

Working with Low-Literacy Clients

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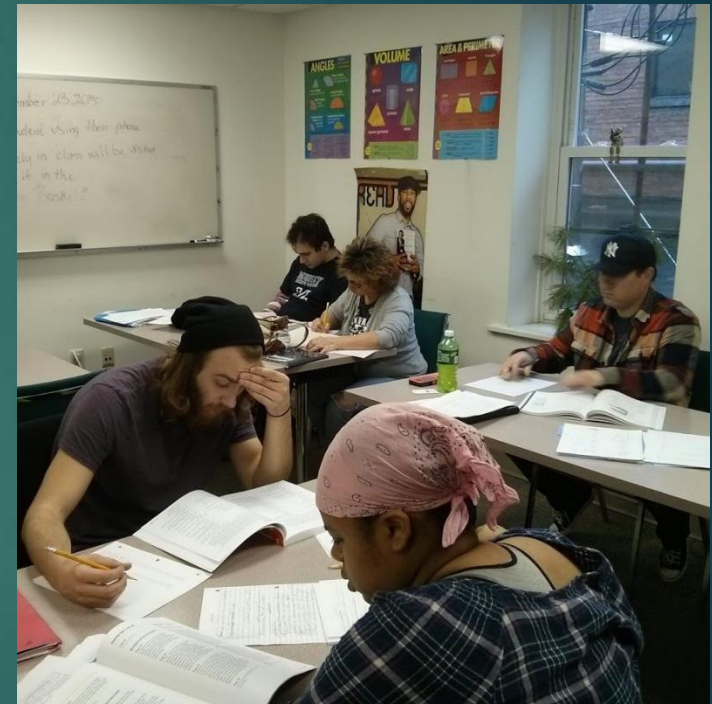
PennState
College of Education

Institute for the
Study of Adult Literacy



WIOA

- ▶ Increases the focus on serving the most vulnerable workers—low-income adults and youth who have limited skills, lack work experience, and face other barriers to economic success;
- ▶ Expands education and training options to help participants access good jobs and advance in their careers;
- ▶ Helps disadvantaged and unemployed adults and youth earn while they learn through support services and effective employment-based activities;
- ▶ Aligns planning and accountability policies across core programs to support more unified approaches to serving low-income, low-skilled individuals.



Who We Are...

- Funded by PA Department of Education, Division of Adult Basic and Literacy Education
- Operate a direct service program in Centre and Lycoming counties



Who We Are...

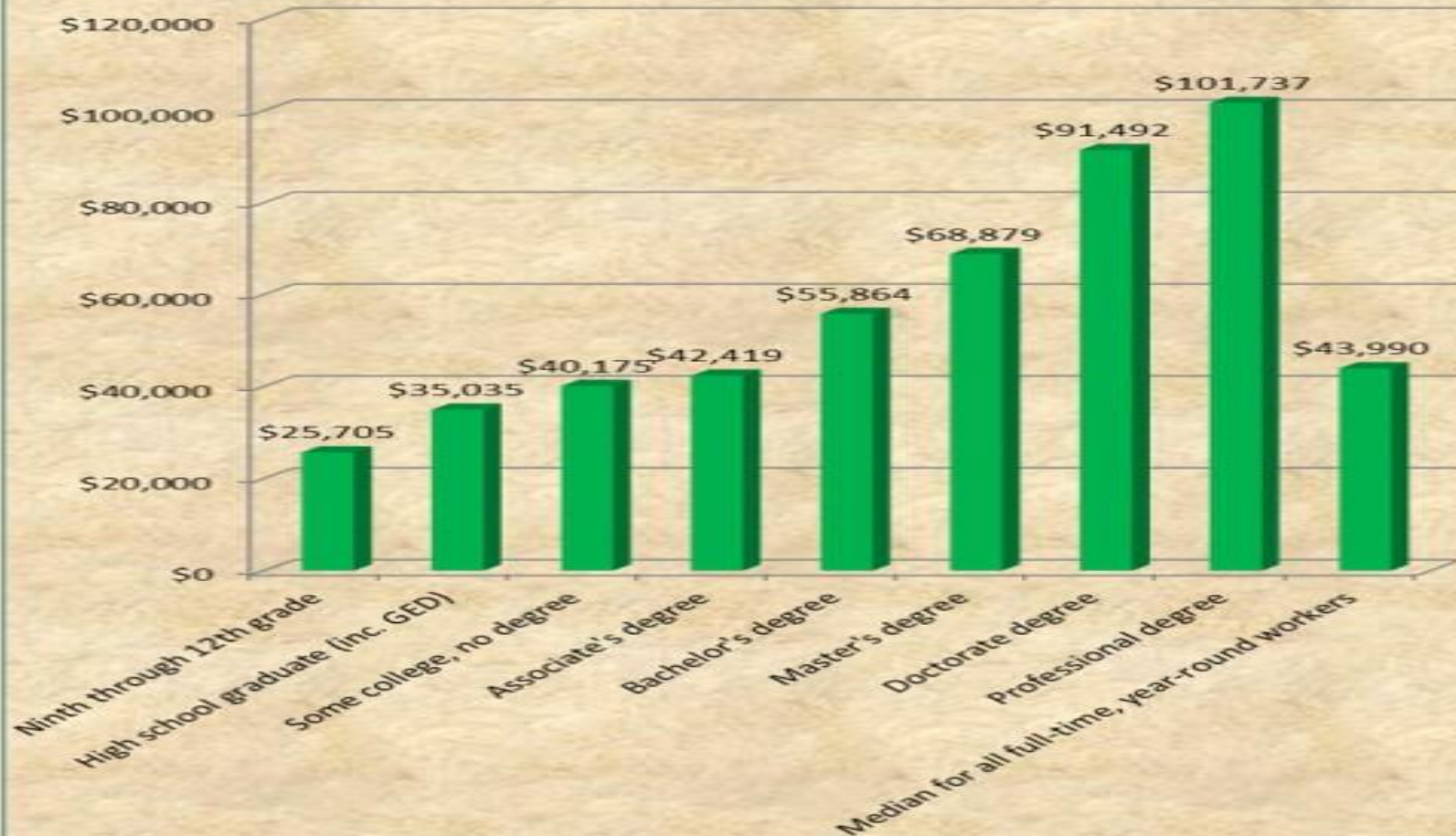
- ▶ We are one of approximately 70 similar programs statewide funded by PDE ABLE
- ▶ Provide free classes, small group instruction, one-on-one tutoring or distance learning options (in some cases)
- ▶ Provide services for adults and entire families through family literacy programming

Who We Are...

- ▶ Provide development of basic academic skills, English language skills, and career awareness and exploration for:
 - ▶ Obtaining high school diploma
 - ▶ Transition to post-secondary education or training
 - ▶ Obtaining or improving employment
- ▶ Eligible individuals – adults aged 17 and over who are out of school and not in the US on a student visa

Is It Worth It?

Median Earnings for Full-Time, Year-Round Workers Aged 25-64 by Educational Attainment (2010)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, PINC-03, Table 28
http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/cpstables/032011/perinc/new03_028.htm

Family Literacy Services

- ▶ Family Literacy is an intergenerational education approach. Four program components are integrated to serve the whole family unit.
 - ▶ Adult Education
 - ▶ Parenting Support
 - ▶ Quality Early Childhood Education
 - ▶ Interactive Literacy Activities



Find and Connect with Your Local ABLE Program

- ▶ Learn more!
- ▶ Go to:

<http://www.paadultedresources.org/>

- ▶ Bottom of home page:
“**Find a Program**” program locator

Working with Low-Literacy Clients

- ▶ Use client's native language

Google translate

Microsoft Word Translate

- ▶ Use simple English grammar and vocabulary

Reading Strategies...

- ▶ Use minimal text or low-reading-level text
 - ▶ Microsoft Word – simple readability checker
 - ▶ Rewordify: <https://rewordify.com/> - rewrites text
 - ▶ Include lots of white space, pictures (if possible)
- ▶ Preview text content
 - ▶ Provide key ideas and concepts orally or in a diagram
 - ▶ Discuss the meaning of key words

“The most significant change I’ve seen in myself is that I am motivated now. I missed a lot of school and didn’t pay attention when I was there. Now I come every day unless I have a reason not to. The Career Pathways has really helped me a lot.”

CP Learner



Questions and Comments

