Policy solutions for adult learners emanating from in-state meetings:
September 2008
December 2008
March 2009
And where we go next...

NTNM: ARKANSAS
First, a Shoutout:

- Thanks to the members of each of the committees and ADHE staff;
- Participation in each meeting has been high, which speaks to the importance of this policy issue and to the dedication of all the members.
September, 2008

- WICHE-defined committees met
- Two-year and Four-year groups met as well
- Eleven-page document yielded the entire range of issues that the groups would need to address over time.
December, 2008

- WICHE-defined committees met
- Entire group met to make some overarching decisions about policy
- Defined a “Ready Adult,” (an operational definition that took more time than you’d think)
- Identified financial aid priorities
- Planned “products” for Academic/Student services for next meeting
Definition of a *Ready Adult*

A ready adult is a prospective student who:

a. Withdrew from college but is within 25% of graduation

b. Has a minimum GPA of 2.0

c. Has been out of school for at least a year

d. Is at least 22 years old

e. Is an Arkansas resident or works in Arkansas
“Nontraditional” in Lottery Scholarship definitions:

**House Bill 1002:**

- "Nontraditional student" means a student who is not a traditional student;
- “Traditional student” means a student who will enter postsecondary education as a full-time first-time freshman within twelve (12) months after graduating from high school and remains continuously enrolled as a full-time student.
“Non traditional” in Lottery Scholarship definitions:

... eligible as a nontraditional student if...

- (1)(A) Graduated from an Arkansas high school and achieved a 2.5 high school grade point average; or
- (2) Had a minimum composite score of nineteen (19) on the ACT or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent; or
- (3) Has completed at least twelve (12) semester hours of courses granting three (3) or more hours of credit at an approved institution of higher education and earned a postsecondary grade point average of at least 2.5.
- (b) A nontraditional student applicant who graduated from a private or out-of-state high school or completed a high school curriculum at a home school shall have achieved a minimum composite score of nineteen (19) on the ACT or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent.
“Ready adult” in Lottery Scholarship definitions:

An applicant is eligible as a student near completion if at the time of applying for the scholarship the applicant:

- (1) Is enrolled in a two-year or four-year approved institution of higher education;
- (2) Is within twenty-five percent (25%) of the requirements for completion of an associate degree or baccalaureate degree; and
- (3) Has achieved a postsecondary grade point average of at least 2.5.
March, 2009

- Update on lottery scholarship
- Presentation of “checklists” created by a team of academic/student services members
- Heterogeneous groups (members from multiple committees) met to refine, add, subtract from the “checklists”
- Two-year group decided that their services were unique enough to use the format of the checklist to create their own.
- Created and agreed upon State Priorities (later in presentation)
Ready Adult Pathways to Degree

The checklists from the March meeting were modified based on feedback from entire group...

There is a checklist for two-year and for four-year institutions and the points on them represent academic and student affairs issues

Let’s go over those briefly...
Other areas of progress

- Financial aid
- Data
- Marketing and Communications
Financial aid

- **Lottery scholarship:** About fifteen percent of lottery scholarship funds to support non-traditional students (projections for adults first year about $8 million)

- **Workforce Improvement Grant:** Expanded beyond tuition. Can include other cost of attendance including books, *day care* etc.

- **Go Opportunity Grant:** Now available for any Pell-eligible student – any age. ($1,000)
Data

- One in Five adult Arkansans has a bachelor’s degree (19.3%).
- Another fifth of adult Arkansans has some college and no degree.
- Since 2001, there are 26,845 students with 75 earned hours or more that have not received a bachelor’s degree.
- **Data on adult students and especially Ready Adults will become part of ADHE and Institutional accountability efforts.**
Data

One-Year Retention Rates by Age

Academic Year

Retention Rate

AY2003: Age 17-19 = 73.2, Age 20-24 = 53.8, Age 25-34 = 52.7, Age 35-44 = 50.9, Age 45-54 = 50.9, Age 55-80 = 42.8, Unknown = 37.8

AY2004: Age 17-19 = 72.2, Age 20-24 = 53.6, Age 25-34 = 50.1, Age 35-44 = 50.7, Age 45-54 = 47.1, Age 55-80 = 42.8, Unknown = 31.8

AY2005: Age 17-19 = 72.2, Age 20-24 = 53.6, Age 25-34 = 50.1, Age 35-44 = 50.7, Age 45-54 = 47.1, Age 55-80 = 42.8, Unknown = 31.8

AY2006: Age 17-19 = 72.2, Age 20-24 = 53.6, Age 25-34 = 50.1, Age 35-44 = 50.7, Age 45-54 = 47.1, Age 55-80 = 42.8, Unknown = 31.8

AY2007: Age 17-19 = 72.2, Age 20-24 = 53.6, Age 25-34 = 50.1, Age 35-44 = 50.7, Age 45-54 = 47.1, Age 55-80 = 42.8, Unknown = 31.8
Data

- **Fulltime Students aged 17-19** have the highest six-year success rate at 54.1 percent.

  - **Age 20-24 students** (29.2 percent),
  - **Age 25-34 students** (33.5 percent),
  - **Age 35-44 students** (42.8 percent),
  - **Age 45-54 students** (39.0 percent),
  - **Age 55-80 students** (22.2 percent).
Marketing and Communications

- PIO Council (also one of our “next steps”) will assist ADHE in developing specialized marketing and communications plan.
- Plan can leverage existing campaign for younger students called “Say Go College” created in our CACG grant.
- Arkansas campaign will be ready for WICHE’s Phase II funding from Lumina [Phase II is for campaign seed funding for each selected state].
Video one

Video two
STATE PRIORITIES

- CAEL Institutional Self-Assessment
- CAEL ALFI Student Assessment
- Training in PLA
- Review intersections of state and institutional policies for errors, omissions, contradictions and make changes
- Complete requirements and policies for returning adult degree completion program
- Create PIO council
- Create marketing campaign highlighting degree program and general adult learner issues
Implementing State Priorities

- All state priorities have funding sources and timelines (the marketing campaign funding source will be part of phase II of NTNM)
- All of the state priorities will be completed by the end of Fall 2009 semester; the marketing campaign plan will be completed in that timeframe as well
- Full campaign launch identified for Spring 2010 around and near FAFSA deadlines.
Next Steps in Key Areas

- **Academic Affairs**
  - Policy review (including transfer)
  - Adult degree completion policies and guidelines
  - Address residency policies
  - Create PLA policies and how PLA (non ACE) will be charged

- **Student Services**
  - Turn pathways documents (checklists) into a product useful for student as well as for staff (hard copy, web, download into PDA, etc)
  - Outreach plans that use employers as points of contact
  - Leverage degree with state’s career certificates
At the end of WWII, the U.S made a bold decision to invest in the future of its economy by providing $1.9 billion annually to the education of returning veterans of the war. This commitment to human capital helped enable the WWII generation to become the “greatest generation.”

Possibly, Arkansas’s greatest generation is at the schoolhouse door waiting for the opportunity to propel Arkansas into the global economy.