



## Transitions: College and Career Prep A University and Community Partnership

[www.PennStateCE.com/Transitions](http://www.PennStateCE.com/Transitions)

# LESSON LEARNED

**IT'S A WORK IN PROGRESS**

PENNSTATE



Continuing Education

## Program Goals

- **Develop partnerships with community-based adult education providers**
- **Recruit better-prepared adult learners**
- **Conduct the program in Penn State classrooms**
- **Share financial responsibility**
- **Model our successful program to other PSU campuses**

# Penn State Continuing Education Contributions

- **Classroom facilities and computer access**
- **Marketing support**
- **Access to University technology—ANGEL**
- **Continuing Education staff involvement in course**
- **Partial funding—instructional support**
- **Overall program coordination**

## Program Assessment

- **Enrollment, attrition, and attendance**
- **Computer Assessment Tool**
- **Pre and post TABE results**
- **Final Program Evaluation**
- **Monitor subsequent postsecondary enrollment**
- **Monitor academic success at Penn State**

## LESSON LEARNED

**THE INTAKE PROCESS IS CRITICAL TO PROGRAM SUCCESS**

PENNSTATE



---

Continuing Education

# Goals

- **To ensure proper placement of students**
- **To ascertain student's goals, strengths, and deficiencies**
- **To bolster attendance and participation**

# Benefits

- **For students:**
  - **Promptly address their goals**
  - **Decide if the class will benefit them**
- **For Instructors and staff:**
  - **Get an idea of student goals and abilities prior to the first class**
  - **Adjust curriculum to meet student needs**
- **For the Program:**
  - **Better student attendance**
  - **Higher rate of completion**



# The Intake Process

1

- Students make inquiries to CE

2

- Instructor conducts phone interview

3

- Follow-up e-mail; Invitation to orientation

# LESSON LEARNED

**Orientation Sets the Tone for Class Expectations  
and Saves Valuable Instructional Time**

PENNSTATE



---

Continuing Education

# Orientation

**Staff-student  
meet-and-greet**

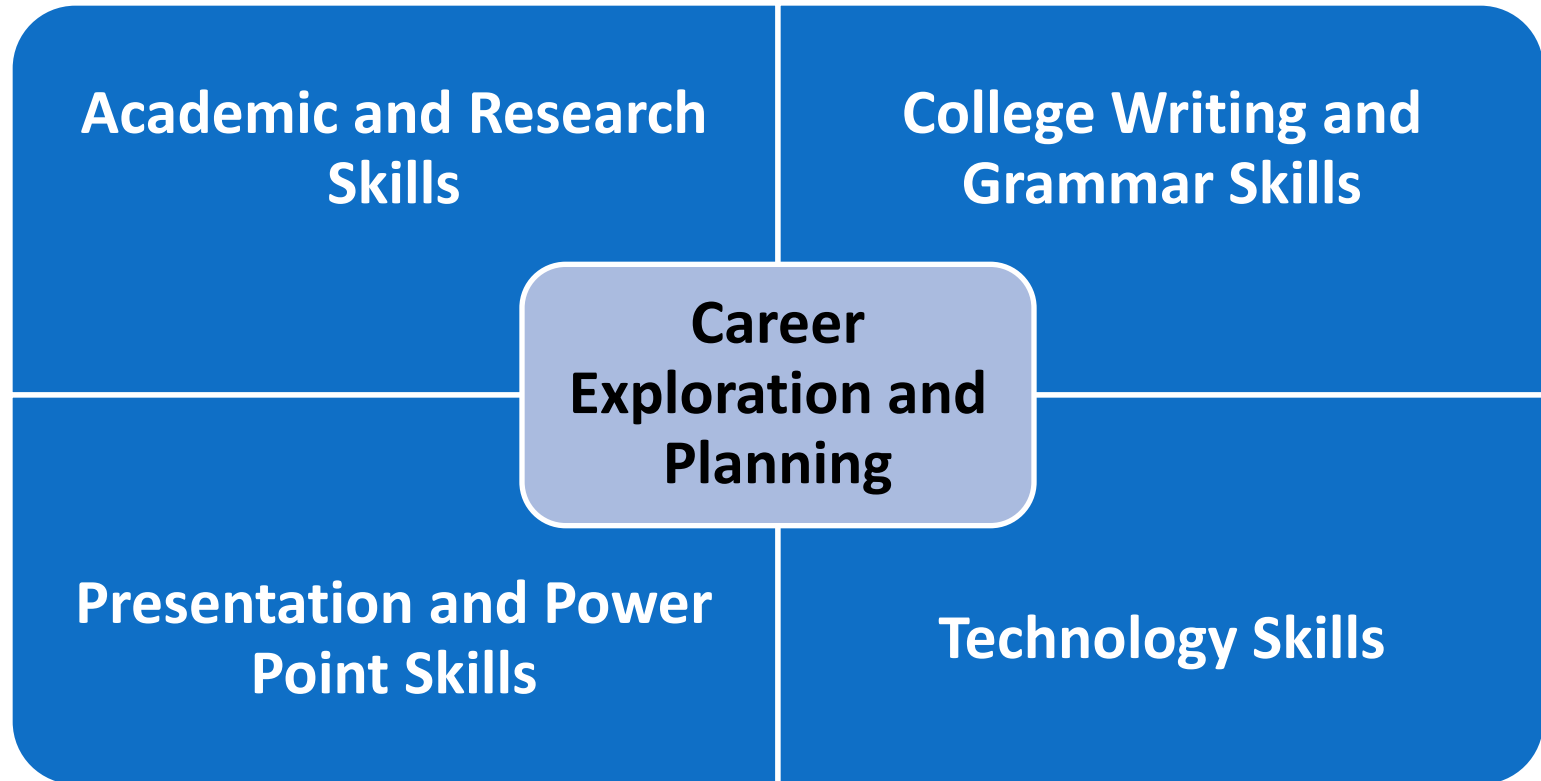
**Establish FOP  
accounts**

**Mandatory state  
assessment (TABE)**

**Collect ICE  
information**

**Discuss class  
policies and  
review syllabus**

# Transitions Curriculum



## LESSON LEARNED

**Career and Educational Planning Provides the  
Critical Framework for the Course**

PENNSTATE



Continuing Education

## Education and Career Planning

- **Provides a framework for programmatic goals**
- **Integrated into three interactive class sessions**
- **Goal is for students to articulate a solid career and educational plan by completion of program**
- **Interactive and fun!**

## Career Planning—First Visit

- **Establish individual and group connections**
- **Deflating the power differential - making it real**
- **Discussion related to the world of work**
- **Importance of understanding and defining one's interests, personality preferences, values, and transferrable skills**
- **Prepare students to complete assessments**

## Career Planning—Second Visit

- **Group interpretation & discussion of assessment results**
- **Provide and review reputable occupational materials**
- **Reinforce the importance of becoming an “informed consumer”**
- **Engage group in “aha” moments**



## Career Planning—Third Visit

- **Discuss assessment results**
- **Discuss greatest fears, concerns, and anticipated obstacles related to returning to school as an adult learner**
- **Discuss self-esteem, self-efficacy, accountability, and traction**
- **Encourage students to meet one-on-one to review their educational and career plans**

## LESSONS LEARNED

- **The program must reflect the community and students who are served**
- **Having the “right” everybody**
- **Nurture all relationships**
- **Overarching goal is defining a career path and educational plan**
- **Continually reassess—flexibility is key**

# **Transitions: Back to the classroom**

# Contacts

- **Betsy Esposito**

**Penn State Continuing Education:**

**[bx4@psu.edu](mailto:bx4@psu.edu)**

- **Liz Lasher**

**Penn State Continuing Education**

**[ejl155@psu.edu](mailto:ejl155@psu.edu)**

- **Sonia Ramsey**

**State College Area School District**

**[ssj11@scasd.org](mailto:ssj11@scasd.org)**