RETURN TO LEARN
Rider University’s Program for Disengaged Adults Returning to College
RU Commitment to Adult Students

- **History of Service**
  - 145 Years of serving adults
  - College of Continuing Studies (CCS) is one of four Colleges

- **CCS Enrollment:**
  - Active: > 1,000
  - Enrolled: ~800
  - Summer: > 2,000

- **CCS Programs:**
  - 2 Associate Degrees
  - 5 Bachelor’s Degrees
  - 5 Certificates

- **CCS Average Student Profile:**
  - 34 years of age [range: 14-74]
  - 75% female vs. 25% male
  - Diverse
    - 18% African American [20%]
    - 6.5% Hispanic [12%]
    - 7.5% Asian [8%]
    - 64% Caucasian [58%]
  - Motivated
    Higher GPAs than traditional aged peers in same program of study
From nurse to hospital president, from bank teller to bank president, from police officer to police superintendent
Rider University’s Return to Learn

- Institutional Taskforce
  - Identify Disengaged Adults
    (24 years of age, 60+ credits, 2.0+ GPA)
    - Primary Population (Rider students)
    - Secondary Population (Community)
  - Develop a plan to re-engage and support such students
    - Utilize data to identify factors related to one’s ability to remain engaged (financial, course format, program of study) and develop appropriate strategies
Rider University’s Return to Learn

First address...

- **RECRUITMENT**: postcard, brochure, website
- **INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**: bookstore gift cards
- **SOFTWARE**: interactive web site (with student video profiles)
- **FEE FORGIVENESS**: prior balance forgiveness in conjunction with financial aid counseling
- **ACADEMIC ADVISEMENT/COUNSELING**: “automatic” Associate Degree? Thomas Edison State College or community college? etc.
- **STUDENT GUIDE**: a guide to campus resources for adult learners (e.g. services for students with disabilities, career services, etc.)
- **NEW DEGREE FORMAT**: online bachelor’s degree completion

... Then assess... **EXTERNAL EVALUATOR**
(Name),
Are you thinking about returning to Rider to complete what you've already started?

Here are three important ways Rider's new Return to Learn Program can help you achieve your educational goals:

1. You may have earned enough academic credits to receive your associate degree from Rider.
2. You may qualify for a "clean start"—a way to reset your prior balance due to Rider.
3. You can complete your degree studies through flexible courses that meet online every other weeknight or weekend.

Return to Learn Program for Adults
RIDER UNIVERSITY

There's never been a better time to return to Rider to complete your college degree.

This year, Rider University offers you an unprecedented opportunity to return to our Lawrenceville Campus to complete your degree.

Our College of Continuing Studies' Return to Learn program makes possible through a state funded grant—giving you additional resources and support to successfully earn your degree:

- A "clean start" by erasing part or all of your prior balance due to Rider;
- Personalized advising throughout your studies;
- Additional University-funded scholarship assistance;
- Extracurricular workshops to help you with career planning, securing externships, or applying to graduate school;
- Bookstore vouchers to help you with book purchases and more.

"Thirty years in the making, my graduation—though a dream realized—isn't the end. It's a beginning.

Today is the day to begin. Discover the confidence and pride that comes with earning a degree.

Let's talk.
Return to Learn

Goal: 25 students

Fall 2009:

- 16 students
  - One “automatic” Associate’s Degree
  - 10 Fee Forgiveness recommendations
  - 16 bookstore gift certificates

- Accomplished
  - Taskforce (Bursar’s, Registrar’s, Admissions’, Dean of Students, Faculty Advisors ..)
  - Primary population: brochure, phone calls, letters,
  - Interactive web site: videography
Return to Learn Impact

- **Student I:** A disabled veteran with a prior balance and 9 credits left to earn her bachelor’s degree is now able – due to fee forgiveness – to finish her studies.

- **Student II:** While the arrival of the first child prevented a student from finishing her degree, the arrival of the second child prompted the student to return to studies. With 6 credits left to earn her degree, a young mom benefitted from fee forgiveness and is now finishing her degree to be able to better provide for her family.

- **Student III:** A significant prior balance rendered this student unable to complete the last 12 credits of his bachelor’s degree. Financial Aid counseling outlined a strategy that will enable him to complete his studies.