The Commission for Adult Learners established the Incentive Grant Program to support: innovative programs and services, collaborative relationships, and improved campus environments for adult learners. Since the 1999-2000 academic year, 77 grant programs from eighteen Penn State locations have been funded in the amount of $17,170. In turn, campuses have matched and exceeded the amount of Commission funding for these programs. Since the Incentive Grant Program’s inception, several campuses have replicated successful programs initiated at another campus while other funded programs continue as part of a unit’s on-going programming portfolio.

The programs previously funded by the commission are listed in this document under the following categories:

- Adult Students and Their Families
- Career Services
- Communication Tools
- Faculty and Staff Development
- Health and Wellness
- Recruitment Programs
- Retention Programs
- Surveys and Focus Groups
- Technology
Adult Students and Their Families

**Breakfast with the Nittany Lion**
*Project Director: Dr. Janet Widoff (retired)*  
Penn State Harrisburg  
717-948-6273 or jaw1@psu.edu  
2000-2001

This program is designed to provide an activity for adult students and their children. The breakfast will provide the students an opportunity to meet and mingle with other student-parents, to receive parenting tip brochures, and to have fun with their kids.

**Fall Family Olympics**
*Project Directors: Mr. Sean Kelly (now at Penn State Altoona) and Ms. Rebecca Pennington*  
Penn State DuBois  
814-375-4766 (Rebecca) or rxs163@psu.edu  
2003-2004

Adult learners juggle many tasks and responsibilities throughout the semester, and their families have made many sacrifices. As the fall semester comes to an end, it should be a time of celebration. **Fall Family Olympics** provides students and their families with the opportunity to celebrate a "job well done."

**Family Holiday/Winter Craft Night**
*Project Directors: Mr. Sean Kelly (now at Penn State Altoona) and Ms. Rebecca Pennington*  
Penn State DuBois  
814-375-4766 or rxs163@psu.edu  
2001-2002

Penn State DuBois is committed to providing a supportive campus climate for adult learners. **Craft Night** provides an environment for families to work together on projects or gifts for one another while on campus. This evening activity also demonstrates that staff at Penn State DuBois understand adult learners' concerns and want to provide an affordable, convenient, fun, and family-oriented campus activity. One hundred-sixty individuals participated in this December 2001 event.

**Family Nights**
*Project Director: Mr. Sean Kelly (now at Penn State Altoona)*  
Penn State DuBois  
814-375-4720 or sck1@psu.edu  
1999-2000

**Family Nights** offer a variety of activities in which current adult learners and their families can participate. Program components include a pizza dinner, gym activities, board games, and a family film. The objective is to bring adult learners and their families to campus for a free, supportive, and fun experience.

**Putting Him or Her Through...Ph.T.**
*(This program was funded at two campuses.)*  
*Project Directors: Ms. Donna Howard*  
Penn State Harrisburg  
717-948-6025 or djh1@psu.edu  
and  
*Ms. Debra Simpson-Buchanan (now at University Park)*  
Penn State Schuylkill  
814-865-1779 or ddb5@psu.edu  
2000-2001

Many adult learners manage multiple roles. One important role is that of spouse and/or parent. Designed to help those family members who provide support to the student, the program will focus on understanding the challenges and successes—the student is facing while attending classes and managing their other roles.
Residential Adult Learners with Families: Ties to Success

*Project Director: Mr. George Young*

*Penn State Harrisburg*

*717-948-6269 or gay1@psu.edu*

*2000-2001*

Penn State Harrisburg provides on-campus housing to adult learners with a spouse and/or children. Those students who decide to live in University housing often do so with the loss of an established support system. The program promotes collaborative planning among staff and students to address the needs of this segment of the student population. Activities and workshop topics include networking, career exploration, discussion groups, campus/community information, and a family fun day.
Career Services

Career Café for Campus Adults
Project Director: Mr. Jim Shields
Penn State New Kensington
724-334-6065 or xjs8@psu.edu
2003-2004
The Career Café will be a two-day informational and social program to address some of the career-related issues and concerns experienced by adult learners at Penn State New Kensington. Information will be made available in a variety of active and passive methods in order to meet the needs of even the busiest evening students. Short presentations each day will allow for discussion on topics such as the job search, academic challenges, and balancing the demands of family, school, and work. Light refreshments will be served in order to create a gathering place for discussion and networking.

Career Development Dinner
Program Director: Mr. Jim Shields
Penn State New Kensington
724-334-6065 or xjs8@psu.edu
2004-2005
The dinner is a special educational and social event to address some of the career-related issues and concerns experienced by adult learners at Penn State New Kensington.

Career Development for Adult Learners
Project Directors: Ms. Sandy Allen and Ms. Richel Perretti (now at University Park)
Penn State Fayette
814-863-9954 (Richel) or rap126@psu.edu
2000-2001
This program will address the fears and anxieties of adult students applying for jobs. The returning adult faces many challenges such as returning to the job market after an absence due to family reasons or upgrading his/her skills to obtain a promotion. The workshop focuses on the student's life experience as it relates to employment opportunities along with college credits and how that translates to a resume.

Career Forum for Adult Students
Project Director: Ms. Charlotte Spector
Penn State Harrisburg
717-948-6025 or csppector@psu.edu
2000-2001
The forum topic will be "Dealing with Change in the Workplace." A panel of presenters will discuss change situations that affect adult students including mergers, takeovers, and downsizing. Presenters will include a human resource professional, an adult student experiencing a workplace change, and a member of the campus counseling staff.

Career Network for Adult Learners
Program Director: Mr. Sean Kelly (now at Penn State Altoona)
Penn State DuBois
814-375-4760 or sck1@psu.edu
2004-2005
Collaborative efforts among Career Services, DuBois Area Career Link, Continuing Education, Alumni Affairs, DuBois Educational Foundation, and campus faculty provide students with a series of programs focusing on career information, networking opportunities, as well as employment and workforce opportunities.
Cyber Café for Adult Learners
Project Director: Ms. Jacqueline Payrow
Penn State Abington
215-881-7391 or jmp9@psu.edu
2000-2001
The Cyber Café will provide evening adult learners with the opportunity to learn more about eLion (academic advising system) and to network with other adult learners and Computer Services staff. The goal is for students who are computer "cautious" to feel more comfortable using eLion following the workshop.

Discover Your Strengths: Leading and Learning as Your Best Self
Project Director: Mr. Scott Yeager
Penn State DuBois
814-375-4759 or scottyeager@psu.edu
2005-2006
Discovering one’s best self and the inherent strengths that all adult learners possess is a critical component to meaningful academic, personal, and professional development. The workshop intent is to provide adult learners with tools necessary to identify, define, and develop a strengths-based approach to career and academic planning. The expected outcome is that the student will have a better understanding of self and a deliberate sense of purpose in their educational pursuits.

Look What I Did With a Major In…
Project Director: Ms. Charlotte Spector
Penn State Harrisburg
717-948-6025 or cspector@psu.edu
2001-2002
A career forum, sponsored by the campus chapter of Alpha Sigma Lambda, will present two to four alumni as panelists. Each panelist will make a brief presentation explaining how their academic major led them—often on a checkered path—to their current career. Career Services staff will be present to assist and answer questions about services available to students through their office.

Mapping My Future: Creating a Good Match Between Abilities and Career Plans
Project Directors: Ms. Kathy Eberhardt and Ms. Paula Ford
Penn State Altoona
814-949-5046 (Eberhardt) or kme141@psu.edu
814-949-5112 (Ford) or psf3@psu.edu
2006-2007
This project is a collaborative effort between the Adult Center and the Learning Resources Center. Students will have an opportunity to participate in interests, values, aptitude, and study skills assessments, which will provide them with a comprehensive overview of their skills and aptitudes as they pertain to the students’ academic and career plans.

4th Annual Career Forum
Project Director: Ms. Charlotte Spector
Penn State Harrisburg
717-948-6025 or cspector@psu.edu
2002-2003
Penn State Harrisburg's chapter of Alpha Sigma Lambda will present its 4th Annual Career Forum during spring 2003.
Communication Tools

Adult Learner Newsletter
Project Director: Ms. Eva Zison
Penn State Abington
215-881-7387 or ebz1@psu.edu
1999-2000
A bi-monthly newsletter, especially designed for Abington's credit and non-credit adult learners, was proposed. The newsletter contained adult learner success stories and was employment oriented. The publication was geared toward the information technology field, Abington's fastest growing area of study. Eva eventually hopes to make the newsletter financially self-supporting by selling advertising space to local IT companies.

Adult Learner Newsletter
Project Director: Ms. Doreen M. Hettich (no longer with Penn State)
Penn State Delaware County
2000-2001
There is a need for dissemination of current information to our adult learners. This population generally spends little time on campus outside of their academic class and therefore receives little exposure to information dissemination directed to our traditional students. Not only will this newsletter provide information on various topics such as, student services, financial aid, new programs, and campus events; but would serve as a visible commitment by the campus to our adult learners.

Adult Learner Newsletter
Project Director: Ms. Shannon M. Reagan (no longer with Penn State)
Penn State Berks
610-396-6367 or smr224@psu.edu
2002-2003
A monthly newsletter will be developed and distributed to all PSU Berks' adult learners. The newsletter will feature academic information, campus events, financial aid news, and spotlight adult learner accomplishments.

Adult Student Newsletter
Project Director: Ms. Ann Burbules
Penn State Erie, The Behrend College
814-898-7255 or amb29@psu.edu
2000-2001
The Adult Student Newsletter will provide outreach to a "challenging-to-serve" student population. Time constraints for adult students limit their experiences and contacts outside the classroom. The newsletter will enable students to feel connected to the college and improve their awareness of services and extra-curricular activities on campus.

Adult Student Newsletters
Program Director: Ms. Barbara Seyter (no longer with Penn State)
Penn State Mont Alto
717-749-6100 or bak142@psu.edu
2004-2005
A series of newsletters was created with content specific to adult students. The newsletters address issues and concerns that adult students face using language that is appropriate to them.
New Student Bulletin
Project Director: Ms. Betsy Esposito
Penn State University Park
814-863-3887 or bxb4@psu.edu
2002-2003
Each semester, the Center for Adult Learner Services sends "new student letters" to adult learners identified by the University Registrar as beginning enrollment for the upcoming semester. The students may be degree, nondegree, provisional, advanced standing, undergraduate, or graduate. Included in this mailing is a letter from the Center director, semester program schedule, and an enrolled student intake form. The Registrar's Office provides the Center with three lists per semester. Funds were requested to support the development and duplication of a comprehensive information piece to include programs, new student information, procedures helpful to students enrolled at University Park, and general promotional information on the Center. A copy of the bulletin will be sent to each new student and distributed to walk-in students at the Center and interested faculty, staff and advisors. The bulletin also is posted (PDF format) to the Center's Web site, www.outreach.psu.edu/cals.

Night Lion
Project Director: Mr. Gary Edstrom
Penn State Worthington Scranton
570-963-2690 or gle113@psu.edu
2001-2002
Adult learners represent 30% of Penn State Worthington Scranton’s enrollment. Sharing important campus information with this primarily commuter population is challenging. The offices of Student Activities, Financial Aid, Admissions, Advising, and Continuing Education will collaborate on developing a monthly newsletter, Night Lion, to be mailed to campus adult learners.

On-site Credit Student News
Project Directors: Ms. Theresa Bloom and Ms. Cheryl Kaplan (no longer with Penn State)
Penn State Abington
215-881-7402 or tmb17@psu.edu
2000-2001
Penn State Abington has an increasing number of off-campus credit locations. One of the ways to stay in touch with our students at these remote locations is by publishing an on-site credit newsletter three times a year. This newsletter is a means of "staying in touch" with our students, clients, and faculty; a forum for these groups to share ideas and information; and a marketing tool as we approach potential clients.

St. Marys’ Adult Learner Newsletter
Project Director: Ms. Tricia Lukehart
Penn State DuBois
814-834-3593 or tdl3@psu.edu
2000-2001
As with most outreach sites, it is often a challenge to communicate with students. The goal for the newsletter is to foster a feeling of belonging among the adult learners at the off-campus site. The newsletter will include information on upcoming deadlines, course schedules, the academic calendar, bookstore information, and student success stories. Cooperative Extension activities scheduled in Elk and Cameron counties, as well as events planned at the DuBois campus, will be highlighted in the newsletter.
Faculty and Staff Development

Enhancing the Campus Climate for the Adult Learner
Project Directors: Dr. Lynda Goldstein and Ms. Ina Lubin
Penn State Wilkes-Barre
570-675-9251 (Ina) or ik11@psu.edu
2002-2003
With an expected increase in adult learner enrollments at the Wilkes-Barre campus, workshops will be conducted for campus faculty and staff to enhance their ability to provide a supportive academic climate in and out of the classroom. Faculty will be encouraged to use multiple methods of instruction including experiential and problem-based methods for adult learners in order to connect curricular concepts to useful knowledge and skills. Staff will be encouraged to provide support services that address the needs of the adult learner.

Noncredit Faculty Orientation Program
Project Director: Ms. Bea Landis
Penn State York
717-771-4192 or bk11@psu.edu
2002-2003
Penn State York offers between 50-70 sections of public noncredit offerings each semester, serving between 1,500 - 2,000 students. The noncredit faculty is critically important to the quality of these programs and the retention of the students. Noncredit instructors are content experts with limited classroom teaching experience. Penn State York would like to provide the instructors with additional tools to support their teaching endeavors by developing an orientation program that is geared specifically to their needs. There are plans to develop a faculty handbook also.

Schreyer Institute Diversity Luncheon
Focusing on Adult Learners in the Classroom
Project Director: Dr. Tineke Cunning, co-chair,
Commission for Adult Learners' Recruitment and Retention Committee
814-863-1864 or tcunning@psu.edu
2002-2003
Funds were approved to co-sponsor a spring 2003 Schreyer Institute Diversity Luncheon that will focus on adult learner classroom issues. The intent is to invite faculty at non-UP locations to participate and help facilitate discussion on adult learners, how we can better serve them, and classroom issues and concerns.
Health

Health Education - Stall Stories
Project Director: Ms. Mary Lou Martz, RN
Penn State Harrisburg
717-948-6015 or mfm3@psu.edu
2001-2002
Stall Stories will be published bi-monthly by Penn State Harrisburg Student Health Services staff. Placed in laminated pockets inside all campus restroom stalls, the "stories" will present health information in a quick, simple, and eye-catching fashion to read or take home. Information and Web sites on topics such as nutrition, health insurance, and the latest buzz in health will be featured.

Health Screenings 2000
Project Director: Ms. Mary Lou Martz, RN
Penn State Harrisburg
717-948-6015 or mfm3@psu.edu
1999-2000
Oftentimes the health of adult learners is compromised/neglected due to time constraints and busy schedules. Offering health screenings and wellness information at a convenient time (before class) and in an accessible location afforded the students an opportunity to take time for themselves and their health. Funding through the Incentive Grant enabled the students to receive the screenings at no cost.

Sound Body, Sound Mind: Promoting Health and Wellness for the Adult Learner
Project Director: Dr. Martha W. Aynardi
Penn State Berks
610-396-6228 or aynardi@psu.edu
2005-2006
Adult learners have commitments and pressures different from those of traditional-age students and have little free time to spend on campus when not in class. This program will promote the importance of physical and mental/emotional dimensions of wellness for the enrolled adult learner. The program format includes twice-weekly meetings; each meeting to include – 30 minute segments of low impact activity, discussion of a health-related topic, and student interaction with faculty and staff. Light refreshments to be provided as some participants in this late-afternoon program will continue with evening classes.
Recruitment Programs

Adult Learner Date-saver Postcards
Project Director: Ms. Betsy Esposito
Penn State University Park
814-863-3887 or bxb4@psu.edu
2003-2004
The Center for Adult Learner Services assists prospective adult learners interested in enrollment at Penn State University Park as well as those who desire information about all PSU locations. Center staff is currently involved in a research project involving PSU fall 2002 adult learner applicants who were offered admission but opted not to enroll. Among many things, the data suggest that survey respondents were not aware of critical financial aid deadlines and were notified of less aid eligibility than was needed or expected, thus causing students to believe that PSU enrollment was unaffordable. A date-saver postcard features PSU adult learners and includes 2004-05 financial aid deadlines, related Web sites, and workshop dates. These postcards will be mailed to all prospective adult learners in the Center's database. The cards also will be distributed to other offices on campus.

Adult Open House and Luncheon
Project Director: Ms. Patty Brady
Penn State New Kensington
724-334-6058 or pkb1@psu.edu
2006-2007
The Penn State New Kensington Office of Enrollment Management instituted an Adult Open House in July 2005 and conducted a second in May 2006. New Kensington proposes to hold a fall semester 2006 luncheon to recruit new adult learners. Currently, adult enrolled learners will be involved in an effort to increase not only recruitment of new students but also enhance retention of those adults currently enrolled.

Adult Services Affecting Performance (ASAP)
Project Director: Ms. Sandy Feather
Penn State Worthington Scranton
570-963-2500 or sjf16@psu.edu
2006-2007
Anxiety and fear are two feelings expressed by adults when deciding to attend college. In order to reduce anxiety and provide information to the adult, a tool will be given to each student during the application process and adult orientation. This tool known as the "Its Your Time Tool Kit" will include a support service contact magnet, comfort kit, and an adult brochure. These materials will have a consistent message that shows Penn State Worthington Scranton campus cares about the adults' out-of-classroom experience as much as their academics.

Friend-to-Friend
Project Director: Mr. Scott Yeager (now at Penn State DuBois)
Penn State Shenango
724-983-2837 or sxy112@psu.edu
2000-2001
For both recruitment and retention purposes, Friend-to-Friend provides an excellent opportunity for current adult learners to acquaint interested friends and family with the University. Adult learners are among the University's strongest advocates and they enjoy the chance to share their Penn State experiences. Campus staff and faculty will provide information on the programs and services available at Penn State Shenango.
Lunch and Learn Program
Project Directors: Ms. Theresa Bloom and Mr. Randy Ingbritsen
Penn State Abington
215-881-7402 (Theresa) or tmb17@psu.edu
2002-2003
Adapted from a popular on-campus program, the Lunch and Learn Program goes "on the road" to local companies and offers presentations germane to the average working adult: care giving, education, personal safety, fitness and nutrition, and for those facing the college experience with their own children, financial aid and admission information. Participants are encouraged to bring their lunches while Continuing Education staff provide dessert. Each program concludes with a short presentation by the Continuing Education Office representative highlighting the benefits of lifelong learning.

Open House/Bucks County Head Start
Project Director: Mr. Daniel T. Fitzgerald
Penn State Abington
215-881-7411 or dfj1@psu.edu
2000-2001
Penn State Abington has a long history of providing non-credit training to select employees of Bucks County Head Start. Bucks County Head Start would now like to offer its employees the opportunity to advance themselves professionally by taking credit courses. (Credit courses will support employees in meeting new governmental guidelines.) The Open House will be held at this organization's training site, and participants will be invited from 13 locations.

Open House for Adult Learners
Project Director: Mr. Ralph Mastriani (retired)
Penn State Worthington-Scranton
1999-2000
Worthington-Scranton campus held an evening Open House for Adult Learners on Tuesday, March 7, 2000. The agenda featured sessions on admissions, credit and non-credit academic offerings, and financial aid. The program targeted service-area adults seeking to improve skills for entry into the job market or advancement in their present employment.

Penn State Connection
Project Director: Mr. Rob Campbell (retired)
Penn State York
717-771-4053 or rbc1@psu.edu
2000-2001
Penn State Connection will be a one evening (2 hours) program focused around a moderated panel discussion. Currently enrolled adult learners will share with the audience how they were able to make the adjustment to life as a college student and the ease with which they were able to get started with classes. There are plans to have the local (York, PA) cable-TV station tape the program with the intent to have it replayed for several weeks.

Penn State Wilkes-Barre Adult Learner Brochure
Project Director: Ms. Ellen Gregorio
Penn State Wilkes-Barre
570-675-9276 or epg10@psu.edu
2006-2007
The Adult Learner brochure will be used as a marketing tool to recruit adult learners to the Wilkes-Barre campus. The adult learner guidebook will outline information on the application process, degrees offered, services provided, and frequently asked questions. Our goal is to create a user-friendly guidebook thereby attracting more adult learners to the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus.
Student Aid Workshop
Project Director: Mr. Scott Yeager (now at Penn State DuBois)
Penn State Shenango
724-983-2837 or sxy112@psu.edu
2001-2002
Penn State is encouraging students to file their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) using the online application. Although most students—including adult learners—welcome the convenient processing, many adult learners are not comfortable using the Internet to complete the application. Peggy McCann, financial aid coordinator, and Scott Yeager, admissions counselor, will facilitate this program aimed at improving adult learner confidence with the financial aid application process.

Your Future at Penn State in the College of Health and Human Development
Project Director: Ms. Joyce Hopson-King, College of Health and Human Development
Penn State University Park
814-863-1291 or juh4@psu.edu
2002-2003
The College of Health and Human Development provides programs of study in science, health, business, and human services that appeal to adult learners. The open house will target Centre County (greater State College, PA) area prospective students and family members (childcare will be provided) to meet college faculty, staff, and currently enrolled students to explore and discover educational opportunities. Interactive activities featuring the various majors will be featured.
Retention Programs

Academic Support in Math for Adult Learners
Program Director: Ms. Anna Donahue
Penn State Berks
610-396-6138 or axd21@psu.edu
2004-2005
Tutorial assistance (peer and professional) for adult students in mathematics will be offered to lessen math anxiety. Both individual and group sessions will be held. The objective is to foster independence in the adult so that self-confidence and positive attitudes toward learning are achieved.

Admissions/RASO Promotional Magnet
Project Director: Ms. Ann Burbules
Penn State Erie, The Behrend College
814-898-7255 or amb29@psu.edu
2001-2002
Adult learners already lead over-extended lives and need a quick "single point of reference" for campus services. The 5 x 7 magnet will provide quick reference to frequently used campus office phone numbers. The magnet will also include the Returning Adult Student Organization's (RASO) spring 2002 meeting dates and their Web site address.

Adult Learners Support Group
Project Director: Dr. Carol Rembacki
Penn State DuBois
814-375-4795 or cmr17@psu.edu
2002-2003
An improved campus academic climate is the goal of this Incentive Grant program. Plans are for students to participate in informal weekly meetings, campus cultural events, campus tours, and meetings with DuBois campus academic staff. Since Penn State DuBois is a small campus with virtually all adult students living in the immediate DuBois area, the project staff wants to introduce them to the opportunities available to them as Penn State students, including visits to the University Park campus. This program will be sponsored and implemented by the campus's Learning Center staff.

Adult Student Reception
Program Director: Ms. Barbara Seyter (no longer with Penn State)
Penn State Mont Alto
717-749-6100 or bak142@psu.edu
2004-2005
This informal reception introduces adult students to the people who will support them during their time at Penn State Mont Alto.

Adult Student Study Area
Program Director: Ms. Karen Morris
Penn State Beaver
724-773-3862 or v6f@psu.edu
2005-2006
Penn State Beaver made a commitment to enhance the adult learner experience. A campus group that included faculty, staff, and adult learners identified a need for a space that would include a lounge and quiet study area; the campus responded by allocating space and making it available from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. The funds from this grant would support the purchase of a TV with DVD/VHS capability to allow students to view assignments from classes.
Allaying Anxieties and Fears Regarding Returning to School for RN Adult Learners

*Project Director: Dr. Jane Trainor (retired)*
Penn State Harrisburg
717-948-6513 or jxt2@psu.edu
2000-2001

Penn State is committed to recruiting and retaining students until completion of their degree programs. Almost all of the students in the Advanced Standing Option of the BSN program are adult and transfer students. Returning to school adds an additional role to the already over-extended health care professional's life. Learning the rules and regulations of a new school further complicates the situation. With this in mind, a three-hour program in a one-stop-shop format will orient the new BSN to the degree program and expectations, University requirements, and include an overview of the eLion student advising system. Presenters will include representatives from several campus offices as well as members of the Nursing Department faculty.

Coffee Connections

*Program Director: Ms. Andrea Christopher*
Penn State Mont Alto
717-749-6138
2005-2006

Adult learners comprise over 30% of Penn State Mont Alto’s undergraduate enrollment; improved services to this population are a campus priority. This retention-focused program will enable staff to connect adult learners with campus resources designed to promote their success and to establish informal support networks. Three *Coffee Connections* are planned and will be hosted by the Learning Center staff, library staff, and the director of Student Affairs. During each of the three sessions, information will be gathered from students regarding issues and service improvement.

Honor Society for Nontraditional Adult Learners

*Project Directors: Ms. Sally McGuire, Mr. Shannon Richie, Ms. Jane Waitkus and Ms. Beth Ann Wenner*
Penn State Hazleton
570-450-3017 (Jane) or jmw35@psu.edu
2003-2004

As part of a recruitment and retention program for adult learners and to celebrate the scholarship and leadership of adult learners, the PSU Hazleton campus will establish a chapter of Alpha Sigma Lambda, the national honor society for adult learners. The campus will hold an induction ceremony followed by a reception for family, friends, and faculty of the inductees.

Library Services for Adult Learners

*Project Directors: Dr. Richard Fitzsimmons and Mr. Shannon Richie*
Penn State Hazleton
570-450-3562 (Shannon) or sgr1@psu.edu
1999-2000

This project addressed the needs of Hazleton adult learners to learn the basics of LIAS (the Libraries Information Access System) as well as to become familiar with career-related resources provided (on-line and in print) by the library. Two components were proposed: the design of a specialized LIAS instruction session tailored to the adult learner audience, and construction of a Web site with useful links for adult learners.
Math Tutoring for Adult Learners
*Project Director: Ms. Shannon Reagan (no longer with Penn State)*
Penn State Berks
610-396-6367 or smr224@psu.edu
2003-2004
This program will offer adult students additional learning support in mathematics. As of fall 2002, there were 340 students age 24+ enrolled at PSU Berks. According to the Learning Center staff, the demand for math tutoring services for the adult students is greater than that of traditional-aged students. Effective spring 2004, one-on-one tutoring sessions will be taught by Berks campus students who have successfully completed the math course for which they are tutoring.

Maximize Your Investment: Skills for College Success
*Project Directors: Ms. Theresa Bloom and Mr. Randy Ingbritsen*
Penn State Abington
215-881-7402 (Theresa) or tmb17@psu.edu
2002-2003
This program is for new adult students to enhance their success at Penn State by reacquainting them with note taking skills, library and Internet resources, and time management strategies.

Pathway to Success: Provisional to Degree to Graduate
*Project Director: Ms. Biddy Brooks*
Penn State Erie, The Behrend College
814-898-6164 or bab9@psu.edu
2000-2001
Adult learners, due to time constraints, are often looking for campus programs that will service multiple needs. *Pathways to Success* will provide students with information on what it means to be a provisional student at Behrend College and how to become a degree candidate. In addition, requirements for majors and graduation will be discussed. Students will have the added benefit of meeting and sharing experiences with other adult learners. The program promotes collaborative planning among staff and students to address the needs of this segment of the student population. Activities and workshop topics include networking, career exploration, discussion groups, campus/community information, and a family fun day.

Post Finals Fun Day
*Project Director: Ms. Heidi Gilbert, student*
Penn State Mont Alto
717-377-6251 or hjg118@psu.edu
2003-2004
This program provides an opportunity for adult students to relax and mingle with each other on the last day of finals, fall 2003.

The Penn State Continuing Education and Community Education Council (CEC) of Elk and Cameron Counties Peer-Scholars Award
*Project Director: Mr. Scott Yeager*
Penn State DuBois
814-375-4759 or scottyeager@psu.edu
2006-2007
The Peer-Scholars Award for Total Excellence seeks to recognize the superior contributions of one female and one male adult Penn State student each fall and spring semester that succeed not only in their academic pursuits but also in creating a more vibrant learning community for others at the CEC in St. Marys.
The Soup Bowl
Project Directors: Ms. Donna Howard and Dr. Janet Widoff (retired)
Penn State Harrisburg
717-948-6025 (Donna) or djh1@psu.edu
717-948-6273 (Janet) or jcw1@psu.edu
1999-2000
The Soup Bowl program provided evening adult students with the opportunity to meet and network with other adult students, staff, Student Government Association members, and faculty over a quick, hot bowl of soup. Evening adult students usually have little or no discretionary time to eat, meet or greet each other, and gain a sense of community. The Soup Bowl was designed to do just that!

Soup Night for Adult Students
Project Directors: Dr. Robert DeWitt (no longer with Penn State) and Ms. Amy Gartley
Penn State Beaver
724-773-3950 (Amy) or asb1@psu.edu
2002-2003
Given an increased enrollment of adult and part-time students at Penn State Beaver, Student Affairs staff wanted to establish a formal mechanism to meet with the students and discuss their needs. Plans are to offer a light supper, three times during the spring semester, to the adult and evening students. Campus administrators and faculty plan to be present to interact with the students and provide a welcoming campus environment. Continuing Education, Academic Affairs, and Student Affairs are collaborating on the development of this program.

Stay and Search:
The University Libraries Study Space for Adult Learners
Project Director: Ms. Deboara Cheney, Head
The Social Sciences Library
Penn State University Park
814-863-1345 or dcheney@psu.edu
1999-2000
Adult learners often have specific research needs but are hesitant to seek help at traditional service points within the University Libraries. The Stay and Study Space provides adult learners with a place to study (with other adult learners), to receive research and reference assistance from library staff sensitive to their needs, and to receive the additional personal assistance that highly motivated adult learners seek but may have difficulty finding at the University Libraries' traditional service desks.

Super Soup Socials
Project Director: Ms. Richel Perretti (now at University Park)
Penn State Fayette
814-863-9954 or rap126@psu.edu
2001-2002
The Super Soup Socials are an extension of the successful Incentive Grant-funded Soup Bowl program initiated at Penn State Harrisburg during 1999-2000. The socials bring together adult learners with faculty and staff—in a casual and supportive environment—in order to generate dialogue around issues of concern to campus adult learners. The newly established Fayette Campus Adult Learner Network will host the socials planned for six evenings, from 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm, in the campus dining area. The menu, of course, is soup!
Surviving Spring Semester Stress
Project Director: Ms. Ann Burbules
Penn State Erie, The Behrend College
814-898-7255 or amb29@psu.edu
2001-2002
This workshop will bring adult learners together to meet, network, stimulate creative discussion, and thus create a stronger connection to the campus. The program will also create a greater awareness of the Returning Adult Student Organization (RASO) and, we hope, result in increased membership. Staff from Behrend's Personal Counseling Office will present stress management information and strategies for academic and personal success. RASO members will participate and represent their organization.

'Twas the Night Before Finals
Project Directors: Mr. Sean Kelly (now at Penn State Altoona) and Ms. Rebecca Pennington
Penn State DuBois
814-375-4766 or rxs163@psu.edu
2002-2003
Traditionally, the time surrounding finals is a stressful one, especially for adult learners. Penn State DuBois is committed to providing a supportive climate for adult learners. 'Twas the Night Before Finals is an opportunity for students and their families to spend fun, on-campus time together, thereby, creating a healthy environment for students to study in the days that follow and families to feel connected after a long semester of juggling tasks and responsibilities.

Wok, Sizzle, and Roll
Project Directors: Ms. Charlotte Spector and Dr. Janet Widoff (retired)
Penn State Harrisburg
814-948-6025 (Charlotte) or cspector@psu.edu
2000-2001
Targeted at the evening adult student, this program will provide them with an opportunity to learn the latest job search strategies while meeting and mingling with other adult students. The program will be held on three evenings that have the largest number of students attending during a designated week. Students will be able to get a snack from a sizzling wok selection and roll with the latest and "hottest" career tips before attending their evening classes.

Writing Assistance for Adult Learners
Project Director: Ms. Michelle Kaschak
Penn State Lehigh Valley
610-285-5131 or mlk21@psu.edu
2005-2006
The Lehigh Valley campus has a growing number of adult learners at both the Fogelsville location at the Corporate Learning Center. As a result of an increasing adult learner population, there is an increased demand for writing assistance through tutoring services and writing workshops. Funds from this grant would enable the Writing Center to offer adult learners more late afternoon and early evening tutoring services. The overall objective is to cultivate a student's self-confidence and positive outlook about academic writing in college.
Surveys and Focus Groups

Adult Learner Focus Groups
Project Directors: Ms. Ina Lubin and Mr. John Murphy (retired)
Penn State Wilkes Barre
570-675-9251 (Ina) or ikl1@psu.edu
1999-2000
Wilkes-Barre conducted four focus groups comprised of adult learners enrolled in day and evening courses both on-campus and off-campus. The focus groups determined the students' level of satisfaction with their Penn State Wilkes-Barre experience and provided suggestions for improvement. Students were mailed invitations. Refreshments were provided.

Adult Learner Satisfaction Survey
Project Directors: Ms. Diane Lewis and Ms. Kara Weir (now at Penn State Hazleton)
Penn State Lehigh Valley
610-285-5066 (Diane) or dlewis@psu.edu
2003-2004
The market for adult learners is competitive; and superior customer service is critical in order to engage, retain, and increase our adult student population. This project will survey the perception of Penn State Lehigh Valley adult learners in areas such as facilities, new initiatives, support programs, and learning environment. One hundred adult learners enrolled in both credit and non-credit programs will be surveyed.

Tell Your Story: Adult Learner Focus Groups
Project Director: Mr. Sean Kelly (now at Penn State Altoona)
Penn State DuBois
814-375-4824 or sck1@psu.edu
2003-2004
Adult learners comprise over 30% of the student enrollment at Penn State DuBois. Campus administration is interested in increasing that overall percentage and would like to embark on a program that would bring together current adult learners to share their personal stories as they relate to recruitment and retention issues. Our goals include creating new strategies for both recruitment and retention of adults, as well as actively including adult learners to serve as student ambassadors for recruitment programs.
**Technology**

**Achieving Professional Identity Transformation: Embedded Tutoring/E-portfolio Services for Adult and Returning Students**

*Project Directors: Dr. Jacqueline McGlade, Ms. Carrie Egnosak, and Professor Julie Papadimas*

**Penn State Shenango**

724-983-2827 (McGlade) or jam838@psu.edu

2006-2007

Penn State Shenango is committed to assisting its adult students realize their emerging professional identities and goals. In Spring 2007, a new Career Planning course (CNED 296) will be offered as part of this initiative to prepare adult students for internships, job markets, and graduate school. The course emphasizes self-assessment and skills analysis as a platform for adult learners to engage in resume development, interviewing techniques, networking, professional practices, and career opportunities. The highlight of the course will be E-portfolio training which will allow students to digitally track, document, reflect on and share their personal, academic, and professional experiences, expertise, and growth with faculty, external mentors and advisors, and potential employers.

**Assist Me: Adult Student Seminars in Information Systems Technology and Micro-computer Education**

*Project Director: Ms. Mary Ann Walters*

**Penn State Fayette**

724-430-4240 or maw32@psu.edu

2002-2003

Adult learners comprise 40% of Penn State Fayette's student population. As technology continues to become an integral part of today's course curriculum, instructors are witnessing a significant digital divide in their classrooms. To help alleviate the technology anxiety that many adult students are facing, Fayette campus's Center for Student Academic Progress plans to offer a series of computer-related seminars specifically for adults. Center staff will collaborate with the campus's Educational Opportunity Center and Adult Student Organization in the recruitment of student participants. Seminar topics to include: obtaining and using a PSU Access Account, navigating and utilizing the Fayette computer network, sending and receiving e-mail, using eLion, researching on the Web, and Intro to MS Office products.

**Basic PC Skills for Adults**

*Project Director: Ms. Biddy Brooks*

**Penn State Erie, The Behrend College**

814-898-6260 or bab9@psu.edu

2001-2002

The adult learner population at Penn State Behrend varies from first-time college attendees to skilled professionals. With this variety comes a wide range of computer literacy. As faculty members rely more on the use of technology in the classroom and the University develops more on-line services, students need to become more proficient in their computer skills. **Basic PC Skills for Adults** is a series of four workshops that will address basic computing skills. Workshop topics include: introduction to PCs and basic word processing, using Web browsers, Eudora e-mail; and introduction to computing services.

**e-Portfolio and Portable Media Storage: Tools for the Adult Job-seeker**

*Program Directors: Ms. Kathy Maxwell and Ms. Jackie Ritzko*

**Penn State Hazelton**

570-450-3566 or kmm7@psu.edu; 570-450-3014 or jmc14@psu.edu

2004-2005

This program paired existing e-Portfolio development tools with adult-centered instruction on how to use these resources and portable media storage devices to aid in the job search process.
The Electronic Classroom: Using Technology to Teach Adults  
*Project Director: Dr. Jane A. Owens*  
Penn State Abington  
215-881-7400 or jao1@psu.edu  
2003-2004  
Faculty who teach adults through courses and programs offered by Continuing Education are not able to come to campus during the week day to learn about and utilize technology and instructional design support possibilities. A 2 1/2 hour evening session on ANGEL and other electronic resources will be presented by our instructional design specialist and librarian. Adult learners who receive enhanced learning design and delivery are the end users of this program.

Online Academic Enhancement Modules for Adult Learners  
*Project Director: Ms. Carla Torgerson*  
Penn State Erie, The Behrend College  
814-898-7596 or cnt2@psu.edu  
2005-2006  
Study and computer skills are essential for college success. As part of Behrend’s Academic Enhancement Series for Adult Learners, seminars on these topics had been offered but, low enrollments—due to student schedule conflicts and demands—often resulted in program cancellation. Behrend staff proposed to develop online modules that students could access at their convenience.

Professional Communication Skills for the Technology-Driven Workplace  
*Project Directors: Ms. Kathie Maxwell and Ms. Jackie Ritzko*  
Penn State Hazleton  
570-450-3566 (Maxwell) or kmn7@psu.edu  
570-450-3014 (Ritzko) or jmc14@psu.edu  
2005-2006  
Technology in today’s business world provides employers and employees with access to numerous electronic communication tools: e-mail, voicemail, instant messaging, video and Web conferencing, and blogging. These same tools are used in personal and educational settings. Many adults may be able to use these communication tools, but are unaware of professional etiquette, appropriate techniques and best-practices that should be employed when communicating electronically in a technology-driven workplace. This program provides enrolled adult learners with instruction in the formal use of electronic communication in the world of work.

Putting All the Research Pieces Together: Using Library Resources, Web Tools, and Writing Tips for Preparing Research Papers  
*Project Director: Ms. Jane Waitkus and Ms. Shannon Richie*  
Penn State Hazleton  
570-450-3017(Waitkus) or jmw35@psu.edu  
2006-2007  
This proposal is a collaborative effort between two areas of the Hazleton campus. The reference librarian and an English faculty member will offer a one-session workshop for adult learners who may not be aware of the “cool tools” available for research paper preparation. Each student who attends will receive a copy of a handbook for writers of college research papers.

Serving Adult Learners  
*Project Director: Dr. Martha Aynardi*  
Penn State Berks  
610-396-6228 or aynardi@psu.edu  
2002-2003  
In order to meet the needs of Berks Campus' adult learners, a new informative and interactive Web site will be designed. Faculty, staff, and adult learners will work collaboratively to achieve this goal. As a part of the project, an interactive site will be developed so that adult students have the opportunity to chat with each other and provide staff with necessary feedback about whether the campus is meeting their needs.
Understanding Your Computer

Project Director: Ms. Joyce Zajac
Penn State Schuylkill
570-385-6141 or jaz6@psu.edu
2003-2004

Twenty-seven percent of Penn State Schuylkill's 1,100 students are adult learners. Since more instructors are integrating technology into their courses, this puts many of the adult learners at a disadvantage compared to traditional-aged students who have been using computers in school and at home for most of their lives. To familiarize adult students with basic computer skills and to increase their comfort with the technology, Penn State Schuylkill's Center for Academic Achievement will offer a series of basic computer workshops during 2003-04. The workshops will address topics such as: logging on to the PSU server, using PSU Web mail, browsing the Internet, intro to Windows, and using Microsoft Word.