

## DATA THAT MOVE US — AND ADULT LEARNERS — TO COLLEGE COMPLETION



Meeting adult learners where they are means meeting a moving target. After all, adult learners are also workers and caregivers. They can't pause their lives outside of the classroom. Sometimes that means leaving it: more than 40 million Americans completed some college but no credential.<sup>1</sup>

Upskilling and reskilling on that scale offers great potential for improving equitable economic mobility, solving critical workforce

crises, and diversifying college enrollment. But too often, that potential goes unrealized. Look no further than the label often applied to this key demographic: "stopouts." Rather than defining them by the past, we prefer to focus on the promise held by their future, which is why we refer to them as **Comebackers**. Data That Move Us provides the clarity and agility needed to meet them where they are and advance them to where they aspire to be.

### WHY DATA THAT MOVE US?

Data That Move Us captures the entire adult degree completion continuum, from pre-enrollment decisions and preparation to completion, including the paths of those who "stopped out."

It synthesizes complex quantitative and qualitative data across and within disparate institutions and regional workforce ecosystems.

These findings continually inform and improve our understanding of the intricate interactions of interventions, individual experiences and behaviors, systems, and outcomes that comprise the on- and off-ramps of adult college degree completion.



### USING THE DATA

Your access to Data That Move Us includes twice yearly evaluation of your Comebackers' enrollment and completion status. Every spring and fall, we corroborate your full data set with the National Student Clearinghouse, which manages records covering 97% of U.S. postsecondary enrollments, spanning almost 3,600 institutions.<sup>2</sup> We use these validated KPIs to inform an individualized data dashboard that demonstrates the effectiveness of your programs by comparing enrollment and graduation rates between groups of engaged and non-engaged Comebackers. The dashboard also provides demographic crosstabs, allowing you to sort data by race, gender, and family income.



- Offers a robust data mining, analysis, interpretation, and reporting system in support of our mission to boost adult college degree completion and educational outcomes among historically disadvantaged people.
- Seamlessly aggregates qualitative and quantitative data, including:
  - Client-level data from community-based organizations and other nonprofits.
  - Lifecycle view of experiences and connections, from pre-enrollment through graduation.
  - NSC student level enrollment and graduation records.
- Provides actionable analysis grounded in a proprietary holistic database that is continually updated.

### LEARN MORE

For more information on Data That Move Us, please [contact us](#) or send an email to [gmwase@cael.org](mailto:gmwase@cael.org) or [bklein@cael.org](mailto:bklein@cael.org).

SAMPLE RESEARCH COMMUNITY FEEDBACK REPORT



POPULATION

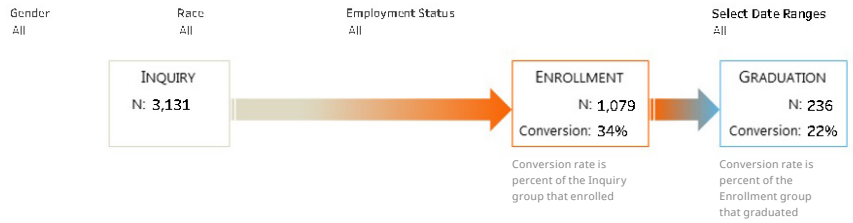
Population consists of all Comebackers in the data set regardless of their engagement level with their program.



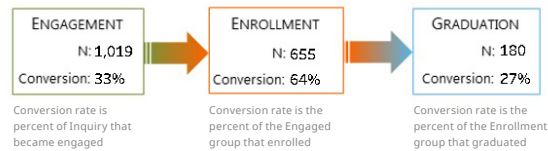
PARTICIPATION

Participation breaks down the population group into two subgroups:

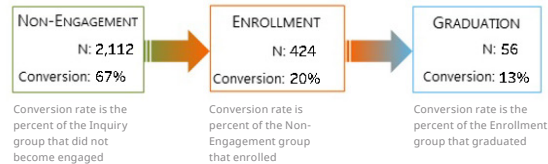
- The engagement group includes all Comebackers who moved beyond the Inquiry Lifecycle Stage.
- The non-engagement group includes all Comebackers who did not move beyond the Inquiry Lifecycle Stage or were moved to Inactive.



ENGAGEMENT GROUP



NON-ENGAGEMENT GROUP



All numbers below represent Population

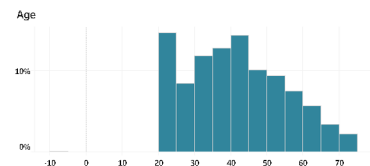
Gender	N	Race	N
Female	47%	American Indian or Alaska Nat.	0%
Male	24%	Asian/Pacific Islander	1%
Alt. race/ethnicity	9%	Black or African American	23%
No Response	29%	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Sp.	10%
		Middle Eastern or North African	0%
		White	19%
		Multi-racial/multi-ethnic	1%
		Some other race, ethnicity, or	1%
		Race/Ethnicity Unknown	0%
		Prefer Not to Answer	0%
		No Response	40%
			1,240

Annual Family Income	N	Employment Status	N
Up to \$24,000	15%	Employed - 0 to 20 hours per week	3%
\$24,001 - \$42,000	23%	Employed - 20 to 40 hours per week	6%
\$42,001 - \$56,000	21%	Employed - 40+ hours per week	7%
\$56,001 - \$75,000	12%	Not Employed but looking	5%
\$75,001 or higher	24%	Not Employed, not looking	2%
No Response	16%	No Response	78%
			2,429

Veteran Status	N
Yes	9%
No	37%
No Response	60%



Comebackers by Community	N
AB	2%
CC	25%
CL	39%
DE	1%
IC	9%
PH	29%
SA	6%
SP	2%

Top 5 Majors	N
Rank: College Major	
1 Business Administration	32
2 Associate of Arts	30
3 Nursing	24
4 Liberal Arts	22
5 Human Services	18

Degree Type	N
Undergrad Certificate	10
2-year or Associate's level degree	55
4-year Bachelor's degree	84
Masters	20
Postgrad Certificate	2



<sup>1</sup> www.nscresearchcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/SCNCRReport2023.pdf  
<sup>2</sup> www.nscresearchcenter.org

Recognizing that adult learners are the backbone of the U.S. economy, CAEL helps forge a clear, viable connection between education and career success, providing solutions that promote sustainable and equitable economic growth. CAEL opens doors to opportunity in collaboration with workforce and economic developers; postsecondary educators; employers and industry groups; and foundations and other mission-aligned organizations. By engaging with these stakeholders, CAEL fosters a culture of innovative, lifelong learning that helps individuals and their communities thrive. A national membership organization established in 1974, CAEL is Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Workplace™ certified and is a part of Strada Collaborative, a mission-driven nonprofit. Learn more at cael.org and stradacollaborative.org.