

Reviving PLA: A Tennessee Initiative to Increase Adult Student Success and Completion



**NORTH CENTRAL P-16
COUNCIL**

JULY 20, 2012

**Wilson Finch,
Tennessee Higher Education Commission**

What is PLA?



- **Prior Learning Assessment – evaluating outside knowledge for college credit**
- **Credit by Exam**
 - Institutional Challenge Exams
 - Standardized exams
- **Evaluated non-college programs and training**
 - ACE Credit recommendations (military and non-military training)
 - National CCRS (formerly, PONSI) credit recommendations
 - Locally evaluated training
- **Individualized assessment (portfolio assessment)**
 - Licensures/certifications
 - Performance assessments
 - Written narrative

Why PLA?



PLA Students Have:

- Higher GPAs
- Better graduation rates
- Shorter time-to-degree
- Higher persistence rates.

PLA students also save money.

Elements of the TN PLA Initiative



- Statewide PLA Task Force
- Training
- Communications campaign and website
- Developing community and business partnerships to assist in outreach

Element: Statewide PLA Task Force



- Increasing
 - Consistency
 - Access
 - Awareness

Element: Training



- Career Advisors
- Faculty Assessors

Element: Communications Campaign



Outreach Targets:

- Adults
- Employers
- Community groups

Outreach Methods:

- Website
- Video production
- TV spots
- Poster campaigns

Element: Developing Business and Community Partnerships



Grant will support 3 regional summits for employers and workforce boards

- Marketing PLA to employers and workforce boards.
- Roadmap for making PLA and postsecondary education accessible to employees for employers and workforce boards

Element: Developing Business and Community Partnerships



Training to be offered to workforce boards

- Career coaches at workforce board one-stops to be trained
- Will help job-seekers navigate higher education and PLA

Contact Us



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