Non-traditional No More: Policy Solutions for Adult Learners

WICHE-facilitated Meeting
New Jersey Commission on Higher Education
June 25, 2009
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
Five States

First Cohort
• Arkansas
• Colorado
• Nevada

Second Cohort
• New Jersey
• South Dakota

$65,000 per state
Project Timeline

YEAR ONE

– WICHE-facilitated meeting by May 31, 2009
– Intrastate meeting by August 15, 2009
– Team leader meeting (September 16-17, 2009)

YEAR TWO

– WICHE-facilitated meeting by April 30, 2010
– Team leader meeting (September 2010)
State Project Goals

• Develop strategy for student services that expands outreach to adult learners.

• Identify policy barriers which impede low-income adults from returning and develop solutions.

• Identify strategies that have worked when taking the servicing of this population to scale: sharing information from other states or other efforts on successful marketing, delivery mechanisms, and venues for reporting back to stakeholders.
State Project Goals

• Continue to explore state-wide transfer policies to ensure smooth transition between institutions.
• Investigate the process used state-wide and across the country to assign credit to industry-recognized credentials.
• Increase state-wide marketing and communications efforts for adult learners.
• Develop standards to ensure data for adult students is consistent across campuses.
• Work with the institutions that are ready to participate in an initiative to increase access for adults.
State Project Goals

• Identify and enrich data system to improve contact information.

• Expand data collection to capture non-SURE students, out of state students, military, and self-employed.

• Increase data integrity and safety/privacy.
Goals of the Day

First Steps Toward Creating a State Vision

• Identify barriers within each of the five working groups
• Develop goals in each of the five working groups that are consistent with overall work plan
• 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 from 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
    • Council for Adult & Experiential Learning (CAEL)
    • Lumina Foundation for Education

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Resources

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

www.wiche.edu/Policy/ReadyAdults/
www2.wiche.edu/group/ntnm
Project Contacts

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