



# Commission for **Adult Learners**

## 2010 Incentive Grant Recipients

For 2010, the Commission awarded \$8,000 in Incentive Grants. Twelve proposals were received from eleven campuses.

### **One University-Transitioning from in-person to online learning, the RN to BSN Program**

*Penn State Abington, Program Director Randy Ingbritsen*

PSU Abington proposes to provide Degree Completion (RN to BSN) information to Adult Learners currently enrolled in Aria Health's School of Nursing diploma program and their hospital employees. The students who will be completing their RN licensure have expressed interest in continuing their education with Penn State University. The Health System is interested in obtaining "Magnet" status for their RNs and providing access to education helps them with this process.

### **Adult Learner English Grammar Skills Training**

*Penn State Altoona, Program Directors Kathy Eberhardt and Anna Rose Eckenrode*

As a recruitment and retention initiative, the training program is devised to target both currently enrolled and incoming SU/FA 2010 adult learners. The training will provide adult learners that are deficient in English preparation instruction in grammar, instruction in grammar usage, and instruction in punctuation, as well as training and writing sentences and paragraphs. The focus is on areas that adults have requested and identified as needed areas. The four training sessions will include: Grammar, Grammar Usage and Punctuation; Writing Sentences and Paragraphs; two sessions of Writing Composition Styles. The sessions will consist of four 1.5 hour early evening sessions, which will enable the adults to come after school or work.

### **Beaver County Veterans Exposition**

*Penn State Beaver, Program Director Rebecca Mulholland*

In conjunction with the Adult Learner Committee, funds are requested to assist with marketing for a proposed Beaver County Veterans Exposition. Based on a similar successful program offered by Penn State Veterans Services at University Park in 2009, we hope to increase adult student recruitment, retention and community awareness.

## **Veteran Higher Education Initiative**

*Penn State Brandywine, Program Director Kathy DeMarco*

The Veteran Higher Education Initiative is designed to introduce the population of veterans of the armed services at Penn State Brandywine to the academic support services offered to students. This program will include a welcoming reception, a summer math and writing preparation seminar, one-on-one tutoring and mentoring, opportunities for student veterans to create connections through sharing their unique life experiences, and tracking of student progress during the fall and spring semesters. Throughout the duration of this program there will be assessment of student retention and satisfaction.

## **Adult Learner Week**

*Penn State Du Bois, Program Director Barbara Holt*

A week is planned in April 2010 as a time to celebrate our adult learners and say "Thank you" for all they contribute to the campus, other students, faculty, and staff. Their contributions are great in spite of the other responsibilities they have, sacrifices they make, and commitments they must balance in order to attend classes and get their degree. The Adult Learner Week celebration gives the entire campus a chance to come together and enjoy the achievements and successes of the adult learners and encourage all students to participate and share their ideas, thoughts, and dreams. It's a time that also encourages faculty and staff to continue to provide outstanding customer service and to make every effort to maintain a high retention rate.

## **Promoting OLEAD**

*Penn State Fayette, Program Directors Joe Segilia, Brian Fernandes, Susan Brimo-Cox, and Apryl Kadish*

Penn State Fayette recognizes a need to offer adults an educational program that provides career advancement opportunities, while meshing with their current work and family responsibilities. Fayette County is one of the poorest counties in the state of Pennsylvania, and unskilled jobs are not available for most workers. Penn State Fayette wants to focus its educational resources to teach marketable skills to adults in this community. Currently, adults comprise 35-40 percent of the campus' enrollment. Since adults are not mobile (i.e. they typically can't attend college out of the area), they need options that fit into their lives within the local community. The OLEAD program provides these benefits, as well as a bachelor's degree upon completion.

## **Operation Upgrade: Renovating the Adult Learner Lounge**

*Penn State Mont Alto, Program Directors Andrea Christopher, Dr. Francis Achampong, and Mike Ray*

Penn State Mont Alto is seeking to upgrade the Adult Learner Lounge. The renovation will provide a location for collaborative learning and will help to build a sense of

community among adult learners at Mont Alto. During the renovation, a half-wall will be removed to open the space for larger groups of students, the ceiling will be replaced, the carpet will be replaced, the walls will be painted, and three new chairs will be ordered. The project will be completed during the summer 2010 and the Adult Learner Lounge will be open when students return to the campus in the fall 2010 semester.

### **College Prep Program for Adults**

*Penn State Schuylkill, Program Director Shannon Wabby*

The Penn State Schuylkill College Prep Program for Adults will provide an introduction to the college environment, and will prepare participants for what is expected of them at the college level. The desired outcome for this program is to have participants become Penn State students that are better prepared for the challenges of higher education.

### **Adult Learner Application Fee Waiver**

*CE at University Park and World Campus, Program Director, Devon Hegarty*

Adult learners are becoming more prevalent in the college population because some are losing their jobs to cutbacks and company closings. Most of us have faced this in our own communities. The World Campus and Continuing Education at UP have joined forces to form a recruitment group that would recruit those adult learners looking for educational opportunities. This past year CE@UP and World Campus have reached out to the local Centre County community to help those looking to further their education. We have found over the past year of conducting events that some prospective students struggle to pay the \$50 undergraduate application fee. We would like to extend a fee waiver to those applicants who have financial need and attend our recruitment events. This would be a positive start for that first time learner or someone wanting to continue their education. This initiative would help us to move more prospective students to applicants and gain enrollments.

### **The Adult Student Web TV Channel at Penn State York**

*Penn State York, Program Director, Jeffrey W. Warner*

The proposal calls for the creation of a Web TV channel on the Penn State York campus that is produced and directed by adult students for adult students. The Web TV channel will cybercast a thirty-minute weekly show focusing on a broad range of topics that are germane and important to the adult student population. The project will engage adult students in a new campus activity that is aimed to provide an accessible, interactive channel for dissemination of information about campus life, academics, and issues facing adult students. The show will be hosted by adult students with guests from the faculty, financial aid, student services, advising admissions, registrar's and bursar's office, campus organizations, and the community. The goal student Web TV channel is to increase retention of adult students by increasing their identity with the campus and providing information that will enrich their Penn State educational experience.