Non-Traditional No More: Review of Findings

Colorado Department of Higher Education
NTNM Colorado Goals

– Identify system wide policies and practices that are barriers to adult access and success in higher education.

– Identify successful policies and practices within Colorado institutions or across the nation that should be implemented throughout our system to increase adult access and success in higher education.

– Develop work plans to reduce the barriers and increase the use of successful policies and practices throughout the Colorado higher education system.
NTNM Colorado Activities

- Statewide Meetings
- Workgroup Sessions
- Working Group Chair Meetings
- Pilot Programs through MOA initiative
- Multi-State Meetings
Key Findings:
Data Workgroup

• Top programs (2 year stop outs)
  • Liberal Arts and Sciences/General Studies
  • Health Professions
  • Business
  • Security and Protective Services
  • Agriculture

• Top programs (4 year stop outs)
  • Business
  • Visual and Performing Arts
  • Social Sciences
  • Biological and Biomedical Sciences
  • Psychology
Key Findings:
Academic Affairs Workgroup

- Defined “ready adult”
- Identified a need to find champions
- Recognized tension with adjusting policies
- Realized that we do not know enough about the non-traditional learner
Key Findings:
Student Services/Financial Aid Workgroup

- Financial aid policies and resources
- Academic policies
- Technology issues
- Residency requirements
- Lack of collaboration across institutions
- Lack of institutional capacity and leadership
- Limited amount of child care
- Lack of financial incentives to serve this group
Key Findings: Communication Workgroup

- Identified Existing Resources
  - State Higher Education
  - Workforce Development
  - Other

- Importance of Outreach to multiple groups

- Critical need for multiple champions
Top Three Lessons Learned

• Funding is the biggest challenge
• Shift in campus culture is needed
• Key policies changes must be done at the institution level
Moving Forward

• Pilot Programs
  – University of Colorado At Boulder
  – Metro State College of Denver
  – Adams State College

• Steering Committee

• Making Opportunity Affordable