Adult Education: A Gateway to College and Living Wage Employment

Overview: Join WestEd for a day long in person workshop focused on strengthening the role of adult education and noncredit education as a gateway to college and living wage employment. This training will feature tool demonstrations, hands on exploration, and group discussion to help participants make data informed program and pathway development decisions that support student transitions and success. Participants will use their own data to generate and explore questions and strategies related to implementing their consortium’s three-year plan activities. Plus, you will get the chance to engage with your peers across the region to understand and share promising practices!

This workshop will start by identifying the importance of career pathways that offer learners entry and exit points along the pathway. Using this system adult learners can enter a pathway to postsecondary and career opportunities regardless of academic or English language level, as entry points accommodate identified thresholds along the route. Against the backdrop of WestEd’s analysis of CAEP data and program interview data, participants will explore methodologies for understanding and promoting effective learner transitions. Using data and tools such as the California Adult Ed Career Education dashboard, education pathway maps, industry mapping, and labor market data, participants will learn about intersegmental program development, high risk transition points, and mapping competencies to create accessible and viable pathways to college and living wage employment. As participants discuss and build out pathways, the conversation will move to best practices for building sustainable pathways, including leveraging Ability to Benefit, dual enrollment, IELCE, pre-Apprenticeship, and community, employer, and industry partnerships. Lastly, participants will have the opportunity to explore their own data, engage in applied learning opportunities, and share best practices that support adult learners’ access and success in a career pathways program.

Objectives

1. Learn about and use data, data tools, and data-informed strategies to identify and build career pathways in adult education and noncredit programs as a gateway to college and living wage employment.
2. Build a career pathway that identifies key entry and transition points and strategies that support successful student transitions to college or employment.
3. Improve understanding and apply best practices, such as instructional cohorts, contextualization, project based learning, and other strategies to improve learner outcomes.
4. Learn about and identify strategies to build sustainable pathways, such as industry partners and dual enrollment.
5. Become informed about ways to incorporate WBL activities into IET and IELCE programs.
6. Better understand the array of nationally recognized industry credentials that can be incorporated into targeted IET Career Pathways such as construction, manufacturing, renewable energy, agriculture, and healthcare.

Audience: Consortia may send teams of K12 and CC representatives including key practitioners (lead instructors, transition specialists) and administrators involved in the development of their three-year plan and pathways programming. Participants must be willing and, in the position, to share information and data with their consortia members to support the local planning process.