Minnesota Adult Learners

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Friday draft
3:40 pm
Total Credit Headcount = 259,549
fiscal year 2015

Adult Learners (25+ years of age)
94,995 (37%)
Minnesota Initiatives

- Graduate Minnesota
  - Degree completion initiatives

- FastTRAC
  - Employment, adult basic education and higher education partnership

- MnSCU 2-Year Occupational Grant
  - Pilot program
  - Minnesota’s version of Tennessee Promise/Free College
Four-year grant funded by the Lumina Foundation
Focused on degree completion among adult learners who had left MnSCU college and universities prior to graduating
In 2011, 660,000 adults (23.1%) had begun college but not obtained a college degree
Graduate Minnesota campaign launched to re-engage those who attended MnSCU institutions, and to raise their awareness about credit for prior learning options
Campaign focused on postcard and email outreach
  - Email emphasized tuition freeze, no-cost course through the Alliss grant program, and linking degree completion to current career goals
Graduate Minnesota

**Outreach**
- Reached out to 40,697 adult learners, via U.S. mail
  - Connected with a total of 36,891
- Email blast to 19,168

**Results**
- 2,928 (7.9%) enrolled in a MnSCU institution the following year
- 1,554 (4.2%) enrolled in a non-MnSCU institution the following year
- In total, approximately 12% enrolled as a result of this outreach

- Of those enrolled at a MnSCU institutions, 782 (26.7%) earned a credential
- Of those enrolled as a non-MnSCU institution, 248 (16%) earned a credential
Minnesota FastTRAC Adult Career Pathways

- Adult achievement initiative, building career pathways along an educational and training continuum, from foundation preparation to post-secondary program completion
- Partnership between MnSCU, Department of Employment and Economic Development, Mn Department of Education Adult Basic Education, and Mn Department of Human Services
- Goal: Training for employment in high-growth, high-demand occupations
- Key program components
  - Contextualized post-secondary and adult basic education instruction
  - Career development
  - Wrap around support services
- Funded by Joyce Foundation, Otto Bremer Foundation, and Greater Twin Cities United Way
84 pathways over the four years, primarily in health sciences and manufacturing career clusters

Total Participants: 5,191
- 3,473 (67%) participants beginning in a bridge course
- 1,718 (33%) participants entering at the integrated level

Nearly half of the integrated coursework was credit based

Outcomes
- Of those completing a pathway, 72% continued college enrollment
- 74% of those who went on to earn a credential were employed after completion (a gain of 20%)
- 6 month earnings for pathway completers increased an average of $2,718; their median age rate increased $2.54/hr, from $8.65 to $11.19
MnSCU 2-Year Occupational Grant

- Pilot program (Funding for 1 cohort beginning July 2016)
- MN residents who:
  - Earning a MN high school diploma during the 2015-2016 academic year; or
  - Completing an Adult Basic Education program or passing a GED test as a Minnesota resident during the 2015-2016 academic year; or
- Enrolling in qualifying certificate, diploma, AS or AAS program at a MnSCU two-year college
  - Perkins Career and Technical Education Programs
  - Leading to high demand occupations
- Have an adjusted gross income of $90,000 or less
- Grant amount = Tuition & Fees minus Pell & State Grants
  - Have tuition and fee charges not fully covered by Pell and State Grants
  - Application = FAFSA + student consent form
MnSCU 2-Year Occupational Grant

- Participate in free mentoring services
  - Communicating with the mentoring service
  - Developing a personalized student success plan which includes
    - Concrete steps towards program completion and job placement
    - Identification of and contingency plans for potential obstacles to completion
  - Making connections to on-campus and personal development resources
  - Financial planning

- Renewal criteria
  - Submits a 2017-2018 FAFSA and any other required documents
  - Successfully completed at least 30 semester credits during 2016-2017
  - Participated in required free mentoring services during 2016-2017
  - Making satisfactory academic progress and maintaining a 2.5 GPA
  - Student's college certifies the student is on track to complete the program during the 2017-2018 academic year.
MnSCU 2-Year Occupational Grant

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<th>Implementation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ No administrative funding</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Online applications</td>
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<td>▪ Contracted mentoring services</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outreach / Advertising</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ 100% reliance on colleges and CTE/ABE programs</td>
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<tr>
<th>Planning for over-demand</th>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Anticipating wait-lists</td>
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1. Who to serve?
   - Non completers
   - Underserved / hard to serve populations
   - Recent high school graduates
   - Any measure of financial need?

2. Which programs are eligible?
   - High demand / high wage occupations

3. How will you measure the baseline for and predict changes in behavior?
   - What is the behavior change intended?
   - What behavior changes are not intended but likely?

4. What is driving adults to enroll/complete a degree?
   - Economic factors
LESSONS LEARNED / CHALLENGES

6. How does this program interact with existing federal, state and institutional financial aid & tuition policies
   • Last dollar program? Replacing other aid?
   • Is the funding adequate on a per-student basis? Population basis?
   • Will demand for this program drive up demand for other programs?

7. Understanding interactions with institutional or workforce programs
   • What supports / services are critical to success? (Recruitment / Support / Pathways)

8. Should we move beyond traditional education models?
   • Customized training
   • Prior learning assessment
   • Competency based education
Questions?

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