



## FACT SHEET

**Adult Learner**—may be 24 years of age or older; a veteran of the armed services or active-duty; returning to school after four or more years of employment, homemaking, or other activity; a person who assumes multiple adult roles, such as parent, spouse/partner, and employee.

This issue of the Adult Learner Fact Sheet highlights some of our typical adult learners who completed their degree or successfully completed the semester. We are proud of their achievements.



*"Penn State Harrisburg not only enabled me to fulfill a passion for education, but it also prepared me with marketable knowledge, skills, and abilities needed for transitioning into the labor force. Penn State Harrisburg is an excellent opportunity for an adult learner."*

Evelyn Toro Knull  
American Studies  
Penn State Harrisburg



*"Coming to Penn State has been the best decision I made. I am originally from Brazil and also the first person to graduate from college in my family. I've achieved so much in the past three and a half years on this campus, and I couldn't be more thankful. I'll be forever thankful to Penn State Worthington for one of the best experiences of my life."*

Allan Souza  
Business  
Penn State Worthington Scranton



*"The flexibility—I've taken classes on my international flights between the Middle East and D.C. I've been able to listen to lectures during my travels and in hotel rooms. I absolutely recommend Penn State World Campus to my colleagues who are still in the military. Wherever you have an internet connection, you can take courses."*

Eric McNamara  
International Politics  
Penn State World Campus



*"When I had the opportunity to go back to school to obtain my degree, I had many universities to choose from. As a single mother and a U.S. Army veteran, it was important that I found a university that offered flexible schedules and was recognized nationwide."*

Aida Montanez  
Corporate Communications  
Penn State Lehigh Valley



*"It was very difficult, especially going into the Persian Gulf ... I was able to get through it by communicating with my professors before my deployment and letting them know there was a potential that I might go dark and not log in to an assignment. I'm 14 years' active duty as a hospital corpsman and as a manager in the Navy's medical service. It made sense to*

*continue that progression [Penn State World Campus]. It was a match made in heaven for what I wanted to do and what Penn State was offering."*

Kevin Hunt  
Graduate, Master of  
Health Administration  
Penn State World Campus



*"I enjoy the size of the campus, and I don't feel like a fish out of water. Everyone from the top down has been extremely helpful, and having an adviser who is patient and readily available has made this journey an enjoyable experience. I am loving the experience of learning."*

Jo Ann Durdan  
Corporate Communications  
Penn State Worthington Scranton



## 2016–17 Undergraduate Adult Learner Headcount

2016–17 undergraduate student headcount—88,127; of that total, 20% (17,915) are undergraduate adult students

Of that 17,915:

- 51% (9,148) are Penn State World Campus students
- 37% (6,657) are students at Penn State campuses other than University Park
- 13% (2,370) are University Park students

*Data as of April 30, 2017*

*Source: Outreach Analytics and Research*

*These are current estimates and should not be used for official reporting.*

## Commission for Adult Learners 2016–17 Successes and Highlights

- A forensic report was presented at the March 21 Faculty Senate meeting. Two adult learners joined the discussion; one was a World Campus student who participated by two-way robot.
- CAL promoted the Child Care Subsidy for student parents as a related resource on our website.
- Students and staff were surveyed to gather information on adult-specific programs and services and compile best practices for sharing University wide.
- CAL hosted the 2017 Hendrick Best Practices for Adult Learners Conference. Keynote speaker Dr. Joe Cuseo discussed how to identify and apply to adult learners the seven research-based principles of student success.
- The 2017 Shirley Hendrick Award was presented to Dr. Avis Kunz for her instrumental contributions to the range and quality of degrees that we offer our adult students.
- Colonel Eugene McFeely partnered with CAL to review an updated assessment of veterans' needs throughout the University community.

### • **Access and Affordability Task Force**

To continue the investigation of new tuition models for adult learners, specifically part-time students, the task force:

- determined that a majority of part-time students transfer nearly half the credits needed for their degree; very few attend part-time for the entire 120 credits needed for a bachelor's degree
- revised the initial idea of making adjustments to the tuition model; instead, chose to emphasize the importance of maximizing the credits that students bring to Penn State (transfer credits or Prior Learning Assessment) and the importance of academic support

Additional information is available on the CAL website at:

[cal.psu.edu](http://cal.psu.edu)