



# Penn State

## Commission for Adult Learners

### General Meeting Notes

**Date:** December 18, 2024

**Time:** 10:30 – 11:30

**Attendees:** JoAnn Kelly, Biddy Brooks, Trisha Everhart, Bill Fritz, Chuck Greggs, Julie Heaton, John Holst, Leslie Laing, Sheri Matter, Eugene McFeeley, , Jessica O’Brien, Esther Prins, Michele Rice, Nadia Richardson, Renee Thornton-Roop, Clayton Steen, Gina Wahlen, Michelle Wiley, Jeff Adams, Seria Chatters, Caridad Clark

### Welcome

### Minutes Approval

- **Motion:** John Holst
- **Second:** Sherri Matter
- **Approval**

### Remarks from Sponsors

- Dr. Seria Chatters and Jeff Adams were in attendance
  - Dr. Chatters thanked everyone for their work being done and wished all a good break.
- Michelle Wiley agreed to serve as secretary for the Commission
- **Caridad Clark:** Director of Campaign and University Initiatives, The Office of the Provost for Educational Equity, Development Opportunities for funding adult learners
  - Supports Educational Equity, Millenium Scholars program, and initiatives focused on DEIB
  - Serves a connector and relationship builder; advocates for and enhances philanthropic support; Interest in dismantling stigmas and

providing resources for underrepresented communities, including adult learners

- **Suggestions:** share tangible and relatable adult learner stories, create a central messaging effort
  - John Holst suggested:
    - Institutional leaders to set priorities for development
    - Info about adult learners for potential donors
  - Esther Prins suggested:
    - Educating donors about the needs of adult learners
  - Leslie Laing:
    - Highlighted the work of the ADTED 100 course and the need for more scholarships
  - Gina Whalen:
    - Highlighted the availability of funding opportunities: Student Engagement Network
      - Opportunities might not be available for part-time learners
  - Michelle Wiley:
    - Stressed the importance of Open Doors scholarship
    - Provides unrestricted funds to help with adult learners' needs
- **Continued Discussion:**
  - Expand the pool of potential donors for adult learners
  - Gather data on student demographics
  - Develop a small working group to collect and share data
  - Caridad to connect with key people withing the Commission
  - Clayton Steen:
    - Suggested identifying existing scholarships and support for adult learners
    - Add more information to the website for easy access
    - Identify who would be responsible for administering and offering scholarships to students
- **Henrick Nominations and Deadline**
  - Chuck and Bill provided updates
  - Bill expects two (2) nominations by Friday's deadline

**Adjournment**