Mercer County Community College
Trenton, NJ

Building Bridges Over Troubled Waters

Educational Transition Programs for Youth and Adults
Presented by

Monica L. Weaver, Dean & Provost

Darius Dove, Assistant Director, Urban Academic Academy

Community Education and Training
Peg Gould, Assistant Director – Curriculum Development
Craig Morris Assistant Director – Career Training Institute
Why do students need a bridge into post secondary education?

- 64% of students at four year colleges lacked the competencies to enter college level introductory courses

- 74% of students at two year colleges lacked the competencies to enter college level introductory courses
Why do students need a bridge into post secondary education?

- 20% - 30% of first year students in the United States are required to take remedial courses
- 50% of community college students
- 1000’s become frustrated when faced with remediation and never make it to the first day of class
The Cost of Remediation

- 4 out of 10 students complete remedial courses
- 30% who complete remedial courses never attempt their gateway courses
- Only 1 in 10 completed community college

- 3 billion spent annually - the costs of remediation are high both financially for taxpayers and students

Remediation: A Bridge to Nowhere! Complete College America 2011  www.completeamerica.org
College Placement or NOT

Real Life Data

7048 Students Tested
4724 Need Remediation

67% of incoming first year students

1295 Recent High School Graduates Tested
828 High School Graduates Need Remediation

63% of recent graduates

Enrollment snapshot from a 2 year institution in the northeast
Project Link

Darius Dove; Assistant Director
Youth College - Urban Academic Academy
Project Link

Project Link provides qualified students the opportunity to take college courses

Goal – Provide students with a precollege experience to better equip them to succeed at the post secondary level
Benefits to Youth

- Provides students with early awareness
- Promotes post-secondary education
- Improves students basic skills
- Academically challenges our students
Benefits to the Community College

- Opens dialogue and collaboration between the Youth College programs, high school administration, community college faculty and administration

- Attracts students to the community college campus

- Provides a seamless transition between high schools and post secondary education

- Academically prepares students for post secondary work
Program Costs

- Students are placed in classes based on seat availability
- Youth College programs pay for students books – Grant
- Students are required to return their books at the end of the semester
Benefits to Pre-College Programs

- Opens dialogue and collaboration
- Impact high school retention and graduation rates
- Encourages students to challenge themselves
- Increase participants’ GPA’s and graduation rates
- Accelerates earning of the baccalaureate degree
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Remedial Courses</th>
<th>College-Level Courses</th>
<th>Total Students</th>
<th>Students Passed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>104</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of Students Passed</td>
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<td>72%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Blueprint For Success

- Create a competitive application process
- Develop a student contract where the student is responsible for their books, making contact with program counselor, and attending class regularly
- Conduct mandatory orientations
- Hold monthly individual meetings with students.
A PILOT PROGRAM

CONTEXTUALIZED ADULT EDUCATION

Peg Gould, Assistant Director
Community Education and Training
WHAT IS CONTEXTUALIZED TEACHING AND LEARNING?


“a conception of teaching and learning that helps teachers relate subject matter content to real world applications”
WHY CONTEXTUALIZED???

BASIC SKILLS AREAS

- WRITING
- READING
- MATHEMATICS
- ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE
WHAT ABOUT...?
FOUR CYCLES - 7 Weeks Each

- CYCLE 01: SURVEY AND INTRODUCTION TO JOBS
- CYCLE 02: A CLOSER LOOK AT JOBS
- CYCLE 03: GED INTENSIVE PREP
- CYCLE 04: THE NEXT STEP---TRANSITIONS TO COLLEGE AND CAREERS
CAREER SECTOR FOCUS

engaging the WHOLE STUDENT

Five career sectors
- Healthcare, liberal arts, culinary arts, business, and entrepreneurship
- Career interest inventories
- Jobs values
- Learning styles inventory
Strategies to **Empower the whole student**

- integration of essential skills & content
- concrete applications
- specific context of interest to the student

**Curriculum**

**Teaching**

- Use of authentic materials
- Varied lesson presentations
  - technology ([www.jobs4jersey.com](http://www.jobs4jersey.com), [http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/wnjpin/wnjpin_index.html](http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/wnjpin/wnjpin_index.html))
- Other student-centered practices

- Examining application of knowledge and the transfer of skills

**Assessment**
Educating the whole student

- Basic Skills taught in the context of work
- Every week a different sector is highlighted
- Examples
  - Arithmetic and culinary arts
  - Critical thinking and criminal justice
  - Math and business
  - Writing and revising a GED quality essay
  - English in an interview
  - Capstone Fridays - Soft skills learned through speakers and distinguished guests
  - Resume vocabulary and resume writing

Cohort of Learners
Educating the whole student

Themes and Applications

- Reading class with books or articles about GED ‘success stories’
- ESL class with vocabulary from work situations encountered by students
- Supplemental class with intensive math word problems from the workforce
- Supplemental class with intensive writing support: writing for the GED essay

Contextualized Activities

- Readings with students choosing a career & highlighting main points, such a selection from Gig or Working
- Options related to careers for mathematics worksheets or projects, such as income of various professions or fractions as used in carpentry or cooking
How AND How much?

Looking at the numbers
75% retention (estimate)  
(July 2012-Dec 2012) v.  
37% retention  
(July 2011-Dec 2012)

Variables
~changing GED  
~non-returning students  
~involuntary learners  
~only 50% of PY  
~student resistance  
~teacher reluctance

~Funding Sources~  
⃣ WIA Title II funds  
⃣ Literacy4jersey grant

$150,000
Points to consider for your program

- What kinds of resources would be most helpful in supporting your work around contextualized teaching and learning? (e.g., professional development; networking with other peer experts; exposure to innovative models; additional research & information; other)

- How could others support your efforts to strengthen contextualized approaches at your college? (e.g., college leadership; non-CTE faculty; counseling faculty; others)

- How could external partners support you?
Career Training Institute

Craig Morris, Assistant Director
Community Education and Training
What is CTI?

- The Career Training Institute is a short term intensive job training program (750 Clock Hours)

The Student Population

- First time and/or experienced workers wishing to upgrade their skills
- Re-entering the work force after an extended leave of absence
Program Entry Requirements

- High School Diploma or GED
- TABE test scores
  - Grade 8.0 math skill level
  - Grade 9.0 reading skill level
Career Training Options

- The Culinary Arts
  Culinary Technician

- Administrative Professional
  Administrative Assistant
  Medical Secretary
  Legal Secretary
  Microsoft Office Suite
  Computerized Accounting
Program Cost and Funding

- Cost of CTI Certification is $4,000
- Over 95% of our students are referred and funded by the Mercer County One Stop Career Center
- Financial Aid – A work in progress
Transition to Work

- Culinary technician curriculum is contextually based
- Administrative Professional – Currently undergoing a curricular revision

Career Center
- Group and individual career counseling and coaching
- Career exploration and development
- Job search support
- Developing new internship opportunities
Transition to Higher Education

- Students earn college credits upon program completion
  - Culinary Arts Program = 6 college credits
  - Office Professional = 3-5 credits

- Assist students who wish to transition into Higher Education
  - Accuplacer
  - FAFSA
Bridge Between Programs

- Students seamlessly transition into CTI from Community Education and Training Non Credit Programs
  - The Adult Basic Education Program
  - The GED Program
  - The ESL Program
Program Benefits

- Certificate of Achievement upon program completion
- Job placement and retention assistance
- Internship opportunities
- Use of modern equipment and facilities
- Free three credit class after 90 days of work experience
Program Benefits Continued

Students learn that they are capable of completing college level work

Use of up-to-date software programs and computer hardware

Engage students with hands on and traditional instruction
Transitioned into the Workforce

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Students</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
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<td>2008</td>
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CTI Employed By Year
Transitioned into Higher Education

CTI Students Transitioned into MCCC

![Bar Chart]

Students

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Higher Ed
Building Bridges Over Troubled Waters

Project Link

Contextualized Adult Education Career Training Institute
Q & A

For more information about our presentation please visit:

www.mccc.edu

Or

Contact Monica L. Weaver  609-570-3161
Thank you!