WICHE-facilitated meeting by April 30, 2009
- Intrastate Meetings: first no later than February 28, 2009, and the second set by July 31, 2009
- Team leader meeting (September 2009)
State Project Goals

• Define and identify “ready adults” and determine target population

• Improve the capabilities of the state’s longitudinal data base to provide needed data on targeted students

• Identify state- and institutional-level practices and policies that create barriers for the target group of students to earn their degrees
State Project Goals

• Identify best state- and institutional-level practices and policies that will facilitate the target group of students to earn their degrees

• Develop a plan of action with short-term and long-term objectives that will increase the number of “ready adults” that complete baccalaureate and associate degrees

• Create a statewide group of advocates, led by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board, that will actively support the implementation of the plan of action
Goals of the Day

First Steps Toward Creating a State Vision

• Identify goals in each of the five working groups
• Prioritize those anticipated accomplishments
• Determine next steps for action
Then What?

• Think about how to blend the different goals from the working groups to form a state vision
• Apply lessons and discussions today when planning the intrastate meeting
Resources

• Facilitation Guide
  – Copy of the state work plan
  – Information about WICHE staff and consultants
  – Resources for each working group
  – Additional resources

• Complete Idiot’s Guide to Going Back to College

• The Status of Academic Advising: Findings from the ACT Sixth National Survey
Project Contacts

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www.wiche.edu/Policy/ReadyAdults/