

**Transitioning Students from Adult
Education to Postsecondary Education:
Research, Practice and Policy Perspectives**

Recovery and Reemployment Research Conference

L'Enfant Plaza Hotel

Washington, DC

September 15, 2009

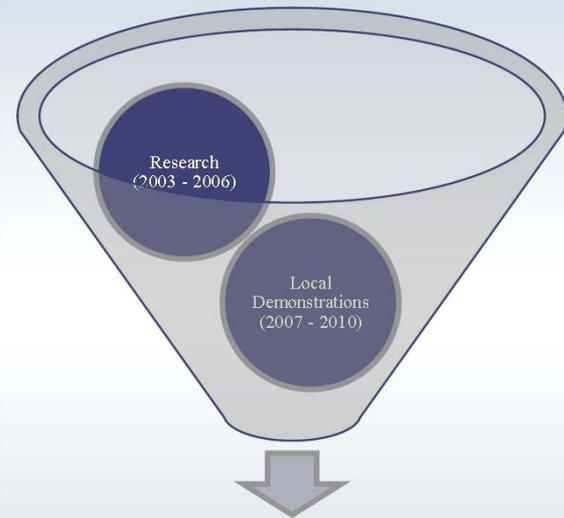
Agenda

- **Background: Assumptions and Approach**
- **Research Initiatives**
- **Local Demonstration Projects**
- **Fostering State Policy Development**
- **Next Steps**
- **Your Questions and Comments**

Background



Assumptions



**State Policy Development
(2009 - 2012)**

Approach

Background: Approach



Research (2003 - 2006)

- Adult Basic Education to Community College Transitions Project
- Adult Basic Education to Community College Transitions Symposium



Local Demonstrations (2007 - 2010)

- ABE Career Connections
- Ready for College – Adult Education Transitions Project



State Policy Development (2009 - 2012)

- Supporting States' Development of Policies for Adult Basic Education (ABE) to Postsecondary Education (PSE) Transitions
- ???

Adult Basic Education (ABE) to Community College (CC) Transitions Project

Two primary activities, 2003-2006:

- Case studies to identify programs and practices that facilitate transitions of ABE students to credit-bearing CC programs
- A symposium to advance the national discussion on ABE transitions to college and careers

ABE to CC Transitions Project

Case Studies

Research Questions

- Which aspects of ABE program operations contribute to postsecondary transitions?
- How do they contribute to transitions?
- How do ABE programs help students overcome personal and academic barriers?

ABE to CC Transitions Project

Case Studies Research Methodology

- Selection of four states with capacity to match between ABE and postsecondary data
 - Florida, Kentucky, Washington, and Wisconsin
- Identification of 16 programs with relatively high transition rates, using student- and program-level administrative data

ABE to CC Transitions Project

Case Studies Research Methodology

- Two-day site visits to each ABE program to identify transition related practices
- Interviews topics: program environment, capacity, management, recruitment, intake, assessment, curriculum and instruction, support services and advancing learners

ABE to CC Transitions Project

Observations from the Case Studies

- Prominent practices that appeared to facilitate transitions fell into four dimensions:
 - Program Structure and Organization
 - Instruction
 - Support Services
 - Personal and Organizational Collaboration

ABE to CC Transitions Project

Observations from the Case Studies

- **Program structure and organization:** ABE valued; ABE access to adequate resources, exposure to colleges; simultaneous enrollment opportunities
- **Instruction:** College encouraged for all students, goal-setting, monitored action plans, targeted instruction, test prep, curricula alignment

ABE to CC Transitions Project

Observations from the Case Studies

- **Support services:** To help ABE students overcome personal and academic barriers, community colleges, workforce development and human welfare programs, and ABE instructors offered services

ABE to CC Transitions Project

Observations from the Case Studies

- **Personal and organizational collaborations** provided ABE students with important information on college programs, the application process, financial aid, tutoring, mentoring, and potential educational and career pathways.

ABE to CC Transitions Symposium

September 14, 1006

- Culmination of *ABE to CC Transitions Project*
- Researchers, policymakers, and practitioners from workforce development, adult education and postsecondary education
- Roundtable discussions:
 - Why Are We Here? The Challenges
 - Where Are We Going? Promising Approaches

ABE to CC Transitions Symposium

Recommendations and Next Steps

- Create a system of lifelong learning
- Educate state policymakers and postsecondary institutions
- Articulate and coordinate the components of educational- and career-pathways
- Fund demonstration projects and rigorous research

Local Demonstration Project: ABE Career Connections (ABE CC)

- Contracted Project September 2007 – November 2009
- 5 Local Sub-contracted Local ABE Programs (CA, IL, KY, MD, WI)
- Designed to document ABE programs' efforts to improve connections to existing local career pathways

Local Demonstration Project: Ready for College (RFC)

- Discretionary Grant Program: September 2007 – September 2009
- 4 Grantees (CO, KS, NC & NJ)
- Designed to increase state and local adult education programs' capacity to increase OSY high school completion, college readiness and transition

Fostering State Policy Development: Supporting States' Development of Policies for Adult Basic Education (ABE) to Postsecondary Education (PSE) Transitions

- **Contracted Project (July 2009 – July 2012)**
- **Target TA to 8 states (TBD)**
- **Designed to assist states in developing, implementing and evaluating state policy to support adults transitions from AEFLA to college and career readiness**

Next Steps

- Dissemination of ABE CC & RFC Products & Lessons Learned
- Development of New Technical Assistance Initiatives (e.g. Bridge Course Design?)

Questions? Comments?

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