Non-traditional No More: Policy Solutions for Adult Learners

WICHE-facilitated Meeting
Crowne Plaza Little Rock
April 27, 2009
Non-traditional No More: Policy Solutions for Adult Learners

• Lumina Foundation for Education

• Two-year project

• Funded through September 2009
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.
Working Groups – Year 2

Year 1 Format
- Data
- Academic Affairs
- Communications
- Financing and Financial Aid
- Student Services

Year 2 Format
- Two-year institutions
- Four-year institutions
Project Timeline

- WICHE-facilitated meeting (today)
- Third intrastate meeting by July 31, 2009
- Team leader meeting September 16-17, 2009
State Project Goals

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

- Improve the capabilities of the state’s longitudinal database 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 (cont’d)

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

• Develop action plan with short-term and long-term objectives that will increase the number of “ready adults” that complete two- and four-year 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

Moving from Planning to Policy and Practice

• Review new state and national environment for non-traditional students.

• Develop a plan to sustain efforts to serve non-traditional students.

• Establish plans for translating lessons learned during project into improved state and institutional policies and practices.
Web Resources: Coming Soon!

- Non-Traditional No More website:
  - Group discussions
  - Question forum
  - News and research relating to non-traditional students.
  - Sites for each state

www2.wiche.edu/group/ntnm
Project Contacts

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