The general consensus about all the non-traditional students agreed upon was that NIU provides an affordable and quality education. Several adult learners lauded the B.G.S. program as a great way for them to complete their degrees while staying committed to family and job obligations. Some of the adult learners have made connections with a few organizations on campus. Many expressed the desire to foster young students’ leadership abilities but can’t seem to make the necessary connections because of time restrictions. The non-traditional student population, according to National Center for Education Statistics, is the fastest growing cohort of students on college campuses. Northern can make great strides in capturing this segment of the college growing population if they can incorporate some of the following suggestions:

- Mailing campaign for non-completers (those who didn’t complete degrees for reasons other than academic or disciplinary issues)
- Make advising more accessible to accommodate adult learners, including evening and weekend advising options
- More groups and meeting places for non-traditional students
- Engage in more proactive recruitment of non-traditional students for leadership opportunities
- Expand daycare hours to oblige those who have classes in the evening
- Northern View is a great idea in theory, but pragmatically too expensive for the average working person
- Northern View needs either its own recreation room or access to the campus rec
- The library should have extended hours and should upgrade facilities for students working with computers (plug-ins, etc.)
- Greater scheduling options for classes and labs
- More diverse course options, including enhanced independent study and contract course options to meet major requirements
- Review parking system in consideration of non-traditional with families and schedules that don’t allow for early arrival (in order to guarantee a parking space)

Northern Illinois University has historically been one of the best universities in the state. The school needs to prepare to welcome non-traditional students with classes and amenities to accommodate their needs as well as the general population.