Second Transitions Academy Launches!

An infusion of new programs eager to help move their students forward joined the Second Transitions Academy on July 30 & 31 in Springfield. The Transitions Academy is designed to assist colleges and partnerships working on developing Bridge and ICAPS (Integrated Career and Academic Preparation System) programs by increasing awareness of the expanding partnership between Adult Education and Career and Technical Education as it relates to the ICAPS model, Accelerating Opportunity, Illinois Bridge programs, and Illinois Programs of Study.

Affiliate programs joining the Academy this year are:
- College of DuPage, Heartland Community College, Kaskaskia Community College, Prairie State College, Rock Valley College, and South Suburban College.

Bridge programs joining the Academy this year are:
- Illinois Department of Corrections, Joliet Junior College, Macon-Piatt Regional Office of Education, Moraine Valley Community College, Morton College, and Southeastern Illinois College.

This year’s Transitions Academy was filled with valuable speakers and an added benefit of experienced Illinois educators acting as mentors to the new members. Thanks to those willing to share experiences with colleagues within the state as well as experts from outside of Illinois from Jobs for the Future, consultants and team teachers from Washington, and partnership professionals from the world of business.
“Lucky 7” Lead First AO Cohort at Black Hawk College

Here’s a transitioning story that will give you reason to rethink your very definition of the word transition. Imagine seven men from African nations who grew up with little to no exposure to or knowledge of tools... no neighbor’s garage to hang out in and swap stories about hammers, saws, or drills. Now put these same men in the United States working the second shift performing unskilled labor positions and motivated to do what they can to better their lives. How long would it take for these men to become CNC (Computer Numeric Control) Programmers with multiple CNC Manufacturing certificates allowing them to be employed in fulfilling jobs paying them family-sustaining wage?

If you’re part of Black Hawk College’s “Lucky 7”, accelerate the answer because these men are part of the first cohort to progress through the Accelerating Opportunity, Illinois’ Integrated Career and Academic Preparation System (I-CAPS) program. According to Diane Fall, Director of Adult Education at Black Hawk College, “This is a wonderful experience that our students would not have had if we didn’t have a vehicle for them to jump from Adult Education to Career Technical Education. They even took an AE teacher along with them. Some of them didn’t even know names for common tools, something that we take for granted. Some of the students either came from refugee camps or from parts of the world where there was little to no exposure to everyday tools let alone shop tools. Our teachers open up the CNC lab during non-class time to give students extra exposure which allows them to have a more even playing field in the classroom.” Fall is the one who gave this cohort the label “Lucky 7” and is part of the team that drives these men forward.

Transitioning students is part of the culture at Black Hawk College. Their president, Dr. Thomas B. Baynum, came with experience in Career Pathways and is familiar with Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training or IBEST-like programs which combine basic skills and career and technical instruction to give students a faster, more meaningful educational experience. According to Baynum, “Connecting what students learn to the skills and the credentials they need to be successful in the workforce is the foundation of the Accelerating Opportunity program.” Black Hawk was part of the Shifting Gears initiative with Glenda Nicke, Dean of Adult and Continuing Education, spearheading the logistics and warehousing bridge program. They have also run bridges in healthcare and hospitality. According to Fall, “A major key to success is that we use everyone’s expertise. Whenever we have a program or initiative that’s new, we pull everyone together whether they have a student in that program or not. We ask, ’Do you have any students who could be a fit for this program? How can we pull together to make this work?’”

Partnerships within the college and with area employers are also keys to their success. In the current Accelerating Opportunity (AO) grant, FY 13 was a development year where part of the plan was to partner with CTE. Both AE and CTE received grant dollars with the expectation to braid that funding to promote the largest prospect for achievement. The recruitment for their students came from Pre-GED students who began in the ESL program. Constance Kappas, AE Professor and Department Chair recognized students who expressed interest in the field of study, and had TABE math scores that met at least the 7th grade level, which were the criteria for selection. These students began in the summer with an AE math class to increase their skills. A combination of funding sources including a payment plan within the Bursar’s Office made the tuition possible for students. A textbook loan program through Perkins also helped lessen the financial burden. This fall, all seven students are making exceptional progress in their certificate classes that will lead to a CNC Manufacturing Certificate 1 later this year. It is anticipated that all of the students will move on next spring to the second stackable certificate—an intense program totaling 29 credits that will prepare them for operating lathe machines, milling, CNC, and programming software for machines.
CTE instructors George Criswell, Joe Lefebvre, and Glenn Saddoris, appreciate the dedication and cautious nature of these students. The students are less prone to mistakes because they are very aware of safety. They truly appreciate this rare opportunity. Their AE instructor, Tom Kossaris, was prepared to overlap the CTE instruction by 50%, but now is present in the classroom 100% of the time in order to comprehensively cover the material with his students. A basic skills support class is also part of the overall program. All of these dedicated educators are their students’ biggest cheerleaders and are willing to give extra time and effort to help them succeed.

Also important for the success of these students is the involvement of Catherine Dorathy, CTE Grants and Projects Manager. According to Fall, a strong team of individuals, including Catherine, came together to create this program. The team rewrote the existing curriculum, racing against time to have the new program approved by ICCB for fall of FY14. These new stackable certificates are more vocational in nature, preparing students to move more quickly into the job market, but are also designed to use toward an Engineering Technology A.A.S. degree if a student should so choose. The curriculum is in response to what area employers said they were looking for in their workplace. According to Fall, they are tweaking the curriculum as they go and are already recruiting for the next cohort. In fact, a tight cohort is a key to their success. Fall pointed out that, “When a cohort starts together, the students bond and create a strong sense of community. They help and look out for each other. I would recommend a cohort to new AO programs. It is a great approach which has proven to be successful.”

When asked for advice for those working towards involving their entire organization in transitions, Fall responded, “It can take a long time to develop a culture for change and transitions, fortunately, we have some very supportive people on campus who help break down barriers for us to provide transition opportunities. It’s important to find champions on campus. Along with a lot of hard work, you also have to have faith that the program will be successful. If our team had to wait for every detail to be in place, we would never have gotten started. “

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:

- 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!

- Advance Organizers 101—Neil Sturowski
- Self-Advocacy
- Career Plans
- Intro to Special Learning Needs
- Advanced Integrated & Contextualized Instruction
The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) CTE Regional Network is an ongoing professional development platform for community college CTE 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. For FY14, ICCB is providing the following four regional workshops.

**Improving Outcomes for Nontraditional Occupations (NTO)**

**Making Dual Credit Work: The Voice of the System**

**Curriculum Integration Summit: Maximizing Academics and CTE**

**Accessing and Analyzing Data for Perkins Accountability**

For more information and to register visit: [http://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/](http://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/)

**Making Dual Credit Work: The Voice of the System**

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.

- **November 6, 2013** — Truman College
- **November 7, 2013** — Moraine Valley Community College
- **March 12, 2014** — Parkland College
- **April 7, 2014** — John A. Logan College

**Curriculum Integration Summit: Maximizing Academics and CTE**

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, discuss the data collected from the Academic and CTE Integration survey, and review recommendations for institutional structure to promote academic and CTE integration.

- **March 20, 2014** — Bloomington/Normal

**Accessing and Analyzing Data for Perkins Accountability**

This interactive workshop will have attendees review their most recent Postsecondary Perkins data via the ICCB PODS Web Portal. Data and accountability forms for the Postsecondary Perkins Annual Plan submission will be completed during the workshop. Participants will also receive training on the ICCB Career and Technical Education (CTE) Analysis Earnings and Employment Web Portal which allows community colleges to track employment and earnings for CTE graduates by demographics, classification of instructional program (CIP), and career cluster.

- **April 2014** — Dates to be announced in January 2014
ABE Clean Energy Ambassadors Project Webinar

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM EST Wednesday, December 4th

Presenters: Sandy Goodman (NCTN) and Alex Risley Schroeder (Finding Earth Works)

The ABE Clean Energy Ambassadors project was designed to provide clean energy industry background information, key concepts and real-world industry exposure. This free webinar is particularly useful to you if:

- You are an adult education program administrator, teacher, or a counselor/advisor looking for ways to enhance both the STEM and career-readiness aspects of your curricula and programming
- You are staff at a workforce development organization charged with building industry awareness, employer engagement and connections to training and education providers for low-skilled adults.
- You are state adult education administrators or professional developers interested in models of professional development that engage employers and other industry and training stakeholders.

Go to:
http://www.collegetransition.org/membership.fallwebinar2013.html

The National College Transition Network will hold its seventh annual national conference on Effective Transitions in Adult Education on November 13 - 15, 2013 at the Crowne Plaza at the Crossings, Providence, RI.

The Effective Transitions Conference is held every year and is geared towards adult and postsecondary educators and administrators. Workshop topics include promising practices for career pathways and ESOL/ESL programs, preparing students for college-level reading, writing, and math, building student self-efficacy, and more.

Registration spots are filling up at this year's national conference on Effective Transitions in Adult Education. Register now! Book a room right away at the conference hotel (Crowne Plaza) as only a few rooms remain. Book now!

Please email nctn@worlded.org or call us at 617-482-9485 for more details.

Sandy Goodman from NCTN leads Illinois participants in College and Career Navigator Training in conjunction with the Transitions Academy
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](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](http://lincs.ed.gov/professional-development/resource-collections/profile-528). Those topic areas also have Communities of Practice at [http://community.lincs.ed.gov](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 Adult Career Pathways Training and Support Center, part of the federally funded Designing Instruction for Career Pathways initiative, provided a free professional development network for practitioners and programs interested in designing and implementing high-quality Adult Career Pathways (ACP) systems. The resources developed through this initiative were designed to help state and local adult education providers develop and deliver Adult Career Pathways systems that would successfully transition low-skilled adults to postsecondary education and employment. Practitioners may continue to leverage these resources and the network of practitioners where they now reside on LINCS.

Transitions Blog

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

[http://www.illinoistransitions.blogspot.com/](http://www.illinoistransitions.blogspot.com/)
Women Employed and City Colleges of Chicago Release Lesson Plans

Women Employed (WE) and the City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) are preparing to release their healthcare bridge lesson plans for Low ASE (9th-10th grade literacy levels) and High ASE (11th-12th grade literacy levels) in November. Based on the Statewide Healthcare Bridge Curriculum, these lessons can be used to provide day-to-day instruction for adult students interested in pursuing a career in healthcare. For access to the first in this series of day-to-day healthcare bridge lesson plans at the high intermediate ABE level, visit www.womenemployed.org/pathways-careers-network.

WE and CCC will release another series of lesson plans for the Transportation, Distribution and Logistics (TDL) sector by the end of this year. For more information, please contact Christina Warden at 312-782-3902 ext. 228 or cwarden@womenemployed.org.

Bridge Development Basics Training

Students at Greater West Town Community Development Center demonstrate woodworking during a tour as part of a Bridge Development Basics training for multiple CBOs in the Chicago area.

Moraine Valley’s Dean of Enrollment Services, Severo Balason Jr., and Counselor, Souzan Naser, support Bridge Basics Training and transitioning programs.
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.

---

For more information please contact
SIPDC at www.siue.edu/SIPDC

Bevan Gibson
bgibson@siue.edu

Sarah Goldammer
sgoldam@siue.edu

Colleen Potter
colleenpotter@yahoo.com

OR

ICSPS at www.icsps.illinoisstate.edu

Aimee LaFollette Julian
alafoll@ilstu.edu

---