



# Penn State

## Commission for Adult Learners

### General Meeting Agenda

Date: September 20, 2023

Time: 10:30AM - Noon

#### Welcome

Bill Fritz welcomed all the new members and sponsors

#### Member Introductions 2023-24

Name	Position at University	Number of Years on Commission	Role on CAL
Bill Fritz	Senior Director of Admissions, World Campus	6	Chair
Jeff Adams	Interim Vice-Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education	New	Sponsor
Jeff Warner	Associate Director Division of Undergraduate Studies	5	Immediate Past Chair
Chuck Greggs	Director of Enrollment Management, Penn State Shenango	6	Co-Chair of Hendrick Committee
Denise Poole	Director of Student Success Center	New	
Matt Melvin	Vice-President for Enrollment Management	New	Sponsor
Eugene McFeely	Senior Director Veterans Affairs and Services	6	
Jessica O'Brien	Admissions and Transfer Credit Services	6	Supports Bill Fritz
Ester Prins	Professor, Lifelong Learning and Adult Education and Co-Director, Goodling Institute for Research in Family Literacy and Institute for the Study of Adult Education.		Faculty Senate Representative for the Commission
Sheri Matter	Assistant Dean for Graduate Professional Programs and Associate Teaching Professor, Ross	New	

	and Carol Nese College of Nursing		
Shannon Corkery	Director of Human Development and Family Studies World Campus Programs and Associate Teaching Professor of HDFS	New	
JoAnne Kelly	Director Enrollment Management and Student Services, School of Graduate Studies, Penn State Great Valley	3	Chair- Elect
Jodi Overstrom	Enrollment Performance Management, World Campus	2	Not an Official Member of the CAL but works on administration of the Hendrick Conference.
Michele Rice	Director of Prior Learning Assessment/Undergraduate Education	8	Affiliate Member
Whitney Zimmerman	Senior Data Analytics & Research Consultant, World Campus	2	
Trisha Everhart	Assistant Director of Online Programs, School of Labor and Employment Relations, The College of the Liberal Arts.	2	
Biddy Brooks	Director, Office of Adult Learner Services, Behrend College	3	
Gina Whalen	Assistant Teaching Professor of Business, World Campus BS in Business Inter Campus (BSBIC) Program Director Business Division for Schuylkill Campus and World Campus	4	
Stacy Sekely	Associate Teaching Professor, Physical Therapist Assistant Program Coordinator, Penn State Fayette	3	
Debra Flaig	Director of Continuing Education and Career Services, Penn State Altoona	4	
Renee Thornton-Roop	Senior Director of the Office of Veterans Programs	11	Affiliate Member

#### **CAL Charge for 23/24- Clayton Steen sharing for Renata Engel**

- Renata wants to express her thanks for the outgoing members who volunteered and welcome new members.

- In lieu of a traditional formal charge, Renata wants this time to be a 2-way conversation, with Clayton. She provided Clayton with questions and received his answers and also wants feedback from the group. Clayton summarized the discussion with Renata.
  - World Campus is 25 years old. What is the relationship with CAL in support of the adult learner
    - What should our new, emerging relationship be?
    - Should we take a fresh look at today's adult learner overall? Do a deep dive study
  - What are the nuance differences between the past baby boomer adult learner who is not tech savvy , may never have taken an online course and the Gen X and Gen Z learners?
    - Are we supporting these learners and the changing adult learner?
    - Should we be doing a study like the study CAL did on Prior Learners Assessment years ago?
  - What is CALs role in the graduate school population?
  - Do we have all the right people on the Commission- we should be actively recruiting adult learner champions from across the university?
  - What are our long-term and immediate priorities and opportunities that we should be considering?
    - Example: The Hendrick Conference Revisions – what are we hoping to gleam from this format? How are we going to measure it?
  - Can CAL take the lead on establishing more impactful relationships with our community college partners? Should we? What is our role in transfer credits? Should we look deeper at the adult learners on campus vs the online adult learner experiences.
  - What is the role of the CAL committees?

### **Hendrick Award Update – Jodie Overstrom Hendrick Conference Update**

- Last year was the first time Jodie was involved in the Hendrick Award Process. We have a good plan for this year. Announcement for nominations will go out in October 2023. Target deadline of December, before winter break. Please keep an eye out for this announcement and consider nominations. Last year we struggled with getting nominations, so this year we want to be proactive and get announcements, reminders out early and often. Considering new ways of getting the information out to the broader university community. If you have questions/suggestions/ ways to improve process, please reach out to Jodi.
- Jeff reminded everyone that nominations will carry over one-year ( We will make sure the nominee is still eligible)
- Winner gets recognized at the Faculty/Staff banquet in the Spring.
- The winner also receives a position on the CAL for 3 years.
- Trisha and Shannon are both previous recipients of the award.

### **Committee Discussion**

#### **Hendrick Conference Planning- Chuck Greggs**

- Over 20 years old and it was always an in-person conference
- During the pandemic we shifted to virtual format and opened it up to non-PSU individuals
- Chuck shared the [Hendrick Conference Website](#)
  - Now Live
  - Proposal Submissions due November 1
  - Decisions by December 10, 2023
  - January 16, 2024 – Launch registration
  - Using Conferences and Institutes for assistance this year.
  - We will have 2 sessions, in-person and virtual ( this is a new format for CAL)

- Please share this out with your colleagues.
  - Baron Innovation Center is the location this year.
  - We are still looking for a keynote speaker- so if you have any ideas- please reach out to Chuck . Needs to identify someone by January.
- Recommitment to Adult Learners is the theme this year. Upskilling Adults and the changing landscape.

#### Discuss Committees

- Traditionally been 4 committees
  - Hendrick Conference
  - Adult Learner Engagement and Outreach (ALEC)
  - Barrier Identification
  - Structure and Function of CAL
    - This was put in place last year after Renatas charge for CAL was to rethink how the commission interacts with the university of Large.
    - This committee will become Strategic Communications.
    - Mission of this committee will be to take what is identified within the CAL ( barriers, recommendations) presenting these to individuals or teams who can make the change.
    - Met with sponsors and have identified some of the decision makers who can make this happen.
    - This committee will work with all the committees and sponsors and work to get the word out to make change.
  - ALEC and Barrier Identification will move under a new committee named Student Success.
    - Will add a new committee under student success
      - Recruitment – how we can attract more adult learners to the university.
- Bill opened this up to the group for input/feedback
  - Eugene asked how many members on each committee?
    - Bill responded 30 members so 5/6 per committee
    - We can also pull in other resources at the university who contribute to improving student success.
    - Aligned to Dr Bendapudi's vision for the University.
  - We will continue to use time during the CAL monthly meeting for the committee to meet so each committee does not need to meet outside of the general meetings.
  - Please email/teams Bill with any additional feedback. This is an ongoing conversation.

#### Sponsor Comments

Matt Melvin- Anything we can do to help frame the issue and prioritize that would have the most impact on recruitment and retaining adult learners. Looking for guidance and direction/ideas that would have the biggest impact.

Yvonne did a lot of great work on degree audits. We continue to work on this and make progress.

Transfer credits is a huge deal for adults. We should diversify the portfolio beyond traditional RI student.

George Zimmerman Started on Monday, New assistant vice president for enrollment management and executive director of Undergraduate admissions.

Jeff Adams- RFP is out for audits. Add planning coaching and What if Functionality. We will continue to get better. Appreciated hearing the work of CAL lead to the PLA office. This benefits the university. We were designed to serve the traditional student. But all students can benefit from barrier identification. We need to be strategic on how to take the message beyond CAL to the decision makers to really impact adult learners.

Announcements- Opened to membership

Bill Fritz-

- Professional Development Opportunity. Sponsors have agreed to fund some members to attend the CAL conference. Email was sent 8.17.2023 (Michele Rice is attending – Nov 8-10 in Baltimore)
  - Through the generosity of our Executive Sponsors, the Commission for Adult Learners would like to offer a small group of our members the opportunity to attend the [2023 CAEL Conference in Baltimore, MD](#). Our Sponsors have agreed to help financially support this initiative, which includes conference registration, lodging, and fleet transportation from University Park. To be considered for this opportunity, please submit a written request to me, that outlines your reasons for wanting to attend the conference. The CAL Executive Committee will make final selections. Members who are selected for the conference, will be asked to present summaries of sessions they attend and share key takeaways at a subsequent CAL meeting.
  - Email Bill if interested ([wjf12@psu.edu](mailto:wjf12@psu.edu))
- The CAL was instrumental in developing the [Sokolov-Miller](#) Financial and Life-Skills Center – Martha Jordan and Daad Risk started in the commission. Admissions is using the tagline in their signatures promoting the webinars for this month. <https://financialliteracy.psu.edu/events>
- If you are reviewing the CAL website and anything needs updated- please let Jessica O'Brien know. ([jlb83@psu.edu](mailto:jlb83@psu.edu))

Chuck Greggs

- Previous Hendrick information has been moved from webpage to Sharepoint ( back to 2010). If you need anything it is available on SharePoint.

Eugene McFeely

- Officially renamed 1+3 to “base to campus” program. Blended solution to pursuing your degree.
  - 1 year online and then transition to brick and mortar once they transition out of service
- Bridge Program- Veteran College Bootcamp
  - Bring them in early to campus to identify college resources,
  - Received 500,00 grant
  - Starting SU24 and hired a Veteran Student to help establish
  - Excited to get this off the ground.

Michele Rice

- Transfer Governance Council met on Monday and they talked about an article about from Inside Higher Education- [6 ways to smooth transfer pathways](#). (The Transfer Checklist)
- One of the ways we are going to move forward is faculty education piece around transfer education piece. Not only review of courses but also working with transfer students. Karen Pollack is moving forward with an OL course- so if you have any ideas please send to Michele [SMR57@psu.edu](mailto:SMR57@psu.edu) and she will include it in the course work. Willing to include Graduate information but main focus in on UG.

Denise Poole

- First Generation students continue to be a focus and support for this population. New this year- launching Tri-Alpha, National Honor Society for first generation students. We are the 3<sup>rd</sup> PSU campus to have a chapter ( Abington and Lehigh Valley) November 8 is the launch and also the celebration for first generation students nationwide. A lot of adult learners are first generation.

Adjournment (No later than 11:45 am)