Prior Learning Assessment and Student Success

Achieving the Dream Webinar
Thursday, October 6, 2016
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- **Webinar details** – Provided for quick reference (f)
Kelli Clancy
Prior Learning Coordinator
Bunker Hill Community College

Nan Travers
President, Intrascope, LLC and
Director of the Center for Leadership in Credentialing Learning (CL2) at
Empire State College

Michele Stewart
Director of Grant Funded Workforce Development Initiatives
LaGuardia Community College
Introduction to the Northeast Resiliency Consortium (NRC)
NRC’s Focus on Offering Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)
5 Critical Factors of PLA Programs
LaGuardia Community College
Bunker Hill Community College
Seven Achieving the Dream Colleges
NORTHEAST RESILIENCY CONSORTIUM GOALS

• Accelerate Learning
• Ensure Students Attain Industry – Recognized Credentials
• Foster Innovative Employer Partnerships
• Use New Technologies
• Deploy Robust Student Support Services
Northeast Resiliency Consortium Sectors

Healthcare

Information Technology

Environmental and Utility
NRC’s Focus on PLA?

- Consortium strategy
- For students in academic, workforce, and continuing education programs
- Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) is the process by which verifiable learning acquired outside of the traditional learning environment is assessed for college level credit
1. Each member institution completed an inventory of current PLA practices
2. Colleges reviewed inventory and provided feedback related to current and planned practices
3. Alignment with
   • 5 critical factors for PLA programs
   • accreditation agency expectations
   • CAEL PLA standards
   • NRC Technical Proposal for TAACCCT Grant
FIVE CRITICAL FACTORS OF PLA PROGRAMS

Institution Philosophy, Mission & Policies
   Chapter 3

Program Evaluation & Improvement
   Chapter 7

Institutional Support
   Chapter 4

Faculty & Evaluator Professional Development
   Chapter 6

Program Practices
   Chapter 5
Scaling Prior Learning Assessment: History, Challenges and Opportunities
Nearly 50 years ago LaGuardia was founded on the belief that learning can occur in many different settings.

Currently, several mechanisms still exist to award credits for learning that occurs outside the traditional college classroom.

These mechanisms include:

- Internships
- Advanced Placement (AP)
- College Level Exam Program (CLEP)
- Military training Assessment (DANTE, etc.)
- Credit for Prior Learning (CPL)
- Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)
- Articulation Agreements, and
- Transfer Credits (incoming and outgoing)
Although successful in many ways, these mechanisms experience the following challenges:

- Operate as silos
- Not all widely publicized internally and externally
- Inconsistent or insufficient amounts of human and financial resources
- Policies that impede the acquisition of credits
- No institutional systems for measuring and tracking the use and outcomes of many of these PLA processes.
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The Impact of the NRC

- Encouraged us to think differently about PLA
- Helped us connect PLA efforts between non-credit and credit
- Supported LaGuardia’s ‘One College’ concept as it applied to PLA
- Fostered communication and links between all PLA initiatives on campus.
As part of our work with the NRC, LaGuardia will be offering a PLA Professional Development Workshop Series during the 2016-2017 academic year.

Faculty and staff members in advisement roles will be invited to participate in the 6-month long series consisting of study, workshops, projects and presentations on PLA.

**GOALS OF THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES:**

- Increase participants’ knowledge of PLA practices and options nationwide and at LaGuardia

- Explore and better understand strategies for assessing learning, and

- Develop PLA data collection, tracking and marketing recommendations to institutionalize PLA practices at LaGuardia.
LaGuardia Community College

THE IMPACT ON STUDENTS

- Attract prospective students who may be eligible for CPL
- Improve and streamline the process for students seeking CPL
- Increase the number of students obtaining CPL, and
- Support retention, graduation and higher education advancement
Prior Learning Assessment Program

By Kelli Clancy
Prior Learning Coordinator
Introduction

For the 5 years at BHCC, I have had the opportunity to work with many students in guiding them through the PLA process. This opportunity has provided students an advancement in completing their degrees/certificate programs at a faster pace over the past 40 years.
PLA Mission Statement
The Prior Learning Assessment Program provides an opportunity to students to condense the time of their study by granting credits for college level knowledge and skills. This program assists students in examining their outside learning experiences and identifying those that might be considered for college credits. Common sources for this kind of learning are: jobs, volunteer work, skills training, workshops or study groups, and community involvement.
Student Success Agenda

• Retention
• Graduation Rate
Retention

• Students successfully earning college credit
  • Higher rate of students passing the CLEP, AP, and Departmental examinations
  • Majority of students granted credit for approved portfolios based on life/work experience
• Cost-effective
  • Cost per credit is less than tuition costs:
    • - Credential evaluation
    • - Departmental examinations
    • - Portfolio evaluations
• Students utilizing the PLA services
  • - New and transferring students requesting PLA information available
• Successful completion of remedial courses and progression to college-level courses
  • - High school students are able to use AP scores to place in college-level English and Math courses
Graduation Rate

• Higher percentage of PLA students completing their degree/certificate programs
  o Shortening their time to degree attainment
PLA Assessments

- Examinations
  - CLEP
  - Advanced Placement
  - Departmental Examinations
- Life/Work Experience Evaluation
  - Portfolio
  - Credential Evaluation
  - Military Transcript
Educational Planning

• Assist in advising students on education journey
  o - One on one academic advising to explore PLA assessment options

• Collaboration with Student Support Services
  o - Inform student of various departments to assist them in educational journey
    • - Advising
    • - Tutoring Center
    • - Student Disabilities
    • - One Stop
Collaboration with Faculty

• Assisting in implementing PLA policies and articulation agreements
• Provide portfolio evaluation training
• Provide PLA information to new faculty members
LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NRC

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SAVE THE DATE

Next in the Achieving the Dream Series

• Webinar: Deep Dive into Resiliency
  • November 30 from 3-4pm Eastern

• DREAM 2017
  o February 21-24, 2017, in San Francisco, CA
QUESTIONS?

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THANK YOU!

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