The FY15 Transitions Academy met for the final time on May 20 in Bloomington. Twelve colleges shared their experiences, knowledge, successes, and lessons learned during their “20 Minutes of Fame.” The following colleges are Affiliate members of the Accelerating Opportunity program creating and implementing ICAPS programs at their institutions: Carl Sandburg College, Rend Lake College, Wm. Rainey Harper College, Olive Harvey College, Joliet Junior College, Southwestern Illinois College, and Waubonsee Community College. Programs also part of the TA creating and implementing new Bridge programs were: John Wood Community College, Literacy Chicago, Richland Community College, Triton College, and Urbana High School.

Participants asked questions, shared ideas and resources and encouraged each other as they continue to serve students in Illinois. Archived Power Points from all participants can be found on the Transitions Academy website: http://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/2015/06/transitions-academy-workshop-20-minutes-of-fame/

See page 2 for more highlights.

“You’ve heard of ‘if you build it, they will come?’ Well, in Adult Ed, they don’t come. You have to MARKET!”

Devin Chambers, Transitions Coordinator, Harper College
20 Minutes of Fame

Emilie McCallister, Director, Adult Education and Literacy, from Joliet Junior College tells the group about their Healthcare Bridge and ICAPS programs. Also part of the team: Amy Murphy, Director, Corporate and Community Services and Michelle Lyman, College and Career Transition Specialist.

Virginia Cabasa-Hess, Dean of Adult Education from Triton College and Luisa I. Hernandez, Executive Director of Bridges to College and Careers, highlight the multiple Triton Bridge programs in the picture below.

Rich Dominguez, Executive Director of Literacy Chicago, explains their TDL Bridge.

Below, Christina Hutcheson, Director, Kathy Evans, Curriculum Specialist, Lori Ragland, Dean of Community & Corporate Education, Laura Kern, Student Services Coordinator (all from Rend Lake College) share their Healthcare ICAPS information.

Michael Cermak, Dean for Business and Career Technologies and Jeri Dixon, Dean for Adult Education of Waubonsee Community College, describe their ICAPS program in Administrative Office Systems.

Olive-Harvey College shares their TDL ICAPS program information. Pictured is Ruben Howard, Dean of College to Careers and Rob Reimer, Dean of Adult Education.
Looking for a Magic Wand?

It’s the first day of Bridge classes designed to transition on to ICAPS with a healthcare focus and Michelle Lyman of Joliet Junior College wanted to find a way to help the 16 students bond. She hoped to set the stage for a successful experience and to do more than just give them a list of rules and expectations. She wanted them to be excited and inspired for the opportunity beginning that day.

Michelle headed to the classroom with a box of books for their instruction and a magic wand! She asked the students to make 3 wishes that day: one to change their past, one to change their present, and the last one to change their future.

Knowing this might be an uncomfortable request for some; she went first and told them she wished she hadn’t worried so much in her past. She wished she was more financially stable in her present time and for the future she wished the students would find this program beneficial and that they would succeed.

Most students wished they hadn’t dropped out of school in the past. Most wished presently that they lived in a better neighborhood and could better provide for their families.

For the future, students wished for a career that would allow them to live in a safer place, end violence, and some wished to go on vacation with their families.

After the wishes had all been made, Michelle put the wand back in the box and began passing out their books. “I have a secret,” she said. “You don’t need this wand. This is your opportunity. This training is what is going to change your future and make your wishes for the future come true. We’re handing you the power – you are your own magic.”

Michelle saw a tedious first day become a day of hope and inspiration. She shares the following observation. “The transformation was palpable. You could see the hope in their eyes! The atmosphere completely changed as the students began to see themselves as capable and powerful. They had a look of ‘I can do this.’”

15 out of the 16 students have completed the Bridge program and now are in the ICAPS program working towards their better future. They are still dealing with issues and attitudes but attendance has been fantastic. Although life’s challenges have not disappeared, the inspiration has helped to sustain this group. They have helped each other as well.

“The only thing that’s going to stop you is you. You’re the only one moving you forward as well.” This is the “magic wand” motivation to the students that has led to ownership for the successes as well as for the setbacks in their lives.
SAVE THE DATE
September 22 & 23, 2015
Bloomington - Normal Marriott Hotel and Conference Center

The **Forum for Excellence** is Illinois’ premier Career and Technical Education (CTE) professional development event. In 2015 we are building on CTE’s expanding partnership with Adult Education (AE). This Conference is sponsored by the Illinois Community College Board, and hosted by the Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support (ICSPS), the Southern Illinois Professional Development Center (SIPDC), and the Central Illinois Adult Education Service Center (CIAESC).

Registration will open July 15, 2015.

To submit a presentation proposal visit:
http://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/machform/view.php?id=29302

For more information on submitting a proposal, contact Sarah Goldammer at sgoldam@siue.edu
The Illinois Community College Board will hold the 2015 Transitions Academy Launch for FY16 on July 21 for selected Bridge and ICAPS programs and for other interested new staff from previous Academy participating programs.

The Illinois Community College Board also invites experienced integrated programs already completing the Academy and/or knowledgeable in the integrated approach to attend the 2015 Transitions Academy Retreat on July 22. The purpose of the retreat is to share and network with other experienced programs to increase 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.

Participants will gain insight into programs and initiatives which build effective partnerships between Adult and Career education, and walk away with resources for building Bridge and ICAPS programs. To register visit: [http://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/machform/view.php?id=36549](http://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/machform/view.php?id=36549)
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—with 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**

**Critical Thinking/Problem Solving—with Neil Sturomski**

**Career Development 201 Overview**

**College Readiness 201**

**Bridge Program Development Basics**

**College Readiness 101**

**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

**Coming Soon Modules!**

- Strategies for Marketing the ICAPS Program
- Strategies that Work in the Screening & Selection of ICAPS Students
- Career Navigator: What I Wish I Had Known
- Marketing an ICAPS Program
- Instructor Evaluation & Evaluation System

**Recently Added Modules!**

- Testing Accommodations and GED®
- Career Ready Practices
- 21st Century Illinois: Adult Education and Career Training System
- Workplace Systems & Culture
- How to Keep Your Job
- Communication
- Job Shadowing
- Learning Techniques to Improve Technology in the Classroom
- Matching Mainstream Technology Solutions to Assist Adults with Learning
Are you interested in hearing about a teaching experience where the teacher reports her students improved their critical thinking skills, were excited to learn, and felt empowered to give input and learn collaboratively? Those are results Dr. Gail Brakie of Olive-Harvey College, one of the Chicago City Colleges, reports.

Dr. Brakie, an adult education teacher with a Language Arts background, teamed with Mr. Daniel Bujas, with a foundation in industrial relations, to team teach a 16-week Logistics course with 25 students as part of Olive-Harvey’s ICAPS program in Logistics Management. Mr. Bujas is well-versed in his subject matter and brought his industry knowledge to the classroom. Dr. Brakie brought creativity and other models of learning in addition to lecture and notes. Together they challenged students to resourcefully solve problems and find multiple solutions in their applications for success. They ventured outside the book to stretch their thinking to see “big picture” practices. How does what we do as employees affect the company, the board of directors, and/or the shareholders? How does my perspective change my opinion in situations?

The two found planning to be a big part of the overall success. Mr. Bujas shared his notes and quizzes with Dr. Brakie who broke down the information while shadowing in the class, leading groups, and providing one-on-one instruction. The two became true partners in teaching. The longer they taught together, the more they understood each other’s styles and worked more effectively together. Advice for team teachers – be open-minded and willing to cooperate. Dr. Brakie said, “Prepare by planning together and communicating. Be willing to exchange ideas without being offended and have a willingness to risk change and maybe even failure. If something doesn’t work, be willing to modify to improve instruction.”

At this year’s Transitions Academy, the new ICAPS Manual will be unveiled, both in print and in digital PDF format. The purpose of the manual is to serve as a resource in setting up and running an ICAPS program, as well as a reference for those who may be in need of a refresher.

This first edition will serve as a primer, but also as a starting point. With constructive feedback and suggestions, the second edition of the ICAPS Manual, scheduled for FY17 or FY18, will be a more complete and comprehensive resource.
New ONLINE Adult Education Course from SIUE

AD ED 523: Curriculum and Instruction in Adult and Continuing Education

⇒ This new course is part of a series of online courses available in the Master’s Degree in Curriculum & Instruction with an Adult Education option.
⇒ This course is designed to enhance the leadership and teaching skills for those who teach adults in a variety of work-related settings. This option is designed to integrate the adult leader’s past and future work experience.
⇒ Enroll in one course—or choose a Master’s Degree Option in Adult Education.

Dr. Caroline R. Pryor, capryor@siue.edu, Adult Education, option advisor
Angie White, angewhi@siue.edu, Advisor, Student Services, 618-650-2433
Dr. Susan Breck, sbreck@siue.edu, Graduate Program Director

New Online Training Menus for Administrators and Career Navigators

As part of the sustained professional development for team teachers, ICSPS and SIPDC created a Team Teacher Menu of Resources housed on the Transitions Academy website. We plan to create the same type of on-demand training resource menu for Administrators and another for Career Navigators. As part of the resources, we are soliciting examples/templates/processes from experienced programs. If you have resources in any of the categories below, please send them to Sarah Goldammer at sgoldam@siue.edu. If you have suggestions for additional items not listed below, please share that as well as we hope this will be an evolving and responsive collection of resources. Thanks for any assistance you can provide.

Integrated/Bridge class offerings
Integrated/Bridge scheduling
Contextualized curriculum
Distance learning
College success courses
Staff integration roles for best student results
Articulation agreements
Sustaining ICAPS/Bridge programs
Working within APC
Braided funding
How to fund a career navigator

Career/transitions plan
College success courses
Partnerships materials (introductory materials, agreements, meeting agendas, sustaining materials, etc.)
Checklists
Screening and selection process materials
Marketing materials
Orientation
Registration is now open for the ninth annual national conference on Effective Transitions in Adult Education! The conference will be held on November 9 - 11, 2015 at the Crowne Plaza at the Crossings, Providence, RI. Among the workshop themes for this year are: foundational skills, acceleration strategies, career pathways and workforce development, collaborations and partnerships, college and career readiness standards, English for Speakers of Other Languages, correctional education, advising and comprehensive support services, and technology integration. Take advantage of our early bird registration before it ends on September 15, 2015. To learn more visit: http://www.collegetransition.org/conferences.overview.html

New resource - Mentoring Toolkit contains the resources, forms, and handouts developed for and then informed by the implementation of a successful peer mentoring program. The toolkit is designed to serve as a guide for adult education programs interested in replicating our mentoring model. Visit: http://www.collegetransition.org/publications.MentoringToolkit.html

You can also find additional resources and publications at our updated page: http://www.collegetransition.org/resources.overview.html

World Education E-Learning - Online Transition Course Fall 2015 Schedule

Navigating Pathways to Opportunity: Comprehensive Student Supports (10/20-12/1) Explore ways to provide the supports that enable adults to succeed in an integrated career pathway program. http://elearningpd.worlded.org/navigating-pathways/

Integrating Career Awareness into the ABE and ESOL Classroom (10/21-12/2) This course will help you guide students through a process that helps them set career goals and secure the educational services they need to pursue their personal and employment goals in the changing economy. http://elearningpd.worlded.org/integrating-career-awareness/

College Readiness for Adults: Beyond Academic Preparation! (11/5-12/17) Identify, organize, and reflect on the broad array of readiness skills and abilities that adults need to be successful in postsecondary education and training. http://elearningpd.worlded.org/college-readiness/

New Guidance on Ability to Benefit (ATB) Provision

On May 22, the U.S. Department of Education released important institutional guidance on student eligibility for Pell Grants and other student financial aid. Through the Higher Education Act’s Ability to Benefit provision (ATB), federal student aid will be provided to students who do not have a high school diploma or equivalent if they participate in eligible career pathway programs. This is a crucial step forward for nontraditional students, especially adults.

A new article in the U.S. Department of Education’s OCTAE Connection newsletter explains ATB changes and shares examples of students who will benefit.

LINCS Resources

Promising Practices for Transitioning Students from Adult Education to Postsecondary Education

This report is a follow-up to California’s Basic Skills as a Foundation for Student Success initiative and provides an overview of practices and strategies for transitioning adult education students to postsecondary education.

http://lincs.ed.gov/professional-development/resource-collections/profile-244

Better Together: Realigning Pre-College Skills Development Programs to Achieve Greater Academic Success for Adult Learners

This report, a publication of the Better Together initiative, provides a background and rationale for aligning two separate systems: adult education and developmental education. In the report, three initiatives are described in which partnerships have been created and alignments made between adult basic education programs and developmental education in community colleges that seek to enable low-skilled adult learners to enter into and succeed in community college.

http://lincs.ed.gov/professional-development/resource-collections/profile-230

LINCS College and Career Standards Community of Practice

The College and Career Standards Group is a community of practice for adult education practitioners, community colleges, career and technical training organizations, business and industry, and others to explore policies, practices, and issues in using standards to prepare adults for college and careers.

This group shares information, research, expertise, and resources that assist states and programs to identify, develop or update, and implement adult basic education (ABE) standards that help prepare adult learners for success in higher education and training programs.

Topics discussed include the critical skills and knowledge that colleges, universities, and employers expect from incoming students and employees.

Become more informed, get involved, and be inspired! Share your knowledge with the College and Career Standards Group and help advance our field of practice.

https://community.lincs.ed.gov/group/college-and-career-standards
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PAGE 11