Exploring the Current PLA Issues and Challenges for Programs & Institutions
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Presenters:
Alan Mandell, PhD. – College Professor of Adult Learning and Mentoring,
/SUNY Empire State College

Theresa Hoffmann, LCPC – PLA Consultant/Former PLA Director at UMUC/ Currently PLA Mentor at Thomas Edison College/ Behavioral Sciences Faculty at UMUC and Psychology Faculty at Carroll County Community College
Forces Impacting PLA at Higher Education Institutions Today!

- Obama Administration support for workforce oriented skills in adult focused institutions and the use of PLA
- Reauthorization of Higher Ed Act and Tying Financial Aid/Grant money to affordability, accessibility, accreditation, and outcomes
- Accountability and Transparency for costs, tuition increases and outcomes
- Economic pressures and increased need for qualified workers
- Social Pressures and Boomers Retirement
- Attention to the realities of social diversity
- Awareness of social and economic inequalities
- Transferability and documentation of credit
- Efficiency through leaner program models & expediting degree completion pathways
- Use of Technologies for e-learning & use of smart phones, etc.
- Increase in use of adjuncts
Group Discussion

- Identify some of the ways these external forces have impacted your institution.

- Discuss with your group
Institutions Responses to Forces of Change...

- Streamlining educational delivery systems
- Reducing benefit packages
- Increased use of adjuncts
- Changing from credit based to competency or outcome based degrees
- Changing from courses to modular education
- Jumpstarting and accelerating degrees
- Focus on work skills and professionally oriented degrees
Challenges for PLA

- What are the PLA models?
- What needs to be changed in light of the students we seek to serve?
- In what ways do our PLA models disadvantage our students?
- What policies and practices are needed to support PLA across the curriculum?
- What quality controls are in place? What quality controls need to be in place?
Group Discussion: Responding to the PLA Challenges

- What still needs to be put into place to create a strong PLA environment at your institution to increase access, create flexible degrees, and increase efficiency while ensuring academic quality?

- Discuss with your group.
Questions and Reflections

- Please feel free to ask us any questions you may have or any thoughts you would like to share.

- Please complete the Workshop Evaluation before you leave….we value your feedback!
References

- Andersson, P. & Harris, J. (Eds. 2006). Re-theorising the recognition of prior learning. Leicester, UK:NIACE.


References Continued...


PLA Research


PLA Research


We enjoyed our time together…

Thank You!

Please contact us if you have any questions:

Alan Mandell, PhD. - Mentor and College Professor of Adult Learning and Mentoring at SUNY Empire State College
Phone: 646-230-1255
Email: Alan.Mandell@esc.edu

Terry Hoffmann, LCPC - PLA Consultant/Former PLA Director at UMUC/Current PLA Mentor at Thomas Edison/Faculty in Psychology at Carroll & Behavioral Sciences at UMUC
Phone: 301-890-8434
Website for Instructional Materials: PLAConsulting.com
Email: placonsulting1@gmail.com