



# Penn State Commission for Adult Learners

**General Meeting Agenda Date:**  
**February 15, 2023 Time:**  
**10:30AM – Noon**

Attendees: Jeff Warner, JeanMarie Jacob, Kelly Wolgast, Ashton Webb, Michael Vicaro, Renee Thornton-Roop, Whitney Zimmerman, JoAnn Kelly, Eugene McFeely, Amy Rustic, Patricia Ann Everhart, Stacy Sekely, Jungwoo Ryoo, John Dennis, Michele Rice, Bidy Brooks, Charles Greggs, Melissa Jan Kunes, Ruth Ann Herstek, Sarah Elizabeth Whitney, William Fritz, Gina Celeste Whalen, Leslie Lang, Clayton Steen, Patrick Jones, Elizabeth Tisdell

### **Opening Remarks – Jeff Warner**

- Jeff welcomed members
- Want to jump right into the presentations since presenters have to jump off the call at 11AM

### **December Minutes Approval**

- Approved
- Reminder that editorial changes can still be made at any time

### **Data Update – Whitney**

- [Adult Learner Variable List](#) Presentation

### **Adult Learner/World Campus Graduation Rate Presentation - Ashton Webb**

- [Financial Aid Learning Project- Phase 3 Presentation](#)

### **Committee Meetings**

- 45:47-1:09:36 (recording time is blank)

## Committee Reports

- *ALEC (Adult Learner-University Engagement and Outreach, Bidy Brooks, Chair)*
  - Bidy reported that the committee discussed the need to engage with the AECs on campuses and understand how they are working with adult learners and really understand the role they are providing before any recommendations can be made for the future on who should actually be doing this work. Before recommendations can be made for future action, the committee needs to understand what the current situation is and determine what the AECs need. Once they understand, they can make recommendations.
  
- *Hendrick (Chuck Greggs, Chair)*
  - Tentative Dates for Hendrick Conference, April 8 & 9, 2024
  - Hybrid Format
  - Looking at Barron Innovation HUB
    - Conferences and Institutes recommended this location.
    - 120 in person capabilities.
  - Chuck is seeking keynote speakers
    - We talked about theme for the conference and if we should pick the theme first or the speaker first?
    - Themes discussed included student success, workforce development forecast for adult learners, something timely and broad that would appeal to a large audience.
  - Chuck meeting with conferences and institutes on Friday, February 17, 2023 for additional conversation including how to market the program.
  - Kelly suggested that Chuck send the call for keynote speaker/themes ideas out to the group in an email.
  
- *Barrier Identification (Michele Rice, Chair)*
  - The committee has been working on identification of barriers for adult students. The presentation today about financial aid supported some of the ideas the group has identified. The need for sponsor support to get the word out beyond CAL and also discussed the need to have someone who is responsible for all the initiatives identified as part of their role.
  
- Jeff Thanked Michele for all the information she shares on various opportunities to gain professional development. Kelly suggested that maybe we can put it on our website to share with the broader university.
  
- *Structure and Function ( Bill Fritz, Chair)*
  - Thinking what End of Year report will look like
  - Reviewed themes of CAL this year
    - Change in leadership at the top levels of the university and what does CAL want to recommend to show the value of the group and get support.

- Talked about mental health of students and how it is impacting students. Bill is presenting at UPCEA National Conference with individuals from inside track and the University of California, Sacramento. Presentation is on the voice of the student. What we are hearing is that mental health is a topic of interest and challenge for students. This is a timely topic.
- Joanne shared her appreciation of the group members of CAL and how valuable she finds hearing their expertise from various units across the university.

#### Sponsors' Comments

- No sponsors present.
- Damon Sims was a sponsor but he has stepped down- the office remains a sponsor

#### Announcements

- Kelly Wolgast thanked the sponsors of the Hendrick Award and specifically David Callejo who filled in for Kelly Austin.
- We had 4 tremendous nominations for the Hendrick Award
- [Dr. Shannon Corkery](#) , Human Development and Family Studies, has been selected as winner- she has been notified but this is not public knowledge yet, so please do not share.
- In process of getting information over to complete the award process
- Thank you to Clayton and Jodi for taking on this responsibility.

#### Adjournment