

Commission for **Adult Learners**

2011 Incentive Grant Recipients

The Commission for Adult Learners established the Incentive Grant program to support new, improved, and innovative programs or services directed toward the recruitment and retention of adult learners. The Incentive Grant program is promoted University-wide to faculty, staff, and adult student organizations that are eligible to submit proposals. Those who submit proposals are encouraged to collaborate with other units and staff.

For 2011, the Commission awarded \$6,000 in Incentive Grants. Eleven proposals were received from eight campuses.

"Unbound Medicine" Funding Program

Penn State Abington, Program Director: Randy Ingbritsen

Penn State Abington's Department of Continuing Education, together with the college's Division of Science and Engineering and the Aria Health School of Nursing in Philadelphia propose to establish a fund to purchase the mobile solution platform "Unbound Medicine" for nursing students enrolled in the RS-BSN Program. Students selected would be defined as "in need" as per their financial application and grants. This would afford access for approximately twenty-five students to the mobile resources that would be installed on an iTouch handheld device.

Life Line Lunch Seminars: Strategies for Nursing Students Success

Penn State Altoona, Program Directors: Dr. Suzanne Kuhn, Cindy Bowman, Jill Kargo

Programming topics will include information on accessing Penn State resources, identifying mentors and networking with second year students, technology updates, appropriate use of social networking strategies, managing work and family, test taking success, professional role development, alumni networking, financial aid strategies, women and well-being, and professional role development strategies. Program outcomes will be evaluated using recruitment and retention data as well as academic scores, required nursing assessments, satisfaction surveys, and student focus groups.

Beaver County Veterans Exposition

Penn State Beaver, Program Director: Rebecca Mulholland

After reviewing the positive and constructive feedback of last year's event, Penn State Beaver is committed to continuing this program with several major changes in content and implementation. By offering a free program highlighting a guest speaker from the Pittsburgh Veterans Affairs Office along with hosting local businesses and organizations that benefit veterans, we plan to offer a more valuable program to our current adult students, prospective adult students and the community. Particularly, we expect to draw attention to women in the military and the split roles these individuals hold after returning to civilian life.

Math Tune-Up

Penn State Brandywine, Program Directors: Janeen Madison, Christine Brown

This proposal outlines a pilot summer bridge program aimed specifically at adult learners enrolled in degree programs and those participating in the campus Postbaccalaureate Medical Sciences Certificate program. Brandywine Learning and the STEM Lab have pooled resources in the past to create a successful summer bridge program geared toward at-risk incoming freshmen. To date, no such equivalent program exists for adult students returning to college after many years of absence from an educational environment. The purpose of "Math Tune-Up" is to provide such a summer bridge program, focusing primarily on math preparation. Fluency with the various branches of mathematics is imperative for success in a wide range of degree programs, thus making a math-centered program an appropriate choice for the remediation of adult learners.

Technology Skills for Transitioning Students

Penn State Schuylkill, Program Directors: Shannon Wabby, Jackie Ritzko

This program will include four technology workshops. Each workshop will provide learners the opportunity to learn a new set of technology skills based on what is needed as adult learners transition from prospective student to new student to current student. Each workshop will be designed primarily for a specific audience (prospective students, new students or current students) but all will be open to learners in any of these three categories.

Adult Learner Handbook

Penn State University Park, Program Director: Dr. Andrea Dowhower

This proposal is a request to aid in the funding for development, printing, and distribution of an Adult Learner Handbook in a combination of print and flash drive format using the University Park Parents and Families Guide as a template for the information to be included.