Non-traditional No More: 
Policy Solutions for Adult Learners
Arkansas’ WICHE-facilitated Meeting

Crowne Plaza Little Rock
Little Rock, Arkansas
April 27, 2009

AGENDA

7.30 am 
Breakfast
Jackson Room

8.00 – 8.15 am 
Welcome
Jackson Room
James Purcell, director, Arkansas Department of Higher Education
Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

8.15 – 8.30 am 
Project Update
Jackson Room
This opening session will provide participants with a project update and describe the structure of the meeting.
Speaker:
Patrick Lane, project coordinator, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

8.30 – 9.15 am 
Economic Challenges and Opportunities: What the Current Fiscal Environment Means for Ready Adults
Jackson Room
With the current economic crisis and the recent government stimulus efforts, the policy environment for adult learners has shifted considerably since the inception of the project. A facilitated discussion will focus on the new realities and possible strategies for increasing opportunities for ready adults in this changing climate.
Speaker:
David A. Longanecker, president, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Supported by a grant from Lumina Foundation for Education
9.15 – 10.15 am  
**One Step Further: Finding the Hard-to-find Ready Adults**  
*Jackson Room*

Arkansas’ NTNM team has successfully identified the ready adults who left the state’s public institutions just shy of earning their degrees. The next step is to locate those who did not attend these institutions. Learn about creative ways to expand the known universe of ready adults by moving beyond the obvious data and incorporating communications strategies targeting these individuals.

**Moderator:**
David A. Longanecker, president, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

**Speakers:**
- Alice Anne Bailey, project coordinator, Southern Regional Education Board Go Alliance
- James Purcell, director, Arkansas Department of Higher Education

10.15 – 10.30 am  
**Break**

10.30 – 11.30 am  
**Changing State Policies: Integrating the Adult Learner into Arkansas’ New State Policies**  
*Jackson Room*

With recent state legislative changes, including the adoption of a new state lottery, there are now greater opportunities for adult learners in Arkansas. This session will examine how to take advantage of new scholarships and transfer regulations to better serve ready adults.

**Moderator:**
Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

**Speakers:**
- Karen Wheeler, associate director for academic affairs, Arkansas Department of Higher Education
- Tara Smith, coordinator for financial aid, Arkansas Department of Higher Education

11.30 am – 12.15 pm  
**They’re Here...Now What? Strategies to Improve the Persistence and Success Among Non-traditional Students**  
*Jackson Room*

The NTNM project has emphasized how to identify ready adults to bring them back to college. While this is the logical first step, effective support services once they are back on campus are critical to their success. This session will examine supports that can help ready adults succeed in earning their degrees.

**Moderator:**
Patrick Lane, project coordinator, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

**Speaker:**
LeRoy Walser, consultant, Choosing Excellence, LLC

*Supported by a grant from Lumina Foundation for Education*
12.15 – 1.15 pm  
**Lunch and Networking**  
Atrium

1.15 – 2.15 pm  
**Concurrent Working Group: Two-Year Institutions**  
*Facilitators:*  
David A. Longanecker, president, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education  
LeRoy Walser, consultant, Choosing Excellence, LLC

1.15 – 2.15 pm  
**Concurrent Working Group: Four-Year Institutions**  
*Facilitators:*  
Alice Anne Bailey, project coordinator, Southern Regional Education Board Go Alliance  
Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

2.15 – 2.30 pm  
**Break**

2.30 – 3.15 pm  
**From Planning to Policy and Practice**  
As the NTNM project heads toward its final months, discussions about how to establish ways to ensure that the lessons learned from the initiative are translated into improved state and institutional regulations, policies, and practices are central to the success of the project. This closing session will explore ways to move toward sustainable policy and practice changes.

*Facilitator:*  
Patrick Lane, project coordinator, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

3.15 – 3.30 pm  
**Closing Remarks**  
James Purcell, director, Arkansas Department of Higher Education