

Transitions Professional Development

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

WINTER 2014

CONFERENCES OF INTEREST

- **IACEA, the Voice of Adult Education, Conference**
March 5-7, 2014
Springfield, IL
- **COABE, PAACE National Conference**, March 16-19, 2014, Pittsburgh, PA
- **ICPN Accelerating Opportunity Spring Institute**, April 28-May 1, 2014, Seattle, WA
- **NCWE** October 30-31, 2014, Pittsburgh, PA

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Accelerating Opportunity Illinois Policy Site Visit



Lexie Waugh from JFF shares braided funding information

Sharing information, strategies, successes, and challenges filled the agenda for the winter Jobs for the Future (JFF) Illinois Policy Meeting on January 29th in Bloomington. Lexie Waugh, Israel Mendoza, and Erica Acevedo from JFF provided support and facilitation for the expanded 18 Illinois colleges offering or planning to offer integrated educational programs (ICAPS) through Accelerating Opportunity.

Now into year three of a three-year grant, discussion on sustainability strategies was a primary point of interest. Brian Durham, Kathy Pampe, and Jay Brooks of ICCB provided state support and took questions and concerns for consideration as the Illinois Community College Board contemplates state-level strategies to support sustainability of the ICAPS/AO models.

All programs reported on progress and gleaned ideas from others' funding stream approaches. A true partnership system was evidenced by the mix of administrators from Career and Technical Education as well as Adult Education providing a wealth of varied experiences and knowledge base.

The PowerPoint from this session is available on the Transitions Academy website and the Transitions Blog.

Representatives from the state team will be meeting in Boston February 18-20 for the AO Winter Strategy Meeting.



Team Teaching for Student Success!

Giving students the best of all resources available is a major component of the success of Accelerating Opportunity. At Lake Land College they are doing just that by using the skills and expertise of both the Career and Technical Education and Adult Education instructors. Diana Glosser, Director of Perkins Programs, says: "Our number one priority is student success."

To ensure that success, Laura Deters, RN and Basic Nursing Assistant instructor, and Aaron Hacker, Adult Education instructor, have formed a successful, evolving partnership integrating instruction as team teachers. How do you join a career nurse and an educator to form a solid partnership focused on accelerating the learning and professionalism of students? The answer, according to Deters, is lots of ongoing communication, a common set of objectives they are trying to accomplish, and a willingness to try, modify and improve as they progress. "Every semester there is a new scenario we need to talk through. We constantly communicate and bounce ideas off of each other." Deters said.

The AO program is structured with Deters teaching the state-regulated curriculum two days a week. Hacker is present during a portion of Deters' classes keying on points that need clarification or elaboration during the alternating days he has class with the students. Hacker also endears himself to the BNA students by volunteering to be the patient by having his blood pressure taken, being transferred, and having a bed made around him. Students meet two days a week with Hacker working on basic skills, reviewing materials presented by Deters, learning to speak and be professional and have a good work ethic. Students also complete an online medical terminology class within the structured support of Hacker's adult education classroom. This part of the class lays a firm foundation of computer skills for the students as well. Hacker uses the course content outline from Deters to help drive the review and practice skills he focuses on in the adult education class. The constant communication mentioned earlier plays out here as Deters and Hacker discuss what concepts are proving difficult for students and what points should be emphasized. Hacker also gives and reviews practice tests allowing Deters opportunity in her class periods to focus on more clinical time.

Deters is full of praises for her team teaching partner. "Aaron is a true educator! The program wouldn't be what it is without him, that's for sure." she said. Hacker shares an admiration for his team teacher as well. "It's great to work with someone like Laura who is so passionate about what she does. Laura's love for nursing and her professionalism make her an excellent model for the students and a joy to teach with. "

To see a success story from the Accelerating Opportunity program at Lake Land, you don't have to look around too long. Shawna Enloe is a proud completer of the BNA program and works part-time for the college in the adult education office. She not only is a success herself but is a big part of other students' achievement! Shawna is front and center as students enter looking for information. She encourages them to jump in and try, to believe in themselves, and not to get down. She tells them, "If I can do it, you can too! I didn't think this would work, but it did!"

Shawna, age 37, is a single mom who needed her GED®. She found herself raising not only her own children but also her sister's children. She wasn't sure of her herself or her ability to learn as she had had difficulties in school before. "Being in this program helped me to spell better and to read better." Shawna is happy to report. "I was glad to have everyone at the adult ed center because they encouraged me and supported me. Learning BNA and GED at the same time helped me a lot." Shawna hopes to continue to become a nurse.

The continued achievement of AO has made a believer out of nurse Deters. "The AO program is an excellent program. I was skeptical at first. I worried advising students to do something beyond their ability (based on lower reading scores than usually required) was setting them up for failure. But now I see that giving them extra support and time to learn all the material is what they need. They can be successful in the right setting. We have an open door policy and the support of two teachers has made them successful."



Transitioning Through Adult Education - New Modules!

The Transitioning Continuum of Professional Development is available through the Southern Illinois Professional Development Center (SIPDC). It provides free online professional development to improve transition knowledge from basic to complex.

Online modules include:

Developing Career and Transitional Plans
Advanced Integrated & Contextualized Instruction
Advance Organizers 101—Neil Sturomski
Self-Advocacy
Intro to Special Learning Needs
Technology 101
Career Development 101

- Multiple Intelligences
- Job Applications
- Goal Setting
- Resume Writing
- Interview Techniques
- Soft Skills

Career Pathways Core Training
Integrating Career Awareness
Bridge Program Development Basics
College Readiness 101
Team Teaching (through World Ed)
Finding True North—Role of the Navigator
 (through World Ed)

The sessions build on each other and are interrelated in their content in the same manner as phases of transitioning are spiraling and build upon earlier concepts and skills. Once registered in the system, you may attend any sessions as many times as you wish. To register contact the Southern Illinois Professional Development Center at:

sipdctrainer@gmail.com

Recently Added Modules!

- ♦ **Critical Thinking/Problem Solving**
—Neil Sturomski
- ♦ **Career Development 201 Overview**
- ♦ **College Readiness 201**

Coming Soon Modules!

- ♦ **Workplace Systems & Culture**
- ♦ **How to Keep Your Job**
- ♦ **Communication**
- ♦ **Job Shadowing**
- ♦ **Integrating Technology into the AE Classroom**

Illinois Regional Network Professional Development

You will not want to miss the spring Regional Network workshops. The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) CTE Regional Network is a FREE ongoing professional development platform for community college administrators. This series is intended to ensure that career and technical programs continue to focus effectively on student outcomes, strengthen the connections between secondary and postsecondary education, and improve program accountability. This spring ICCB is providing the following regional workshops.

Making Dual Credit Work: The Voice of the System

March 12th at Parkland College

April 7th at John A. Logan College

Join a conversation facilitated by the Illinois Community College Board that focuses on best practices in dual credit. In this session, several partner colleges will engage participants in interactive discussions about innovative and effective practices related to implementing, evaluating, and improving dual credit across the system. This workshop will also provide opportunities for local practitioners to share how they are helping students learn once but earn twice.

Curriculum Integration Summit: Maximizing Academics and CTE

March 20th at Holiday Inn in Bloomington/Normal

Join Illinois experts for a day long dialogue on how Illinois Community Colleges are modeling Academic and Career and Technical Education (CTE) integration. We will explore current national trends related to academic and CTE integration and alignment, and review recommendations for institutional structure to promote academic and CTE integration. This is a great opportunity to see how the Curriculum Alignment Initiatives look in Illinois.

For more information and to register visit: <http://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/>

Transitions Blog

To view the latest information and to share ideas with other Adult Educators in Illinois, visit the Transitions blog at:

<http://www.illinoistransitions.blogspot.com/>

Transitions Academy Update

This year's TA is in full swing with programs working with their assigned mentors to assist with development and implementation issues.

A webinar for all Bridge programs in the TA will be held February 26th at 10:00am. Experienced Bridge program administrators will answer questions posed from the TA Bridge programs. A webinar for the ICAPS programs will be held in March (date TBA) with experienced AO team teachers from Illinois sharing their experiences and answering questions. The culminating activity for the TA will be May 22nd at the Alumni Center in Normal, Illinois. Programs in the TA will share successes in their "20 Minutes of Fame" presentations. Previous presentations are archived and can be accessed with the following link:

<http://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/2013/08/fy13-transitions-academy-20-minutes-of-fame/>

These presentations can assist future programs in Bridge and ICAPS development.



Continuation of the Youth and Adult Career Pathways Event Series

The U.S. Department of Education is pleased to announce the continuation of its Youth and Adult Pathways (YAP) Event Series, a new microgroup series within the Career Pathways community on the LINC'S Platform. The YAP Event Series is designed to bring together professionals with a shared interest in connecting youth and adult learners with career pathways. Presenters are experts in their fields, and events are designed to enhance your knowledge and give you usable information in each area. Centered around a live webinar with an established expert, each topic in the series is presented as a month-long "microgroup" within the LINC'S Career Pathways community and will include ongoing engagement and discussion before and after the live events. If you miss one of the live webinars, all materials and webinar recordings will be available for download.

Upcoming events include:

- Feb. 2014: Sustaining Adult Career Pathways: Funding, Leadership, Policy, & Professional Development
- March 2014: Using Data for Continuous Improvement
- April 2014: Business Engagement in Supporting the Education Pipeline
- May 2014: Developing Effective Bridge Programs

To join the YAP Event Series, log on to:

<https://community.lincs.ed.gov/group/youth-and-adult-pathways-yap-series>

To receive regular updates on the series, sign up for our email list at:

<http://bit.ly/1k1l2p4>

Partners in Progress: Bridge Program Highlighted in Community

The multi-leveled partnerships between Decatur Public Schools Education and Training Center, Richland College, and Decatur area nursing facilities was highlighted in the **Decatur Herald and Review** recently providing insight to the community on the power of education and employers joining together. “For the first time Executive Director Rocki Wilkerson can remember, the number of students finishing the Intro to Health Care Careers class is the same as the number that started,” the article by Valerie Wells stated.

The article highlighted the mission of transitional programs to move people into employment and higher education and to become self-sufficient. The support provided by Wilkerson’s program and also from the nursing facility employers and from Richland College are another integral part of the success. “The students learn a work ethic, as well as job skills. They are required to show up on time and not miss any days. They have to wear uniforms, learn interview skill san how to write a resume, and how to take direction from a boss. Even in the intro class students spend several days doing on-the-job training so they get work experience. Those include basics such as infection control, resident rights, and safety.”

Supplemental Lessons and Resources for the Manufacturing Curriculum

The Southern Illinois Professional Development Center wants to thank the following Illinois teachers who piloted the Statewide Contextualized Manufacturing Curriculum soon after its release and now have shared their expertise with the adult ed field!

Brett Bane, Illinois Central College

Tiffany M. Bruessard , Prairie State College

William G. Kuban, Prairie State College

Pam Nevius, Illinois Central College

Their supplemental lessons and resources are now part of the manufacturing curriculum. Check <http://www.iccb.org/adulted.curriculum.manufacturing.html>



**NOW
HERE!**



Pathways to Careers Network



Survey – Respond by Feb. 14 to shape a bold policy agenda to make adult college and career transitions a priority for Illinois!

Do you want to help adult learners move from low skills to good jobs? Do you want to make adult college and career transitions a priority for Illinois leaders? Do you want the chance to win a \$50 Amazon gift card?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, we encourage you to respond to the Pathways to Careers Network survey.

As a collaboration of Women Employed and the Chicago Jobs Council, the Network brings together people and organizations to move adult learners from low skills to good jobs. We provide information on effective program models and we facilitate connections among education and workforce development providers to share ideas and strategies.

Your input helps us develop and advance a bold policy agenda that makes adult college and career transitions a priority for Illinois. Please take time today to respond to our survey to help us identify the opportunities and barriers to expanding effective programs for adults like bridge programs. We're interested to learn your feedback on funding sources, policies, and partnerships.

Your time is as valuable as your feedback, that's why we're offering the chance to win a **\$50 Amazon gift card** to all respondents who complete the survey by **Friday February 14, 2014**.

Link to survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/pathwaystocareersnetworksurvey>

Webinar – Register today to help shape OVAE national action plan, *Time for the U.S. to Reskill*

The Pathways to Careers Network and Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition will host a webinar on Tuesday February 25 from 12-1:30 PM to gather your input to send to the Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) at the U.S. Department of Education. Your input will help OVAE develop a national action plan in response to an OECD report that shows 36 million adults lack basic skills.

During this 90-minute webinar you will have a chance to provide feedback on the following topics:

Strengthen the link with the economy: Your experience with career pathways programs, like bridge programs or other occupational skills programs, will inform OVAE's action plan to engage more employers and increase their support through things like jobs, internships, and curriculum.

Setting Priorities: The OECD data shows a big gap in adult skills for specific groups and they want input on whether resources should be focused on specific groups, i.e. immigrants, African Americans, ex-offenders.

Expanding and Scaling Opportunities: The report documents the gap in resources to help low-skilled adults and OVAE wants to know your ideas about how federal resources for adult learning can leverage other federal, state, and local resources, as well as private-sector resources.

Improve the quality of teaching and instruction: How do we ensure the placement of college and career readiness standards at the center of all instruction and assessment in adult education programs across the country? And what tools, support, and professional working conditions are necessary for teachers to develop a world-class adult education workforce?

To ensure a rich discussion, please read OVAE's brief consultation paper, *Time for the U.S. to Reskill*, and re-view OVAE's one-page infographic profile of Illinois adults.

To register visit: <https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/s/registrations/new?cid=45gsbabf8h7v>

To learn more about the Pathways to Careers Network, access archived webinars, or download daily lesson plans for bridge programs, please visit our website or contact: Mary Kay Devine
mdevine@womenemployed.org 312-782-3902 ext. 224.

National College Transition Network

Findings from the Adult Transitions Longitudinal Study

Learn about the findings from the ATLAS study, implemented by UMass Amherst and World Education with funding from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation. ATLAS followed over 200 ABE-to-College transition course participants for five years to uncover the factors that influenced them in enrolling, persisting, and succeeding in college.

Free Two-part Webinar Series presented by Cristine Smith
Tuesday, February 11th, 2:00-3:30pm EST
Tuesday, March 4th, 2:00-3:30pm EST

To register: <http://collegetransition.org/membership.springwebinar2014.html>

Aspirations Toolkit

The Aspirations Toolkit will be a resource for practitioners to make this important paradigm shift in promoting learner aspirations early and often in their instruction and counseling interactions. The toolkit will be flexibly organized around phases of programming: enrollment, ongoing instruction; ongoing counseling; and planning for next steps. In addition, the Aspirations Toolkit will inspire and illustrate how to embed the four areas of college and career readiness into all a phases of programming, namely:

1. **Personal Readiness** – the ability to anticipate challenges and secure supports proactively, and juggle multiple commitments while managing stress and time;
2. **Career Readiness** – the ability to articulate a realistic goal that is aligned with labor market data and identify the steps along one's education and career pathway;
3. **Academic Readiness** – content knowledge, study skills, technology skills, and strategies for college level reading, writing, and algebra; and
4. **College Knowledge Readiness** – the ability to navigate college culture and admissions and financial aid processes.

Examples of practices that raise student aspirations:

- Activities that expose students to the world of college and careers
- Mentoring, especially provided by program graduates engaged in college or career
- Collage project to express hopes and dreams
- Learning about the paths of others, e.g. reading memoirs of people who started on a similar path to become first-generation to go to college, etc.

To learn how to be a part of the Aspirations Toolkit and share what you are doing, contact Sandy Goodman, sgoodman@worlded.org or visit:

<http://www.collegetransition.org/about.currentprojects.aspirationstoolkit.html>

Special LINCS Discussion: Incorporating Financial Literacy into Adult Education Programs

February is Financial Aid Awareness month!

Join the Financial Literacy and Postsecondary Completion groups in the [LINCS Community](https://community.lincs.ed.gov/) from **February 3- 14, 2014** for a special discussion in which adult education program managers, counselors, and teachers from a range of adult education programs will share their strategies and techniques for incorporating financial literacy and financial planning for college in their programming.

We would love to hear from you if you have or are planning to integrate financial literacy in your program or classroom! Guest experts will detail their experiences and share curriculum examples and resources. Please feel free to ask questions and share your own strategies for incorporating financial literacy into your program. Not a member?

Join today at <https://community.lincs.ed.gov/>

LINCS Resource Collection

The LINCS Resource Collection has expert reviewed resources for transitions in both the Postsecondary Completion and Career Pathways topic areas. <http://lincs.ed.gov>. They can be found by looking at all the resources in each topic area or by searching for “transitions” in each topic area. One of the new resources is Education to Employment: Designing a System that Works <http://lincs.ed.gov/professional-development/resource-collections/profile-528>. Those topic areas also have Communities of Practice at <http://community.lincs.ed.gov>.

Adult Career Pathways Moves to LINCS

The ACP website closed on September 25, 2013 and has been moved to the Literacy Information and Communication System (LINCS).

All online courses previously available on the ACP site have been moved to the LINCS Learning Portal. You will need to create a LINCS Learning Portal user account to access the courses.

ACP members can visit the LINCS Communities of Practice website and join the Career Pathways group for continued peer-to-peer learning opportunities. To contribute to the Communities of Practice website, please sign up for a new CoP user account.

The Illinois Adult Education Transitioning Continuum has a new home!

Recently, online professional development through iLEARN was updated and moved to a new server. As a result, the Transitioning Continuum has a new address:

<http://64.107.108.152/ilearn>

Please **change any bookmarks** on your computer. You can also access iLEARN through the Excellence in Adult Education website. If you have not yet registered to use this online professional development system, send an email to: sipdctrainer@gmail.com asking for directions and a password (see page 3 for more information). Contact SIPDC at (618) 650-2254 if you need more information.



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