Adult Learners Work Group of the Northern Illinois P-20 Network Meeting

01/30/15
White House Commitments

- Develop a comprehensive menu of financial literacy activities for P-20 students and families;
- Assess student support services to identify gaps and develop needed interventions;
- Embark on a regional peer mentoring initiative for 400 high-need pre-college and freshman students with 80 trained peer mentors;
- Conduct economic and workforce metadata analysis of workplace shortages and emerging career needs;
- Create new courses aligned with the new Illinois Learning Standards through faculty-to-faculty dialogue, creating shared expectations and aligning course content and rigor; and
- Increase enrollment of adult learners.

See more at:
Defining Adult Learner

• It is important to arrive at a common definition for adult learner.
• For the survey we used the Penn State definition as a starting point*
  – 24 years of age or older; or
  – A veteran or actively serving member of the armed services; or
  – Returning to school after four or more years of employment, homemaking, or other activity; or
  – Performing at least one adult role such as parent, spouse/partner, employee and student.
• Most respondents aligned well with these elements and/or provided few additions.
Current Adult Learner Approaches:

Prior Learning Credit

- **Academic**
  - CLEP, Course Challenge Exams, Proficiency Exams, AP Exams
  - Portfolio/Presentation
  - Articulated credit from high schools
  - Course substitutions based upon demonstrated competency
- **Military**
  - DOD American Council on Education (ACE) Evaluated Training
  - Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES)
  - PE credits for basic training
- **Business and Industry**
  - Industry Recognized Credentials
  - Basic Residential Building Code Exam
Current Adult Learner Approaches:

Adult Learner Identification/Recruitment

• Connections to:
  – Employers and Associations
  – Chambers of Commerce/Workforce Development
  – Recruitment/Employment Fairs

• Student Records
  – Transcripts
  – Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR)

• Web – Links to Registrar, Course Catalog, Adult Learners

• Mailings – To targeted individuals, newsletters

• Signage – In campus buildings
College of DuPage Adult One Stop Committee:
Why they came together and what they’re working on

- Findings from the Noel Levitz Adult Learner Inventory (ALI) they administered to adult students in 2014

- Results from the Council on Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) Institutional Self-Assessment Survey (ISAS) administered to COD staff in 2014

- What the committee plans on doing with these results
What gaps/challenges currently exist for adult learners’ bachelors degree completion?
Next Steps

• Brief your President/Executive prior to the 02/10/15 meeting on the progress being made by this group.

• Identify one (or more if you like) exemplary adult program
  – Use whatever method you prefer to locate a highly functioning adult education program model
  – Use the form provided to collect your information
  – Email your response to John Cowan jcowan@niu.edu