Wednesday, September 16, 2009

8:00 – 8:45 am  Networking Breakfast  
*Denver*
Participants are encouraged to gather for a full breakfast to network within and among states.

8:45 – 9:00 am  Welcome and Introductions  
*Silver*

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

9:00 – 9:45 am  Profiles of Ready Adults: Findings from State Data  
*Silver*
Analysis of available data on ready adults is a crucial aspect of the NTNM project. South Dakota’s project leader will share findings from an extensive profile of the target population, including information on past academic performance, financial standing, and support indicators. The presentation will also describe efforts to draw on other sources of data to improve the effectiveness of outreach efforts.

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

**Speaker:**  
Paul Turman, associate vice president for academic affairs, *South Dakota Board of Regents*

9:45 – 10:45 am  Nevada’s Success and Lessons Learned  
*Silver*
Nevada’s NTNM project has reorganized into cooperative regional efforts to improve access and success for ready adults. State leaders will discuss how this model has improved outcomes, share findings from a survey of state employees, and describe an effort to develop flexible degree pathways.

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

**Speakers:**  
Sharon Wurm, director of financial aid, *Nevada System of Higher Education*  
Anne Hansen, director of information and marketing, *Western Nevada College*  
Elizabeth Baldizan, director of outreach and transition, *University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

10:45 – 11:00 am  Break
11:00 am – 12:00 pm  Colorado’s Success and Lessons Learned
Silver
Colorado has leveraged resources from Lumina Foundation’s Making Opportunity Affordable initiative and College in Colorado to fund three pilot projects to reengage ready adults. The state has gleaned practical lessons for bringing these students back and generated substantial statewide momentum. The project leader will discuss how these pilot projects are operating within the state context, the importance of securing institutional “champions,” and how the state will sustain its progress and momentum.

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

Speaker:
Julie Carnahan, chief academic officer, Colorado Department of Higher Education

12:00 – 1:15 pm  Networking Lunch

1:15 – 2:15 pm  Arkansas’ Success and Lessons Learned
Silver
Due to its new lottery program, Arkansas faces a markedly different fiscal picture than other states. While these resources provide an excellent opportunity to improve services for adult learners, the state has made much progress in other areas. The project leader will share plans for a consortium of adult-friendly institutions and ways the state was able to secure institutional buy-in to improve policies and practices.

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

Speaker:
James Purcell, director, Arkansas Department of Higher Education

2:15 – 2:30 pm  Break

2:30 – 3:45 pm  Roundtable Discussions about Barriers and Solutions
Denver
Getting the Message Out on a Tight Budget
As states look to sustain momentum from the project in a difficult fiscal climate, communications strategies must reach ready adults cost-effectively. This roundtable will focus on concrete steps that states and institutions can take to get their message out without dedicating significant new funds.

Facilitator:
Terry Abramson, consultant

Spruce
Effective and Efficient Remediation for Ready Adults
Having completed most of the credits required to earn a degree, ready adults’ remediation needs often differ significantly from those of traditional students. This roundtable will focus on efficient, proven strategies to help these students refresh skills and ways to prepare for and overcome requirements that may prevent them from earning a degree.

Facilitators:
Demarée K. Michelau, director of policy analysis, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
Russell Poulin, associate director, WCET
The Carrot and the Stick: Incentivizing Institutions to Better Serve Ready Adults
State higher education systems do not always provide strong incentives for institutions to serve ready adults and most commonly used metrics fail to capture efforts to improve their access and success. In the current economic climate, many institutions are reporting surges in applications, further reducing their incentive to make extensive efforts to reach out to these students. This roundtable will discuss ways to incentivize institutions to serve ready adults and examine the benefits for both institutions and the state.

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

From Re-enrollment to Graduation Day: Expediting the Degree Process without Sacrificing Rigor
Ready adults re-entering postsecondary education are eager to earn their degrees quickly. As they work through the graduation requirements, unintended barriers can slow their progress, or even push them to leave school again. This roundtable will discuss possible solutions to these impediments, beginning after the enrollment process and continuing through graduation.

Facilitator:
LeRoy Walser, consultant, Choosing Excellence, LLC

The Road Ahead: Challenges and Solutions in Serving Ready Adults
The work that is taking place in Arkansas, Colorado, and Nevada clearly demonstrates that every state has a remarkably different context in which this project operates. While the states’ paths have diverged, they have still found many common barriers and challenges that can limit the access and success of ready adults. Project leaders from New Jersey and South Dakota will lead a discussion on the challenges that they are facing as they work to improve the environment for ready adults, taking the opportunity to capitalize on the experiences from the first cohort of states.

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

Speakers:
Glenn Lang, executive director, educational opportunity fund, New Jersey Commission on Higher Education
Paul Turman, associate vice president for academic affairs, South Dakota Board of Regents
Boris Vilic, dean, college of continuing studies, Rider University

Dinner on Your Own

Networking Breakfast
Participants are encouraged to gather for a full breakfast to network within and among states.
8:45 – 10:15 am

Preventing for Returning Military Personnel and Veterans: State, Institutional, and Student Perspectives

With nearly 2 million military personnel having served in Afghanistan and Iraq, states and institutions have expressed interest in reaching out to this population through higher education. With new opportunities afforded to veterans through the Post 9/11 GI Bill, this interest is timely, but accompanied by questions of whether they are adequately prepared for the increased demand. This session will explore state and institutional policy issues from the state, institution, and student’s point-of-view.

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

Speakers:
Bryan Cook, assistant director, center for policy analysis, American Council on Education
Dana Rocha, director of military affairs and campus-wide extended studies, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs

10:15 – 10:30 am

Break

10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Are Your Institutions Adult-Friendly? ALFI Explained

One of the primary goals of NTNM is to eliminate institutional barriers that hinder ready adults completing their degrees. The Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) has developed an assessment tool that assists institutions in evaluating current policies and practices for serving adult learners. Speakers will provide an overview of the Adult Learning Focused Institutions (ALFI) process and present a case study of how it worked in Arkansas.

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

Speakers:
Judy Wertheim, vice president for higher education services, Council for Adult and Experiential Learning
James Purcell, director, Arkansas Department of Higher Education

12:00 – 1:30 pm

Lunch – Sustaining Momentum: How Do We Move Forward?

As Arkansas, Colorado, and Nevada complete the initial phase of the NTNM project, and New Jersey and South Dakota begin their second year, the national and state fiscal picture is mostly grim. In this environment, it is more important than ever to ensure that the progress that has been made on both the state and institutional levels continues, in most cases without a significant influx of new resources. WICHE facilitators will lead a discussion about how to sustain momentum and continue the efforts of the project.

Facilitators:
David A. Longanecker, president, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
Demarée K. Michelau, director of policy analysis, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

1:30 – 1:45 pm

Closing Remarks

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

1:45 pm

Adjournment