Putting the “I” in WIOA:
Prior Learning Assessment: Impact and Implementation

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Today’s Speakers

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Session Overview

I. Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) & Why it Matters
II. Lessons from a National Pilot Project
III. Panel Discussion: What’s Next for Local Areas?
IV. Putting the “I” in WIOA: Untapped Opportunities
V. Q & A

What is PLA and are we talking about it?

What is Prior Learning Assessment?
A set of well-established, researched, and validated methods for assessing non-collegiate learning for college credit.
A process that allows learners to demonstrate knowledge and skill in a particular field or fields and have that learning evaluated for college credit.

Value to the Workforce System
- Maximize Training $$
- Performance Metrics
- Better Training Outcomes
- Supports Career Pathways
- New Partnership Opportunities

Value to the Participant
- Get Further, Faster
- Increased Completion Rates
- Reduced Tuition Costs
- Confidence Boost
- Opportunity for Higher Wages & Advancement

Value to the Employer
- Highly Skilled Talent Pool
- Tuition Cost Savings
- Validation of Employer-Provided Training
- Better Retention of Employees
Lessons from a National Pilot Project

- Develop and Promote Crosswalks (if YOU don’t know, your customers don’t know) from Non-Credit Training to For-Credit College Courses
- Not all ETPL Offerings are Created Equal
- Develop Processes & Policies that Make PLA Accessible
- Invest in Cross-Organizational Professional Development & PLA Awareness Materials
- Don’t Underestimate the Value of Partnership & the Work Required for Systems Change

What’s next for Local Areas?
Putting the “I” in WIOA: Untapped Opportunities

**WIOA Programs**
- PLA and Apprenticeship
- Incumbent Worker Training
- Cohort-Based Training
- Credential-Based On-the-Job Training
- Collaborative Work Experience

**WIOA Policy & Practice**
- Identifying PLA Opportunities through Labor Market Information
- Embedding PLA in the Customer Flow
- Recognizing PLA as Part of Rapid Response
- Policy Analysis with Occupational Skills Training
- Policy Analysis with ITA’s on the Eligible Training Provider List
- Engaging Employers When Developing Sector Strategies
Four things you can do when you get home:

1. **Ask partners** (college, workforce, employer, EDO, chamber, etc.) and jobseekers about PLA – what’s their knowledge/interest level and/or policy?

2. **Check out** local colleges’ websites – what types of PLA is being offered locally? How easy (or not) is it to find this information?

3. **Inquire about** which industry certifications local colleges CURRENTLY recognize for credit – are WIOA funds providing training that likely results in PLA credit?

4. **Examine** the workforce center application and assessment process – where and how could conversations about PLA occur?
Questions?

Contact us with any questions!

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