

Adult Learners Council

(draft proposal – 12/2)

Vision

Through the efforts of the North Dakota Adult Learners Council and its partners, the educational attainment of North Dakota's (young adult; workforce?) population will be at the level of the highest performing countries in the world.

Mission

The mission of the Adult Learners Council is threefold:

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

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Values

As the North Dakota Adult Learners Council:

- We are committed to ~~quality and excellence~~ continuous improvement in our service to young adults through the development, implementation and sharing of adult education best practices.
- We are committed to being ethical and responsible stewards of resources.
- We are committed to serving the educational needs of adult members of our community at ~~many~~ every points along life's path.
- We value service that is responsive, personal, and accessible for all.
- We value diversity, respecting the differences between groups and individuals.

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Goals

The goals of the North Dakota Adult Learners Council is to:

1. Improve accessibility ~~and assessment~~ for diverse, ~~student~~ populations including non-traditional age students populations.

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2. Improve public and policy maker awareness of the relationship between education and economic viability.
3. Improve collaboration amongst the public and private institutions, including the Tribal Colleges.
4. Provide post-secondary education and/or training needed to enable every North Dakotan to be personally and professionally successful.

Possible Activities/Initiatives:

1. Complete an inventory of and evaluate adult learning and workforce training opportunities presently available in North Dakota to determine strengths and challenges.
2. Identify training and developmental needs for the coming year, five years, and ten years.
3. Offer incentives for collaborative proposals and delivery of identified programs meeting specific needs.
4. Call for collaborative proposals to meet emerging needs of North Dakota such as health care, energy development in both coal and wind energy, etc.
5. Establish a Website that serves as a portal into the offerings of North Dakota.
6. Develop an ePortfolio application that extends a lifetime.
7. Simplify and streamline application process for adult students.
8. Expand financial aid opportunities for non-traditional students and students who are limited part-time.
9. Remove traditional barriers to admission and delivery of degree programs. (Learn some lessons from the University of Phoenix.)
10. Provide a prior learning assessment that is not patronizing of the potential student.
11. Implement delivery options for training and development that is from the perspective of the adult student. (What is best for the student ~~or vs.~~ what is best for the institution.)
12. Evaluate and institute new protocols for developmental (remedial) courses.
13. Coordinate training and development efforts across the multiple agencies (higher education, Tribal Colleges, DPI, NDSU Extension, etc.).
14. Create lifelong learning accounts through the CAEL organization (LiLAs).

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