



## Adult Learners Council

*"The educational attainment of North Dakota's workforce will be at the level of the highest performing countries in the world."*

January 28, 2010  
Third Floor Conference Room  
National Energy Center of Excellence  
Bismarck State College

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## SCHEDULE

07:30 08:30

Registration and Continental Breakfast

08:30 09:15

Welcome and Introductions - Chancellor William Goetz, NDUS  
Overview of Meeting Agenda and Outcomes

09:15 10:30

Keynote Address: Judith Wertheim  
Vice President for Higher Education Services  
Council for Adult and Experiential Learning

Dr. Judith Wertheim, who has most recently been Interim Dean of the university-wide School of Continuing Studies at Indiana University, is Vice President for Higher Education Services and oversees CAEL's work in prior learning assessment, Adult Learning Focused Institutions and other CAEL consulting and training activities with colleges and universities.

10:30 10:50 - BREAK

10:50 12:00

*"How do we accomplish the Vision and Mission of the Adult Learners Council?"*  
- Chancellor William Goetz, NDUS

### Vision

*Through the efforts of the North Dakota Adult Learners Council and its partners, the educational attainment of North Dakota's workforce will be at the level of the highest performing countries in the world.*

## Mission

- *To identify, develop, and market learning opportunities for adults.*
- *To partner with business, government, industry, education, and the military to serve the educational and training needs of adults.*
- *To insure that every North Dakotan has access to the quality life-long learning opportunities they need to be personally and professionally successful.*

12:00 01:30

Lunch and Panel Discussion

Judith Wertheim, Jim Davis, John Richman, and Julie Kubisiak

The panel discussion will allow time to continue the dialogue from the keynote address and to address other issues from the perspective of the panel members.

01:30 01:45 - BREAK

01:45 02:30

*“How do we accomplish the goals of the Adult Learners Council?”* - Chancellor William Goetz, NDUS

## Goals

1. *Improve education accessibility and affordability for non-traditional age student populations.*
2. *Improve public and policy maker awareness of the relationship between education and economic viability.*
3. *Improve collaboration among public and private institutions in the state, including Tribal Colleges.*
4. *Provide access to the post-secondary education and/or training needed to enable every North Dakotan to be personally and professionally successful.*

02:30 02:45 - Break

02:45 03:30

*“Initiatives of the Adult Learners Council: Implementation, Measurement, and Outcomes”* - Dr. Michel Hillman, Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs, NDUS

1. **Establish a Website for marketing purposes that serves as a portal for adult educational and training opportunities;**

With eleven providers of adult education and training opportunities, a Web portal will serve as a single “front door” for the perspective adult learner. The Website will be easy to navigate and will provide quick access to available programs, application information, financial aid, advising assistance, and other essential links for the adult learner.

**2. Simplify and streamline the application process for adult students;  
and**

With a single application for the NDUS, the adult learner will not have to duplicate the application process for each institution allowing the adult learner to take courses from multiple institutions during the same term. This simplification will also be reflected in all aspects for the adult learner such as financial aid, tutoring services, developmental education, etc.

**3. Expand financial aid opportunities for non-traditional students.**

The federal financial aid package contains restrictions that make it difficult, if not impossible, for a working adult learner to receive financial assistance, especially if classified as a part-time student. Additionally, working adults are often first generation college students with significant workplace based prior learning experiences, but who are intimidated by the “ivory tower” reputation of formal postsecondary education. These students would benefit from a state financial aid program designed to meet the needs of working adults and incentivize adult student engagement by reducing the initial costs of the application, prior learning assessment, developmental course and program entry costs. These costs together represent a significant barrier to adult student degree completion. Finally, a state financial aid program that incentivizes adult student enrollment by matching employer tuition assistance contributions to adult residents attending system institutions should also be considered.

03:30 -04:15

Summary and Next Steps

04:15

Adjournment Chancellor William Goetz