A deeper Understanding: Academic Accommodations for Adult Learners in Traditional and Online Settings

Kimberly Barger M.Ed., CRC, Campus Liaison, Disability Specialist, University Park Terry Watson, MS., Assistant Director, Student Disability Services Penn State World Campus

Special Guest: Elinor McNeel, Penn State World Campus Undergraduate Student



Hendrick Best Practices for Adult Learners Conference

Today's Thoughts:

- Accommodations, a new world vs. a different world.
- Institutional barriers
- Self barriers
- Technology
- Glimpse in the life of the adult learner





Hendrick Best Practices for Adult Learners Conference

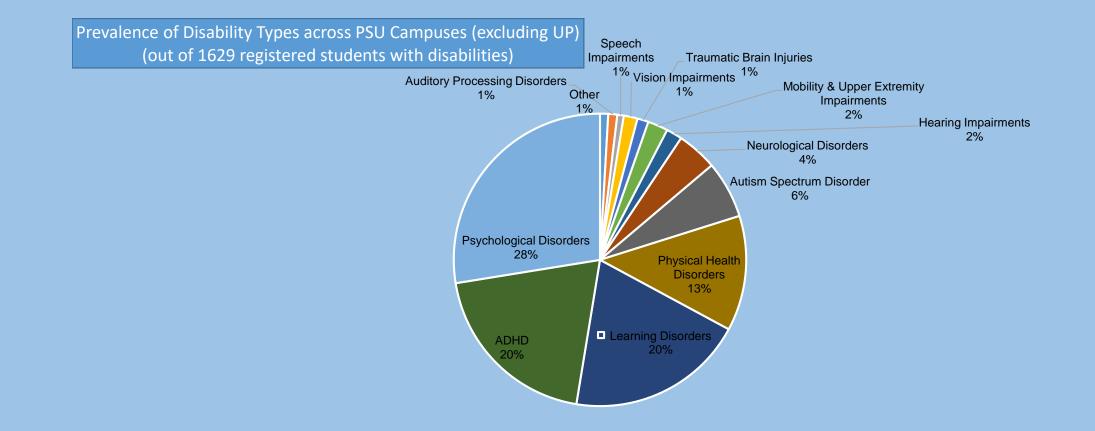
Functional Impairments to Life Activities (Including but not limited to)

Caring for self	Performing manual tasks	Seeing	Hearing
Eating	Sleeping	Walking	Standing
Lifting	Bending	Speaking	Breathing
Learning	Reading	Concentrating	Thinking
Communicating	Working	Function of immune system	Function of digestion, bowel and bladder system
Normal cell growth	Brain functions	Circulatory functions	Endocrine functions
Respiratory system functions			



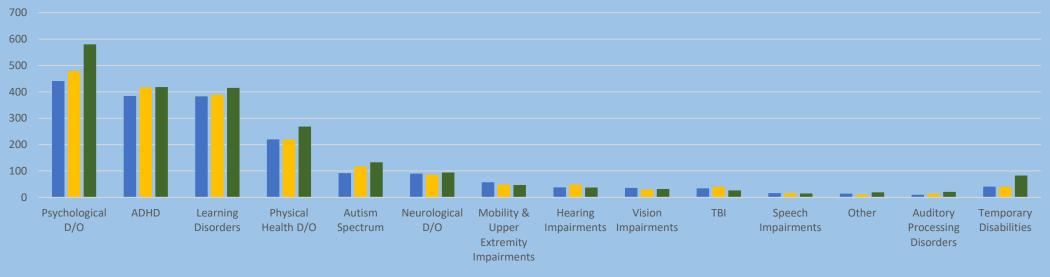
Hendrick Best Practices for Adult Learners Conference

2017-2018 Registered students





Hendrick Best Practices for Adult Learners Conference



Prevalence of Disability Types Across PSU Campus Locations

2015/2016 2016/2017 2017/2018



Hendrick Best Practices for Adult Learners Conference

A glimpse in the past...





Hendrick Best Practices for Adult Learners Conference

Accommodations: A different World

- Truly providing multiple means to engage the student
- What works well here, may not work well there



Hendrick Best Practices for Adult Learners Conference

The Process

- Students need to complete an intake, requesting the accommodations.
- The student needs to provide appropriate documentation of disability.
- Parents <u>may not</u> request accommodations and/or services on behalf of their son and/or daughter. The student must request services and accommodations.
- The length of time from when a student requests accommodations until he/she is able to receive the accommodations can vary.



Hendrick Best Practices for Adult Learners Conference

Institutional barriers

- Adaptability and flexibility
- Evaluating institutional failures
- Spaces and physical barriers
- ESA and Service Animals

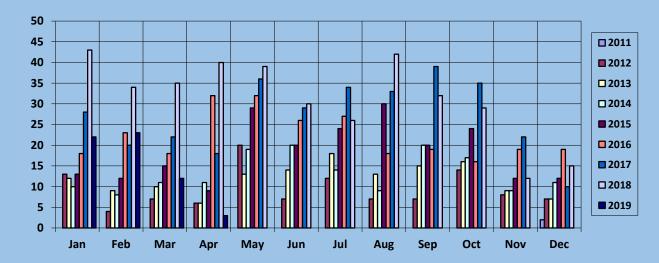


Hendrick Best Practices for Adult Learners Conference

Category of Disclosure

Number of Incoming SDS students (By Month)

- Inconclusive: "I have nothing"
- Proactive: "History works well"
- Semi-Proactive: "History of conflict"
- Reactive: "Oh no!"





Hendrick Best Practices for Adult Learners Conference

Self Barriers

- New diagnosis
- Hidden Disability
- Stigma
- Intersectionality of culture and beliefs



Hendrick Best Practices for Adult Learners Conference

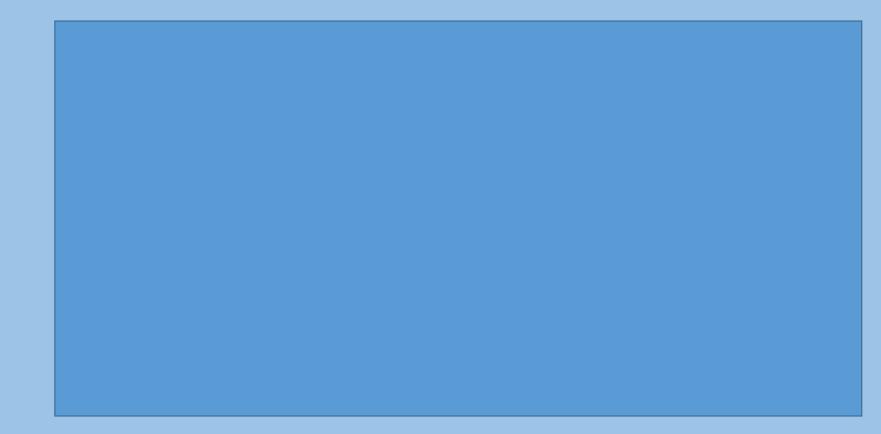
Technology related barriers

Student competencies with technology



Hendrick Best Practices for Adult Learners Conference

A Glimpse in the Life of an Adult Learner





Hendrick Best Practices for Adult Learners Conference

Questions and Discussion...



Hendrick Best Practices for Adult Learners Conference