

Adult Degree Completion: Reversing the Decline



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Warning Bells

- Spellings Commission on Higher Education
- Schuyler Institute Study of New York
- Media Reports



Implications

- ❑ Disconnect Between Skill – Knowledge Levels and New Jobs
- ❑ Rise in Un and Under Employment
- ❑ Falling Wages
- ❑ Economic Decline



Reasons

- Access
- Affordability
- Awareness
- Appropriateness



Excelsior Response

- Aggregation of Credit
- Assessment of Learning
- Advising (“Mapping”)
- Alignment w/Degree Requirements
- Awarding of “External” Degree
- All Comers – Open Admissions Policy



Tools

- Credit
 - Academic Instruction Transfer
 - Non-Academic Training
 - ACE Reviewed
 - Nationally Accredited Source
 - Faculty Reviewed
- Assessments
 - 50+ Examinations
 - CLEP & DSST
- Portfolio Review
- Excelsior Instruction (Online)
- Non-Academic “Vocational” Programs



Other Efforts

- Niche and Special Market Presence

- Increasing General Awareness
 - Outreach
 - Advertising
 - Distance Learning Today
 - Promotion of Online Education – “Access to Learning”

- Research
 - Non Starters
 - Drop Outs
 - Success Factors



Going Forward

- Remember Adults
- Be Proactive
- Recognize Prior Learning
- If Non-Degree Granting: Look for “Bridges”
- Create Early Success
- Provide Support



Resources

- American Council on Education
- College Board
- CAEL
- Excelsior



Questions

