



FACT SHEET

Adult Learner—may be 24 years of age or older; a veteran of the armed services or active duty; returning to school after four or more years of employment, homemaking, or other activity; a person who assumes multiple adult roles, such as parent, spouse/partner, and employee.

All In Adult Learners



“All In’ acknowledges the broad range and scope of the diversity we hope to reach, and that diversity and inclusion must continue to be among the core values that drive Penn State’s future if we are to fulfill our vision of being a leader in research, learning, and engagement that facilitates innovation, embraces diversity and sustainability, and inspires achievements that will have impact and affect the world in positive ways. Penn State wants to remain at the forefront of these important diversity and inclusion initiatives.”

—Marcus Whitehurst,
Vice Provost for Educational Equity, Penn State
Commission for Adult Learners Sponsor

Prior Learning Assessment

Another initiative that illustrates the Commission’s support for a diverse audience is the website priorlearning.psu.edu, which aggregates all information about PLA from across the University and serves as a single point of entry for students, faculty, and staff seeking information about prior learning assessment at Penn State. In addition to policies and procedures, it will provide students—whether they are transfer, adult, military or veteran, first-year, or a combination—with information intended to help them determine if PLA is a viable option for them and what steps they need to take. Michele Rice, director of Prior Learning Assessment, notes, *“Knowing about and using PLA helps students realize both access and affordability.”*



Joe Bloise,
Graduate, iMBA

Financial Literacy



Sonia Bullard,
B.S. in Psychology

Penn State’s Financial Literacy initiative was created in February 2013 by a collaboration between the Commission for Adult Learners and the Office of Student Aid. Dr. Daad Rizk was hired as the manager and charged to promote financial literacy to adult learners at Penn State. Since that time, a proposal to create a financial literacy center to serve the entire Penn State community was developed under the guidance of the Financial Literacy Advisory Board and the Provost’s Enhance Educational Pathways (EEP) Taskforce. On October 6, Provost Nick Jones approved the proposal. The Penn State Financial Literacy Center, along with Dr. Rizk’s office, will be housed in the Grange Building at University Park. The center will extend programs and services to meet the increased demand from students, faculty, and staff throughout Penn State. Dr. Rizk states that the center will progress in phases over a period of three years to move into its office space, finalize instructional self-study modules, and develop a network of campus liaisons so that programs are available to students on all campuses.

**Our 2016–17 Committees/Charges:****Access and Affordability Task Force**

To continue the investigation of new tuition models for adult learners, specifically part-time students.

The task force will:

- identify possible models for equalizing tuition between full-time and regular part-time students (who are obtaining all or most of their credits on a part-time basis)
- use historical data on student credits and tuition from at least two specific campuses and run these models to assess the cost savings to the students, as well as the economic impact on the campus and University
- recommend the most appropriate tuition model to President Barron

Adult Learner Engagement Committee (ALEC)

To propose more effective ways to engage the adult learner population throughout Penn State. ALEC recognizes that there are pockets of current activities to engage our adult learners (in the classroom and online), yet this population can easily feel a disconnect from Penn State on a social, perhaps communal, level. It is the mission of this committee to report on best practices across the system and suggest how these practices can be utilized throughout the Penn State community.

Hendrick Award and Conference Committee

To recognize exemplary contributions to the success of our adult learner population through the selection of the Shirley Hendrick Award.

To plan the annual Hendrick Best Practices for Adult Learners Conference, which showcases best practices from adult learner practitioners across the Penn State community.

Military and Veteran Support Services

To provide advocacy and support to Penn State student veterans/active-duty military students by identifying best practices and policies.

To partner with the senior director of Veterans Affairs and Services as an advisory committee promoting the needs of this population.

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