

Regents Academic Committee on Adult Learning

2014-2015 AY: Meeting 1

November 17, 2014

Atlanta Metropolitan State College
Charles F. Easley Sr. Conference Pavilion

MINUTES

Welcome and Introductions

Mary Ellen Dallman called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m., and welcomed the RACAL (Committee) members to the inaugural meeting.

The Adult Learning Consortium: History and Accomplishments

Mary Ellen provided a brief history on USG's Adult Learning Consortium (ALC). The purpose of the ALC is to make decisions on behalf of the participating institutions regarding policies, programs, practices, and services to increase college completion by adult learners. Mary Ellen shared how the consortium began with a pilot at Valdosta State University. In the first year of funding by the College Access Challenge Grant (CACG), five schools became members, including Atlanta Metropolitan State College, Bainbridge State College, Fort Valley State University, Georgia Southwestern State University, and Valdosta State University. The second round of CACG funding provided an opportunity for the ALC to grow by four more institutions including Columbus State University, Dalton State College, Southern Polytechnic State University, and the University of North Georgia. The last set of institutions to be added to the ALC included Armstrong State University, Georgia Perimeter College, Gordon State College and Middle Georgia State College.

Mary Ellen was pleased to share that during the ALC Executive Committee meeting, held just prior to this meeting, the ALC unanimously voted to accept applications for three more institutions to join the ALC; the institutions are Darton State College, Georgia Highlands College, and University of West Georgia.

Mary Ellen discussed several accomplishments of the ALC including the origination of eMajor, funding of 14 USG Adult Learner Friendly Innovation grants, actions toward greater acceptance of all forms of credit for prior learning, and more specifically mapping courses to American Council on Education (ACE) Military and CREDIT® recommendations.

The Charge to the Committee

Houston Davis thanked the Committee for their commitment to serving adult learners. He stressed the critical need of this work to aid Georgia in meeting its college completion goals. Houston emphasized the need for further change while maintaining, aligning, and building upon the work of current adult college completion initiatives. His goal for the Committee is to create an aligned system where adults seeking a degree can find a wide variety of adult-friendly institutions and programs that fit their needs. To achieve this goal, Houston charged the Committee with recommending policy, identifying and communicating best practices, aligning

institutional and System-wide adult friendly initiatives, and taking a leadership role in promoting adult college completion. Houston asked that the committee get off to a quick start, communicate and meet frequently, and focus on concrete actions and recommendations.

GoBack.MoveAhead.

Roz Barnes Fowler reported on the state-wide [Go Back.Move Ahead.](#) campaign focused on attracting adults who have some college credit but no degree to enroll in Georgia public colleges and universities to complete their degree. Roz provided background information on how the [DiscoverYourGoal](#) campaign and [Complete College Georgia](#) supported the initial research for the *GB.MA.* campaign. Roz reviewed the marketing plan set forth by Jackson-Spalding, the public relations firm in charge of the media campaign. Several USG and TCSG institutions hosted campus events for *Go Back.Move Ahead.* Week held in October. Roz shared the newest campaign brochure. She also provided statistics on the current success of the campaign based on the number of prospective student requests received through the USG TrackIt system and the corporate call center.

Characteristics of a USG Adult Learner Friendly Institution

Ashley Layne presented on characteristics of an USG Adult Learner Friendly Institution. The adult learner friendly characteristics were presented in reference to a research-based framework that synthesizes research and best practices from national organizations focused on serving adult learners. The five key characteristics are: Access, Advisement, Credit and Prior Learning, Student Support, and Technology. Ashley shared examples of how institutions can implement practices and services that best meets the needs of adult learners from enrollment to degree completion.

Servicemembers and Veterans = Adult Learners

Dave Snow shared actions that USG has taken to better serve Georgia's military population. There are currently 774,000 veterans and 100,000 active duty, guard and reserves in the state. Dave visits military bases throughout the state to promote USG institutions. Dave shared best practices for retaining military service members which include peer mentoring programs, student veteran organizations and Military Resource Centers. He also stressed the benefits of prioritizing class registration for servicemembers, and the importance of acknowledging military learning through the acceptance of ACE Military and CREDIT® recommendations and prior learning assessment.

Credit and Prior Learning Assessment

Transfer, Reverse Transfer

Barbara Brown reviewed the [BOR policy on transfer students.](#) She explained how students could receive reverse transfer credit in order to be awarded an Associate's degree. Barbara also discussed the barriers to reverse transfer that could be faced by the student and/or the institution. She reviewed the potential process for identifying students who would benefit from this opportunity, and the steps that would need to be taken by the student and institution to successfully implement this process.

Prior Learning Assessment

Jerry Merwin shared more detail on Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) and the importance of this practice in serving adult learners. Jerry reviewed the various methods of PLA and helped to provide insight on how institutional acceptance of PLA helps adult learners move towards college completion.

Organization of the Committee

Leadership

Mary Ellen offered options for the Committee to organize itself and elect leadership. It was agreed that the Co-chairs of the Committee for the coming year will be Dennis Chamberlain, Gordon State College; Susan Cody, Georgia Perimeter College; and Rhonda Bryant, Albany State College.

By-Laws

Mike Rogers stated that bylaws are required for every Regents Academic Committee and offered to send a sample to serve as a guide to help this Committee draft its own bylaws.

Organization

Mary Ellen clarified that representation on this Committee does not automatically mean an institution is a member of the Adult Learning Consortium. This Committee and the ALC are two separate entities, and participation in both is encouraged.

Next Meeting

The Committee agreed that the next meeting will be held during the ALC ADVANCE, May 17-19, 2015, at Château Élan Inn in Braselton, Georgia. Mary Ellen extended the invitation for the Committee to fully participate in the upcoming ALC ADVANCE.

Adjournment

Institution	Representative	Attendance
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural State College	Brooke Jernigan	Present
Albany State University	Rhonda Bryant	Present
Armstrong State University	Delana Nivens	Present
Atlanta Metropolitan State College	Kokila Ravi	Present
Bainbridge State College	Pam Barnes	Present
Clayton State College	LaJuan Simpson - Wilkey	Present
College of Coastal Georgia	Daivd Mulry	Present / President Gregory Aloia also attended
Columbus State University	Lisa Shaw	Present
Dalton State College	Andy Meyer	Present
Darton State College	Sarah Kuck	Present
East Georgia State College	Georgia Edmond	Absent
Fort Valley State University	Rayton Sianjina	Present
Georgia College & State University	Artis Williamson	Present
Georgia Gwinnett College	Tee Mitchell	Absent
Georgia Highlands College	Juliana Breithaupt	Present
Georgia Institute of Technology	Leo Mark	Absent
Georgia Perimeter College	Susan Cody	Present
Georgia Regents University	Adam Wyatt	Present
Georgia Southern University	Thomas Koballa	Present
Georgia Southwestern State University	Charles Huffman	Present
Georgia State University		Absent
Gordon State College	Dennis Chamberlain	Present
Kennesaw State University	Todd Powell	Absent
Middle Georgia State College	Pamela Bedwell	Absent
Savannah State University	Frank Williams	Absent
South Georgia State College	Angela Holland	Present
Southern Polytechnic State University		Present / Dawn Ramsey attended
University of Georgia	Laura Crawley	Present
University of North Georgia	Chaudron Gille	Absent
University of West Georgia	Myrna Gantner	Present / Karen Lingrell attended
Valdosta State University	Reynaldo Martinez	Present / Jerry Merwin also in attended

USG Staff Present

Houston Davis, Barbara Brown, Mary Ellen Dallman, Roz Barnes Fowler, Sheila Jones, Ashley Layne, Mike Rogers, Jon Sizemore, Dave Snow and Cheryl Thomas