

# Engaging with Adult Learners:

*Best practices for working with adult learners on our campuses*

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May 9, 2018

# Commission for Adult Learners (CAL)

- Penn State's Commission for Adult Learners is composed of faculty, staff, and students from several University locations; members are dedicated to improving the adult learner experience at Penn State
- There are a variety of committees within the Commission; all are charged with recognizing various issues facing the adult learner and identifying ways to address these concerns

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# 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

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# Use Your DATA

- **CAL:** Undergraduate Adult Student Profiles
- **PULSE** is an ongoing survey initiative that covers a variety of topics that are administered by Student Affairs Research and Assessment (SARA) approximately 2- 4 times each academic year. (began 1995)
- **Student Experience Survey** was administered to students at all campuses: Co-curricular engagement, working habits, athletics and academic data is available. (March 2017)
- **<https://studentaffairs.psu.edu/assessment/analysis-reports>**
- Please email the **saraoffice@psu.edu** or call **814-863-1809**

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# Best Practices

- **Focus Group Implementation**
  - Identifying Needs & Wants the Diverse Adult Learner Population
- **Monthly Dialogue Series**
  - Lunch & Learn, Brown Bags, Conversation Café
  - Campus Connect – Rotate resources and support services to highlight
  - Financing Education – Budgeting, finding and applying for scholarships
  - Community Connections – invitations to sponsor and participate on campus
- **Recognition**
  - Outstanding Adult Student Award & Reception
  - Non-traditional Student Recognition Week
- **Collect and Highlight Adult Learner Narratives: Share Your Story Display**

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# Strategic Partners for Collaboration

**Identify faculty and staff members who have more to offer:**

- Director of Student Affairs
  - Student Activities, Career Services, Health & Wellness, CAPS
- Adult Enrollment Coordinators
- Veterans Certifying Officials
- Adult and Veteran Student Organizations

**Recycle and Reuse Online Webinars**

- Financial Literacy

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# Online Student Clubs:

## The Sustainability Club at Penn State World Campus



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# Club Mission

WC SC members strive to achieve and maintain a socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable planet - a planet that can meet all of the needs of future generations, allowing them to lead happy and healthy lives.

WC SC serves to connect WC students with other Penn State students and staff interested in advancing sustainability, empowering them to share knowledge and resources, spread awareness, and inspire individuals to take action (in their communities and globally) towards a sustainable future for all.



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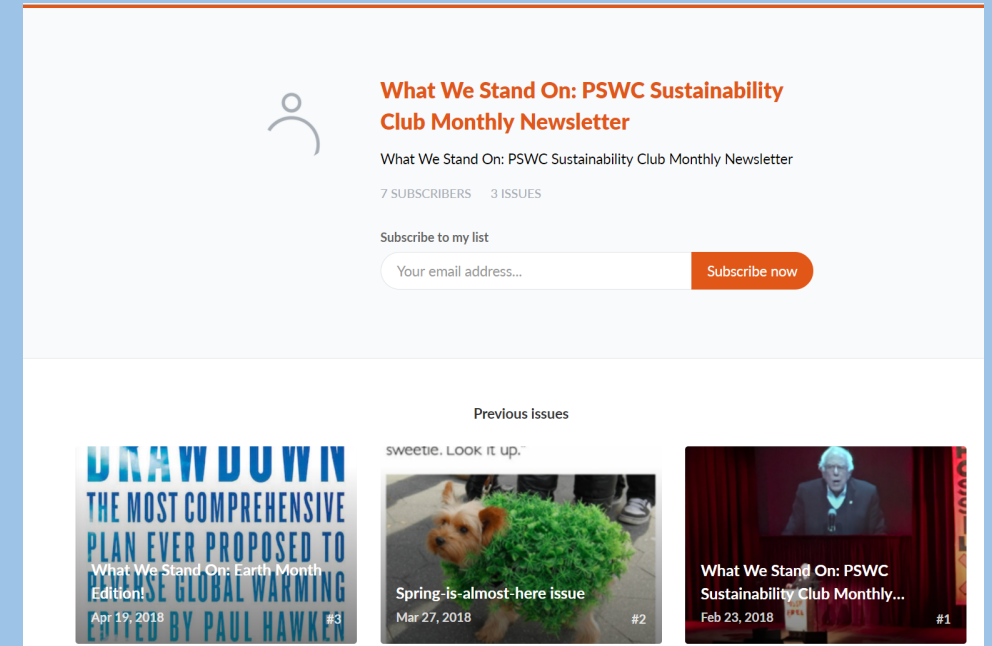
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# Membership and Operation Details

- Open to all majors
- Meet in Zoom
  - 1 meeting/month board members
  - 1 meeting/month open to all members
- Facebook presence as "World Campus Sustainability Club"
- Publish a monthly newsletter
- Email contact: wcsustainabilityclub@gmail.com



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# Engaging and Recognizing the Adult Learner

Recognize, Engage, Celebrate

- Campus lounge for adult learners and/or veterans?
- Marketing/promotional days
  - Tuesday – Wear promotional items
  - Wednesday – Coffee & Conversation
  - Offer local dinner/lunch coupon
- Recognition
  - Swag at each campus for new adult learners
  - Example for possible Logo

**PAL** | Proud Adult Learner



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# Did You Know?

- You've been invited to join Canvas Pride: AEC page
- This year, there will be an Adult Learner Track at the Summer Student Leadership Conference, August 2 - 4
- Each campus is asked to bring 2 adult learners
- You can enroll in OL3100 course: Teaching the Adult Learner
- There is a new and improved Transferring Credit Tool on the Undergraduate Admissions website
- Starfish for AEC is coming!



# Tool Box Take-away

- 3 Key Handouts for Campus Collaboration
- Identify your adult and veteran learners
- Host a 2018 Focus Group
- Use Data via Student Affairs webpage
- Create a Listserv - Facebook, Twitter to boost engagement
- Post on Canvas Pride
- Host an event for: Nontraditional Student Recognition Week  
November 4 - 11



# Thank You for Participating

- Let's Keep the Dialogue going, join us on Canvas Pride
  - <https://lmstools.ais.psu.edu/CanvasAuth/Index.html>

