Transitions Professional Development

Transitions Academy Begins Year 3!

The third cohort of programs began an exciting new Transitions Academy year on July 29 & 30 in Effingham.

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 creating ICAPS/AO this year are: Carl Sandburg College, Joliet Junior College, Rend Lake College, Olive Harvey College, Southwestern Illinois College, Waubonsee Community College, and William Rainey Harper College. Bridge programs joining the Academy this year are:


This year’s Academy was filled with valuable speakers on topics such as building partnerships, braided funding, understanding CTE and stackable credentials, Bridge programs tools for success, and ICAPS nine areas of progress. Experienced Illinois educators are once again 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.
Interview with an ICAPS/AO Student from Rock Valley

Thanks to Chanel Miller of Rock Valley College for sharing her ICAPS/AO experience and advice.

Level of Education Completed Before GED® studies: 10th grade—both at traditional and alternative high school

Chanel entered Rock Valley College’s Bridge to Manufacturing in Spring 2014 and ICAPS/AO in Fall 2014.

What were some things you learned in Bridge to Manufacturing?
The best things I learned in Bridge to Manufacturing were some basic computer skills as well as being able to complete practice tests for the GED®. We also learned how to read blueprints, which is really helping me with the CAD class I’m currently taking.

What made you interested in the ICAPS/Accelerating Opportunity program?
I heard about the program in Bridge to Manufacturing, but what really made me want to sign up was when we took a field trip to RVC’s manufacturing building. Tom Clark (MET chair) gave us a tour and showed us the machines so we could see how they worked.

What have you learned so far in your ICAPS/AO classes?
So much! In MET 100 I’m learning the software and how to use the computer. In Metrology, I’m learning the machines and their parts, as well as how to clean, maintain, and fix them. I’m also learning a lot of time management skills.

What are some of the challenges of the program and how have you worked through them?
The biggest challenge is to complete all the homework and balance it with my home life. My life doesn’t end here at school. I’ve got to go home and get my son ready for football, clean, cook dinner, and get some sleep, too, so I’ll be ready for those pop quizzes!

What is the best part about AO for you?
The best part is that I don’t have to wait to get my GED®. I can work on that goal at the same time I’m getting skills for a better job. I also like that there are teachers who are available to help with both the classes and the GED.

What’s it like being the only woman in the program?
I grew up with brothers—it doesn’t bother me!

What are your future plans?
After I graduate in the spring, I plan to find work doing what I’ve learned. I also plan to continue in school and get my Associate’s degree in CNC.

What advice do you have for others who might be considering ICAPS/AO?
Make sure you’re serious. This is not easy; there’s a lot to take in, and you need to be motivated. I would definitely recommend this program—
you don’t have to put your life on hold any more.

Special thanks to Amanda Smith and Alice Daniels of Rock Valley College for this student profile.
Team Teaching Menu of Resources

To sustain Team Teaching training in Illinois, the following resources are being developed and are available at http://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/pd/transitions-academy/ttmenu/

- Online training - NCTN 6 Models for Team Teaching
- Archived Webinar – Illinois Team Teachers Answer Your Questions
- Archived Videos
  - An Overview of Team Teaching
  - Addressing Conflict Resolution for the Team Teachers
  - Negotiating Roles – Planning/Scheduling/Flexibility of Time
  - Course Design
  - Assessment of Effective Team Teachers
  - How to Share Assessment of Students
- Collection of Best Practices from Experienced Illinois Programs
  - Course Syllabi
  - Course Outlines
  - Classroom Resources (includes lesson ideas and progress checklist or reports)
  - Intake materials
  - Student Commitments/Agreements
  - Marketing
  - Student Support Documents (mileage reimbursement, child care, contact notes)
  - ICAPS Proposal – Task Lists – Initial planning of program
  - Team Teaching suggestions
  - Integrated Learning Outcomes
  - Resource Lists by Industry
- Online training - Integrated Outcomes
- Tips on How to Assess Team Teachers

AO Fall Technical Institute

Members of the Illinois team attended the AO Fall Institute in Atlanta, GA October 8 & 9 sharing information on building and sustaining comprehensive supports, using data and effective messaging, recruitment and intake strategies that support persistence and completion, and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Thanks to Jobs for the Future, National College Transitions Network, and others for sharing their expertise.
Illinois Regional Network Professional Development

Pair and Share Pathways to Results
These workshops are open to individuals and institutions that are engaged in a PTR project or have done one in the past. The structure of the workshops will include a very brief section on what PTR is, a time for sharing among PTR users, and a time where new processes and tools are introduced. Evaluation and benchmarking, curriculum evaluation, advanced ways to measure equity gaps and mapping pathways are all possible advanced concepts that will be discussed. We encourage participants of the PTR process to bring someone who has not done PTR previously.

November 18, 2014 – Harper College
February 24, 2015 – Parkland College
April 2, 2015 – Rend Lake Market Place

Accessing and Analyzing Data for Perkins Accountability
This interactive workshop will have attendees review their most recent Postsecondary Perkins data via the ICCB Perkins Online Data System (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 16, 2015 – Richard J. Daley College
April 17, 2015 – Waubonsee Community College
April 21, 2015 – Heartland Community College
April 28, 2015 – Rend Lake College

Curriculum Integration Summit
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.

April 8, 2015 – Illinois State University, Alumni Center

Exploring Expectations for Programs of Study
The Illinois Community College Board developed the Expectation Tool to assist colleges and partnerships as they develop, assess, and improve their local Programs of Study. The following workshops will provide clarity regarding the tools’ origins, an introduction to Programs of Study, and an exploration of the new online tool.

May 26, 2015 – Joliet Junior College
June 3, 2015 – Rend Lake Market Place
June 9, 2015 – Illinois State University, Alumni Center
Pre-conference Sessions

Going to the National College Transition Network’s 2014 National Conference on Effective Transitions in Adult Education? NCTN has three preconference options available for NCTN members. Registration for a preconference session is separate from conference registration - please register at: http://www.eventbrite.com/e/nctn-preconferences-effective-transitions-conference-registration-13413904349. Session descriptions are available on registration page. These preconference sessions are FREE to attend for current NCTN members. Not a member? Join today.

Focus on Science Webinar Series

The National College Transition Network (NCTN) recently presented a Fall Webinar Series: Focus on Science! (Free) The webinar, Getting College and Career Ready in Science, is archived on the NCTN site along with a PDF of the slides. You can find it at: www.collegetransition.org/resources.webinars.scienceseries.html

Upcoming On-line Courses

The NCTN offers transition related self-paced (free) and facilitated (fee based) online courses through World Education E-Learning PD. Upcoming facilitated courses include COLLEGE READINESS FOR ADULTS: BEYOND ACADEMIC PREPARATION and TEAM TEACHING AN INTEGRATED CURRICULUM TO ACCELERATE LEARNING.

Career Network Exchange

NCTN was recently selected by the U.S. Department of Education as a partner in its new three-year career pathways initiative: Moving Pathways Forward: Supporting Career Pathways Integration. Throughout the next two years, NCTN will contribute to the project’s free information service—the Career Pathways Exchange. Launching in October, the Exchange consolidates and distributes career pathways-related resources, events, and information from federal and state agencies and partner organizations.

http://www.collegetransition.org/conferences.national2014.html
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
- Integrating Career Awareness
- Career Development 101
- Soft Skills
- Interview Techniques
- Resume Writing
- Goal Setting
- Self-Advocacy
- Job Applications
- Multiple Intelligences
- Career Pathways Core Training
- Bridge Program Development Basics
- Establishing Partnerships
- Contextualized Instruction
- Career Awareness/Development
- Transition Services
- Recruitment & Marketing
- College Readiness 101
- Intro to Special Learning Needs
- Team Teaching (through World Ed)
- Advance Organizers 101
- Career Plans
- Critical Thinking/Problem Solving
- Career Development 201 Overview
- College Readiness 201
- Advanced Integrated and Contextualized Instruction
- Finding True North--Role of the Navigator (through World Ed)

Recently Added Modules!

- Workplace Systems & Culture
- How to Keep Your Job
- Communication
- Job Shadowing
- Integrating Technology into the AE Classroom
- Matching Mainstream Technology Solutions to Assist Adults with Learning

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/
Moving Illinois from Goals to Outcomes Depends on Leadership

The Pathways to Careers Network is calling on Illinois’ future governor to adopt a career pathways framework across the state’s education and workforce systems, and to target investment to ensure low-skilled adults have access to and can succeed in proven programs. The Network has released a policy agenda to increase college and career success for adult learners with basic skills deficits. Feel free to use the agenda and the messages below during town hall forums and meetings with the candidates this fall. To find a list of confirmed gubernatorial debates and candidate forums, visit womenemployed.org.

Three targeted investment strategies outlined in the policy agenda include:

1. Providing leadership and a modest investment to bring bridge and transition programs to scale.

2. Infusing the Illinois’ 21st Century Workforce Development Fund with new resources for programs that are helping the lowest-skilled adults access career pathways programs.

Fully funding Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants and leveling the playing field for those applying for aid.

The Pathways to Careers Network is a collaboration of Women Employed and The Chicago Jobs Council—working to increase college and career success for adult learners with basic skills. For more information, contact Mary Kay Devine: mdevine@womenemployed.org or 312-782-3902 X224.

Attend Women Employed’s Presentations on Bridge and New Career Foundations Lesson Plans

This fall, Women Employed and the City Colleges of Chicago will share our Bridge Program Lesson Plans and a new set of Career Foundations Lessons at Adult Education conferences throughout Illinois. At the Central and Southern Region Adult Education Conference in Effingham, IL, followed by the Northern Region Adult Education Conference in Bloomingdale, IL, we will discuss how the bridge lessons can be used to provide day-to-day student-centered instruction for adult students who need to improve their basic reading and writing skills, want to pass the 2014 GED®, and continue on to college-level classes.

We will also release our Career Foundations curriculum that helps students reading at the 4th grade level and above assess skills and interests, explore career areas, and craft a plan to get to college where they can earn certificates and degrees leading to family sustaining jobs. Our first presentation of Career Foundations will take place at the Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition members meeting on November 4th.

To download our Bridge Program Lesson Plans visit the Women Employed website. Career Foundations Lessons will be posted in November. For more information, contact Mary Kay Devine: mdevine@womenemployed.org or 312-782-3902 X224.
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 6 for more information). Contact SIPDC at (618) 650-2254 if you need more information.