

**LEARN Community of Practice Kick-Off**  
*Local Education Adult Resource Network*

September 10, 2024  
12:00 – 1:30 PM

**Agenda**

1. Welcome
2. Engaging: Networking in small group breakout rooms
3. Sharing: Key themes and takeaways
4. Learning: Guest speaker Tracy Robinson, Executive Director – Center for Regional Economic Enrichment with the University of Memphis and a CAEL Ambassador
5. Wrap Up

**Meeting Schedule**

Monthly, 90 minutes from 12:00 – 1:30 PM

- October 8, 2024
- November 5, 2024
- December 10, 2024
- January 14, 2025
- February 11, 2025
- March 11, 2025
- April 8, 2025
- May 13, 2025
- June 10, 2025

Information: <https://wsac.wa.gov/LEARN>

Contact: [AdultPathways@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:AdultPathways@wsac.wa.gov)

## **LEARN Session #2 – September 10 Session Themes**

### **Networking Format**

- Flexible, open structure with themed breakout rooms was highly valued.
- The ability to move between conversations helped facilitate more effective networking.
- Participants appreciated the opportunity to connect with a wide variety of organizations.
- This format allowed for discussion that included sharing challenges, in addition to best practices.

### **Discussion Themes from Networking Session**

#### **Innovative Ideas**

- Innovation in the partnerships in supporting a more inclusive culture for students.
- Emphasis on mapping pathways for students and ensuring access to opportunities.

#### **Systems Improvement**

- Systems are still set up primarily for "traditional age" students.
- Uncertainty around defining and implementing "innovative practices."
- The need for coaching and good practices to be more widely accessible, not limited to specific groups.

#### **Building Partnerships**

- Stronger partnerships with employers are needed to support ongoing learning and skill development.
- Employers should actively facilitate continued education for their employees.

#### **Untopic**

- Data and Resource Development
- Need for improved data collection and usage to track progress, especially at the local level.
- Desire for a follow-up survey to capture key ideas and move forward with resource development.



# Local Education Adult Resource Network (LEARN) Community of Practice

September 10, 2024





# Agenda

- Small Group Networking
- Key Themes and Takeaways
- Guest Speaker – Tracy Robinson
- Wrap Up



# Small Group Networking, 30 minutes

- You will select the breakout room you want to attend.
- This is *networking*. You will not have a dedicated facilitator.
- You can move to different rooms at any time, as many times as you want.
- Use the first few minutes for introductions, or be sure to introduce yourself as you participate.
  - Who are you? What type of work do you do?

## Breakout Room Topics

- Innovative Ideas
- Systems Improvement
- Building Partnerships
- “Untopic”



# Key Themes and Takeaways

- Any "Ah Ha's"
- Was there a topic/discussion that sparked your interest and that you want to learn more about?
- Did like this format?



# Guest Speaker: Tracy Robinson





# Wrap Up

- Letters of support
- In-person convening
- Next session – October 8
  - Panel Discussion: What makes an effective partnership?

Contact email: [adultpathways@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:adultpathways@wsac.wa.gov)

Website: [www.wsac.wa.gov/LEARN](http://www.wsac.wa.gov/LEARN)





# Center for Regional Economic Enrichment (CREE)

Tracy Robinson,  
Executive Director



## Core Beliefs

- *Adult learners are important on our campuses.*
- *We approach the work with a strengths-based, solution focused intent.*
- *Institutions of higher learning need to evaluate if they are adult ready.*

*Are you and your institution adult learner ready?*

**Heart of Memphis, Tenn.**

**Public Institution**

**SACSCOC**

**Carnegie R1 institution**

**21,000+ students**

**250 areas of study**



## **FINISH LINE PROGRAM**

Degree completion program for seniors who stopped attending before graduation

## **PROFESSIONAL & CONTINUING EDUCATION (PACE)**

Non-Credit training

Customized training

CEU credits

## **CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING (CPL)**

Opportunity for students to demonstrate learning from outside experiences

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS**

GROWWTH

Keep TN Beautiful

TN Delta Alliance

# FINISH LINE PROGRAM

## Eligibility

- Senior standing (90 + earned credit hours, 30 or less hours to complete)
- Recent stop-out period (fall or spring semester)
- Overall and institution grade point average of 2.0
- Pursuing first bachelor's degree

## 1,125 graduates since fall 2013

- Average student is 36 years old with 2.6 GPA and only 14 credit hours remaining to earn degree
- 100+ students graduating per academic year
- Scholarship available for those who previously exhausted federal aid



**WE  
WANT  
TO HELP  
YOU  
FINISH  
YOUR  
DEGREE!**

**NOW  
IS THE  
TIME!**



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MEMPHIS.

[LEARN MORE](#)



# Outreach: Lessons Learned

- You **MUST** have **something different** for adults to return to
- Must have someone in charge of this effort
- Use data (check against National Student Clearinghouse)
- Check for financial and judicial holds **BEFORE** reaching out
- Ask students why they left; if institutional issues, work to prevent those
- Tell their success stories – brag about them often!!!

# PROFESSIONAL AND CONTINUING EDUCATION



CUSTOMIZED  
TRAINING COURSES FOR  
BUSINESSES AND INDUSTRY >



CONTINUING  
EDUCATION CREDIT  
FOR PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS >



ADVANCED CAREER  
TRAINING (NON-CREDIT) >

# Corporate Partnerships: Lessons Learned

- *Realize you aren't always speaking the same language.*
- *You need a brand.*
- *Marketing is a two-way street.*
- *Interest > Enrollment*
- *Processes take more time than you think.*
- *You will need more staff than you think!!*



**U THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS GLOBAL**

## LEARN to EARN

Congrats on your new position! Take the next step in life by earning a degree with UofM Global.

We all know it's harder to achieve a higher income without additional education. Check out these stats\* about average weekly income for each education level.

Education Level	Average Weekly Income
Less than a HS diploma	\$314
HS Diploma	\$458
Some College	\$552
Associate's Degree	\$565*
Bachelor's Degree	\$821

As you can see, the more you learn, the more you earn. UofM Global collaborated with FedEx to offer a higher education degree program. LiFE: Learning Inspired by FedEx. YOU and the FedEx Hub team will receive free tuition (as long as you work at FedEx). Plus you will have courses suited to your prior education, 24/7 tutoring and a UofM Global LiFE Coach to help you along the way.

**FedEx**

\*Source: Statistical Atlas, Educational Attainment in Memphis, TN



# *UofM Global*

## *Try Before You Buy*

### **Adulting 101: A Practical Guide to Managing Your Resources**

This course explores **values, goals and resources** necessary for individuals and families to make balanced and informed decisions throughout the life span on topics like:

Investing Mortgage  
Savings Retirement  
Insurance Debt  
Housing  
Transportation  
Taxes



<https://www.memphis.edu/uofmglobal/degrees/complimentary/index.php>

# Credit for Prior Learning

- College level *LEARNING* and skills acquired outside the classroom through work/life experience and through formal and informal education activities
- College level learning CAN and DOES happen outside our classrooms.
- Nothing says “we do NOT value you” than making an adult take a class in something they already know.
- Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) = Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)



# THE PLA BOOST

## Results from a 72-Institution Study of Prior Learning Assessment and Adult Student Outcomes

For more than 50 years, colleges and universities have used a range of different methods to award college credit for learning that takes place outside of the classroom—particularly learning from work, life, and military experiences. These methods—often called *prior learning assessment (PLA)* or credit for prior learning (CPL)—value the learning that many students bring with them to college. CAEL and WICHE recently partnered with 72 postsecondary institutions to explore the benefits of PLA for adult learners. Data on more than 230,000 adult students showed that having PLA credits is associated with better student outcomes like higher credential completion, cost savings, and time savings. Further, PLA boosted completion rates for adult students of color, low income adult students, and adult students across the academic performance spectrum. The evidence showed that PLA has strong potential to be a tool for closing equity gaps in postsecondary achievement, provided it is made more accessible to students who could benefit the most.

### PLA boosted credential completion

Adult students  
credential  
completion rates:

**49%**  
with PLA

**27%**  
without PLA

Using propensity score matching to  
control for other factors, PLA boosted  
adult student completion rates by:

**17%**  
All PLA  
methods

**30%**  
PLA methods excluding  
credit rec's for military

**Yet PLA used by only about  
1 in 10 adult students**

**11%**

Adult students earned  
college credit for their prior  
learning through PLA

# CPL AT UOFM

- Available at undergraduate and graduate level
- Includes military credit, pre-assessed experiences, and portfolio development
- Evaluated by faculty and application to degree program determined by department



# Prior Learning Assessment Network (PLAN)

Monthly meetings (February - November)

Presentations are recorded and posted to YouTube (50+ videos)

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLRW-55HOjst4-Bp4OowITmJJCVRXvRmw>

Meeting materials are uploaded to a shared Google drive

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/169Xq5PwkYR-aPHIUyvVNrKNpdtJVI15r?usp=sharing>

E-mail [priorlearning@ccv.edu](mailto:priorlearning@ccv.edu) to get added to the email distribution list.

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