Articulation and Adult Learners Work Group

March 17, 2016, 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Northern Illinois University, Altgeld Hall, Room 203
Call in Number – 815.753.0021

Attendees: Anne Birberick (NIU, co-chair), Amy Jo Clemens (NIU), John Cowan (NIU), Laurie Cubit (MCC), Judy Doyle (NIU), Melinda James (WCC, co-chair), Brendan Lagana (NIU), Janet Matheney (SVCC), Andrea Messing-Mathie (NIU), Debbie Pixton (NIU), Annamarie Schopen (ECC), Jane Smith (COD), Meryl Sussman (NIU, co-chair), Joanne Kantner (KC, co-chair)

Notes
Illinois Prior Learning Assessment Alliance
- Objectives: Make sure that as member institutions award credit for non-collegiate learning that barriers for students are not inadvertently created, that processes are aligned and consistent wherever possible, that we learn from one another, and that we break down myths surrounding awarding credit for non-collegiate learning across stakeholders.
- Both academic and registration and records personnel at the table for these discussions
- Next steps
  - Resend invitation and request a liaison to the IPLAA
  - Call a meeting of the liaisons
  - Conduct an inventory of how and where each institution is currently providing credit for non-collegiate learning

Pilot Adult Online Learning Seminar and ePortfolio Coaching
- Five sessions, non-credit seminar will be offered in September for a low cost
- Sessions 1, 3, and 5 will be in person; sessions 2 and 4 will be online
- Students will learn how to do their academic work and communicate in different online learning environments; content will be focused on career redevelopment and will teach skills for electronic portfolio management
- Community colleges are encouraged to
  - Recommend the course to adult students who could use an introduction into the technology involved in online course work
  - Provide feedback on the content of the seminar

IAI Policy Paper
- Focus on support for what exists and not creating something new
- Legislative action may impact the process
- IBHE was open to many suggestions
- Next steps
  - Investigate where the Higher Learning Commission stands on competency based courses and articulation
  - Melinda James will attend relevant sessions at the HLC Conference on 3.21.2016 and report back
Investigate how other competency-based programs were accredited and where they landed on the issue of seat time

Community colleges should send examples of issues of inconsistencies in transferability of gen ed courses to Anne B

Anne Birberick will consult with IBHE (Malinda Aiello) on

- A budget on how much it would cost to do some of the things we are proposing (e.g. website update; common template; descriptor revisions, meetings of IAI panelists to discuss how to incorporate student learning outcomes into their decision making)
- Possibility of adding a sentence to the IAI website stating that they have worked to align IAI courses with Illinois Learning Standards

Next Meeting: May 16, 2016, 10 am – noon

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

2016 Expectations

Goal: Create seamless transitions across the education continuum from cradles to careers.

Joint Objectives and Deliverables

- Complete draft of IAI policy paper and discuss recommendations. Report recommendations to improve articulation.
- Collaborate with the regional eportfolio consortium (IREP) to develop a consistent, regional process for eportfolios that works across levels and incorporates documentation of learning done outside of an academic setting. Report recommended uses of eportfolios.
- Launch the IPLAA to implement PLA at individual institutions but permit transfer of credits across the alliance.
  - Share a list of active partners in the IPLAA and the common issues that have been identified for collective consideration.
  - Identify next steps for engaging faculty in discussions on prior learning assessment.
- Organize regional study of PARCC results and make recommendations for use in placement. On hold until information on the utility of PARCC results for postsecondary placement is available.