

Charting the Course

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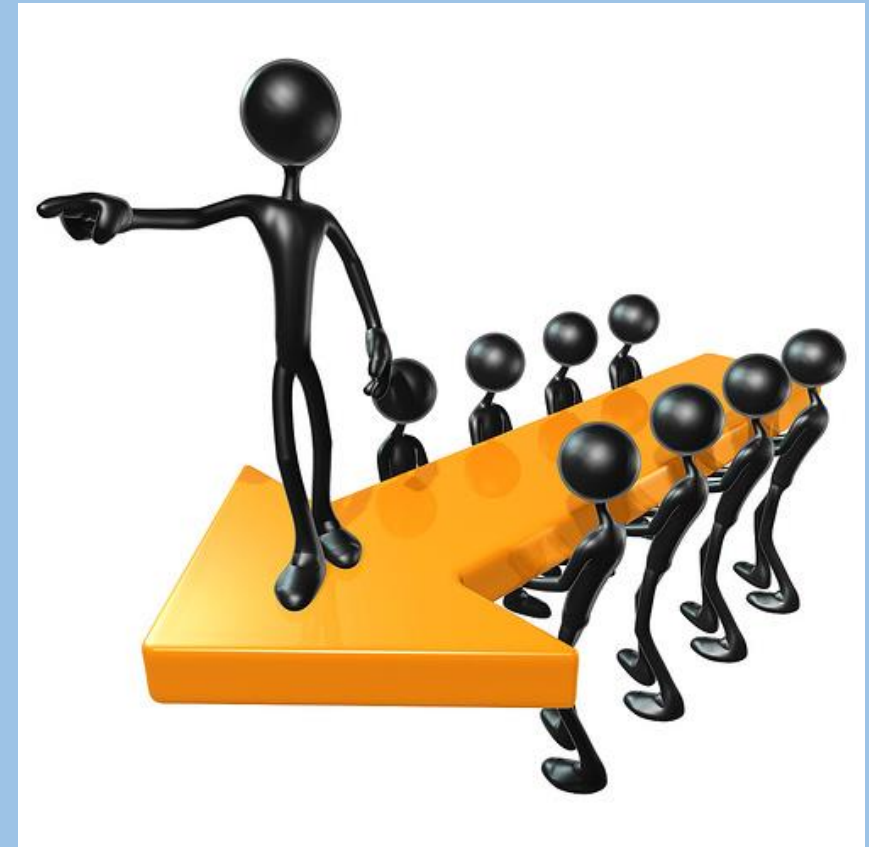
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Charge

- Assess where Penn State stands regarding adult learners among peer institutions
 - Academic programs
 - Support programs



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Method

- Need to define “peer institution” (criteria are different across institutions)
- Mostly compared to Big 10 Schools, but not exact comparison (ex. World Campus much more robust than other online programs)
- Data from Council on Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL)
- Met with peer administrator; indicated possible creation of Big 10 network

Scope

- Flexible curricular pathways
 - Develop required competencies
 - Maintain integrity of degree programs
- Broad student support that meet the needs of adult learners to assess educational versus career goals and ensure that barriers are minimized along the way
- Ease of transferring credits and receiving meaningful credit for prior learning
- Transparency about cost and time to degree
- Programming that supports the transition from residential- to online-based learning opportunities as students move along the continuum of life-long learning
- Better integration adult learners in all aspects of the Penn State experience



Recommendations for Future of the Commission

- Need for concrete internal and external benchmarking.
- The need for a central web site where adult learners can locate quickly the services relevant to a majority of the demographic (e.g. PLA, transfer tool, veterans' services).
 - Locating existing services and then aggregating.
- Connecting adult learners virtually and in real time for peer mentoring and advocacy.
- Approaching a plan for lifelong learning (ex. CE, GO 60).
- Advocating for a consistent set of definitions and terms that will be used across the University.
- The need for flexibility at the local level.
 - Ex. Funding that can be sought by units for specific needs.



Other Recommendations

- Pursue the Big 10 network idea initiated by Ms. Ayala at Purdue.
- Work back through the Office of the Provost via Kathy Bieschke's office to identify additional Big 10 members who may be interested in joining a consortium for the purposes of supporting adult learners.
- Meeting with Big 10 colleagues at the 2020 Hendrick Conference.
- Invite Ms. Ayala or another Big 10 colleague to provide the keynote address at Hendrick 2020.



Thank-you

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