Northern Illinois Regional P-20 Network
Adult Learners Work Group Meeting
August 11, 2015, 10 am
815.753.0011

Attendees: Meryl Sussman, John Cowan, Jane Smith, Mark Mrozinski, Debbie Pixton

Emmanual is going to pass the baton to Donna Stewart. Tom Pierce has accepted a position at Morton College. A new designee will be appointed from MCC.

Notes

- Review the PLA Position Paper
  - One edit was made to the paper for clarity. The document will be circulated among work group members for final comments and to share with their presidents prior to the September 9 meeting.
  - Discussion was held regarding the intersection of this work and the CAEL project with Harper. Current understanding indicates that CAEL provides a mechanism for awarding credit; only one approach. This new alliance (IPLAA) is about how the credit is received across institutions and what the policies are. CAEL is good for facilitating the process for the students. A concern with the CAEL process is that they have a national awareness of what’s appropriate, but not an institutional awareness. There is a general recommendation that students applying for PLA receive mentoring or have faculty review their portfolio or other assessment to indicate whether they are missing pieces or not prior to their submission.
  - For future information – initial, cursory research indicates that the HLC accepts credit for prior learning as long as it is deemed consistent to the degree requirements (e.g. the rigor, oversight, etc.). Show how the process controls for that.

- Next steps
  - What’s the process for getting the MOU for the IPLAA? (Initially for 3 years to develop network, ongoing periodic meetings for updates and refinements)
    - Who will operationalize it?
    - How much will it cost?
      - Local cost (incremental; intake processes, advisors, faculty development, transcripting)
      - Group cost (start-up costs, project money, travel, staff time, occasional hosting, consultant, publicity)
    - How much staff time? Who should be a part of the new group (IPLAA)?
      - Chair/champion
      - Ex-officio or consultant expert on the process and the policies to advise the group ($$$$)
      - Suggested 2 members from an institution (academic affairs)
      - Later, operational and advisement staff as needed
• Future of the Adult Learner Group
  o What is the next issue we want to tackle as a group?
  o Consider the membership of the group based on the topic
  o Topics suggested:
    ▪ Competency-based education
    ▪ Non-credit to credit
    ▪ Services side (Jane will send COD recommendations from the COD survey)

Meeting materials
Documents related to this topic are posted online at www.niu.edu/p20network. Click on the Resources tab and then on the Adult Learners Work Group under Meetings and Materials. Feel free to send links to other documents that you recommend for this group to Debbie Pixton (d pixton@niu.edu).

Work Group Participants
Joanne Kantner, Dean of Adult Basic Education, Kishwaukee College – Co-Chair
Meryl Sussman, Assistant V-P for Outreach Adult and Non-Credit Programs, NIU – Co-chair
John Cowan, Senior Research Associate, NIU
Earl Dowling, Vice-President, Student Affairs, College of DuPage
Peggy Heinrich, Dean of Adult Basic Education, Elgin Community College
Mark Mrozinski, Dean, Continuing Education & Business Outreach, Harper College
Angela Nackovic, Adult Admissions Representative, College of DuPage
Tom Pierce, Executive Director of Adult Education, McHenry County College
Jane Smith, Dean, Admission Services and Registrar, College of DuPage