



# Commission for **Adult Learners**

## **Previous Award Recipients: Outstanding Adult Learner Recruitment or Retention**

### ***2011: Penn State Berks Continuing Education Department***

The Continuing Education Department at Berks contributed to an 18% rise in adult learner enrollments over the past five years through improved processes related to adult student admission, registration, enrollment and advising; institution of cost-effective recruitment strategies, and advocacy for an increased number of hybrid courses offered as well as participation in the University's Video Learning Network.

### ***2010: Penn State Altoona's Adult Recruitment and Retention Committee***

The committee was recognized for developing free noncredit math courses to prepare adult learners for Math 021. The campus' comprehensive survey of adult learners identified this critical need and also found that financial hardship was preventing some students from taking these remedial courses. The committee also sponsored a faculty training colloquium to help faculty better understand and relate to adult learners in the classroom and led the development of a computer skills training program for adult learners in response to learners' requests. In addition, the committee is creating a Peer Mentors program for adult learners.

### ***2008: The former Center for Adult Learner Services***

The Center for Adult Learner Services was recognized for its significant impact on adult learner recruitment and retention by providing space for student use, offering programs and services to benefit both prospective and enrolled students, advocating on behalf of adults, conducting research studies that increased institutional awareness of adult learners, and for staff efforts to establish and later provide support to the Commission for Adult Learners. Dr. Charlene Harrison accepted the award on behalf of past Center staff.

### ***2007: The Abington Adult Recruitment and Retention Committee***

This committee was formed to identify areas that affect the Abington adult learner experience and make improvements. The committee meets quarterly to share progress, but its members serve on one of seven issue-oriented task forces (such as recruitment, orientation, pedagogy, and academic issues) that meet monthly to work on those things that the campus can actually change. The committee already has a lengthy list of accomplishments to its credit.

### ***2006: The Penn State World Campus Student Fund***

All World Campus students may apply for a scholarship regardless of their personal situations, including incarceration. World Campus staff members raise money for the Student Fund by organizing events such as a staff carnival, an annual book sale, and a New York City bus trip. The organization was formed in 2004 to stem the loss of distance learners due to rising tuition costs.

### ***2005: The Penn State DuBois Outreach Center in St. Marys***

Tricia Lukehart, Nicole Lunday, and Judy Schaut are credited for the significant growth and maintenance of enrollments during the past five years. Because of their efforts, several new certificate programs and three additional degree programs were added in response to students' needs.

**2004: Penn State University Park Women's Education, Career, and Life Planning Seminar**

Betsy Esposito, the Center for Adult Learner Services' assistant director; Marcia Pomeroy, a Career Services' counselor; and their predecessors have conducted the seminar to help women learn more about themselves, their career options, and Penn State's educational programs and services.

2003: *Penn State Worthington Scranton's Adult Evening Socials* Terri Caputo, admissions counselor, and Gary Edstrom, financial aid and veterans coordinator, facilitated the events that provided food and beverages on a twice-monthly basis to evening students, many of whom were adult learners coming directly from work.

**2002: The Penn State DuBois Learning Center**

The Learning Center received the inaugural Outstanding Adult Learner Retention Program Award for staff members' exceptional efforts to help adult learners become successful students. Dr. Carol Rembacki, coordinator, accepted the award on behalf of the Learning Center staff who provided adult learners with course tutoring, encouragement, assistance with developing learning skills, and more.