**Arkansas Adult Education Advisory Council**

**January 6, 2021 @ 10:00am (Zoom Meeting)**

**Called to Order** Chairman Bill Ritter called the meeting of the Arkansas Adult Education Advisory Council to order.

**Attendees**

*Members* present: Bill Ritter, Barbara Hamilton, Jan Robertson, Dr. Debbie Kendrick-Faubus, Dorissa Kaufman, Tammie Lemmons, Carol Birth, Nancy Leonhardt, Marsha Taylor,

*State Staff* present: Dr. Trenia Miles, Bridget Criner, LaJuana Delph

Guests present: Regina Olson

**WAGE Restructuring Update**

LaJuana Delph provided an overview of the restructured WAGE program. There are 13 Adult Education programs who will participate in the pilot phase of the WAGE Restructuring rollout. Below are few highlights of the new program:

* January 19th-Training for the pilot programs on the new requirements. Monthly webinars will be scheduled for programs to cover the following topics: Creating an Effective Adult Education Workforce Preparation and Development Training Program, Leadership & Team Development, Business & Industry Engagement, and Implementing Workforce Preparation Partnership Strategy.
* July 2021-The goal is to have all Adult Education programs exposed to WAGE, trained on the new guidelines, and able to offer certification
* Every student has the opportunity to earn at a certificate. At minimum, Workforce Prep Certificate which includes career exploration, employability skills, digital literacy, and financial literacy skills.
* Level II Certificate-Level I requirements are a prerequisite to this certificate.
  + Will focus on the top five high demand occupations in Arkansas: Business Management & Admin, Education & Training, Health Services, Hospitability & Tourism, and Manufacturing.
  + Level II Certificate has required credentials built in.
  + At every level, students will receive a stackable credential
  + Funds are available through the State Office to help fund cost of required credentials within the Level II WAGE certificate
  + Spreadsheet with various types of training/credentials based on career cluster will be made available to field listing 3rd party certifying agencies.
* Canvas Expansion to accommodate WAGE.
  + January 14-15-Pilot programs will be assigned Canvas Courses. Programs won’t be able to deviate from the standard curriculum; however, the curriculum can be added too. Centers will be able to customize their courses to meet local needs.
  + Curriculum is standard across the board to ensure holistic learning. Students will be able to walk through the course and complete assignments.
  + Credential certificate software within Canvas was purchased. Students will no longer have to wait to receive their certificates. Certificates are web based, and students will have the ability to share certificates on social media, LinkedIn, etc. Employers will be able to search for students based on certificate type.
* Programs who would like to order additional copies of McGraw Hill’s Career Companion, should email Marsha. An order will be placed and AALRC will bill the program.

**2019-2020 Statewide E&E Performance & Benchmark**

Dr. Miles provided an overview of the state’s 2019-2020 statewide negotiated benchmarks and follow-up outcomes based on 2018.

* Despite Covid, the state was able to meet the Federal Benchmark of 47%.
* Arkansas ranked in the 3rd Quartile for ABE and ESL with 48%
  + Median Earnings \*based on student’s earnings in the 2nd and 4th quarter after exit: 2nd Quarter-Arkansas was ranked in the 3rd Quartile and 4th Quarter ranked in the 1st Quartile
  + Credential rate-48%
* The state office has been working with the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services to share employment data. An MOU was created with the surrounding states to gain additional data. **State WAGE Interchange System-SWIS**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **No of students** | **Pre-SWIS \*Data Matched** | **Post-SWIS \*Data Matched** | **Percentage increase Post-SWIS** |
| 2nd Quarter | 8610 | 3130 | 3788 (^658) | 44% |
| 4th Quarter | 9000 | 2577 | 3180 (^603) | 35% |

* Median Earnings followed same trend
* 2019-2020 state tables (E&E) will be shared with the field along with follow up measures based on individual program. (\*Formerly called the Red Book)
* E&E letters will be sent out in the next two weeks.

**Future NRS Data Focus for LACES Training**

Arkansas is one of four states participating in the National Reporting System Pilot. During the pilot, the state has found that 25% of students entered in LACES was missing data. This includes missing social security numbers, manual outcomes, etc. Manual outcomes should be submitted on students who are self-employed, moved out of state, or those who do not pay taxes. Dr. Miles encourages centers to designate a person to follow-up with students and establish a process on how to collect data needed for manual outcomes. Programs were reminded to make sure all barriers to employment are checked to account for the Statistical Adjustment Model in which the Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education will utilize to determine the degree of barriers or challenges that may impact programs.

In order to address these issues, LACES training has been revamped to include these topics.

**New Directors Training**

Bridget Criner gave an update on the New Directors’ Training scheduled for January 12-13th. The state currently has nine new directors who will participate in this training. During the first two weeks on the job, new directors will meet one on one with their Program Advisor. The training is designed to give new directors a basic education on the requirements of Adult Education and WIOA. The Advisory Council was asked to revisit the Mentoring program that established a couple of years ago. The Mentoring Program will pair new directors with seasoned directors to provide guidance and support.

**Quarterly Report**

Bridget stated the Quarterly report has been fine-tuned and will include areas of focus as described above in NRS Data Focus for LACES Training. Demographics piece has been revamped to include open questions, and new areas will include data on TANF & SNAP. The 1st submission for the new quarterly report will cover the 2nd Quarter 2020-2021. The report will be sent out next week.

**Funding Update**

Bridget stated the state office is in the process of calculating funding based on the funding formula. The goal is to send the funding amounts out to the programs as early as possible to ensure budgets are completed, signed, and turned back in by June 30th.

GED Update

Diane provided statistics for GED for fiscal years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

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| --- | --- |
|  | Pass Rate |
| 2019-2020 | July-Dec 82% |
| 2020-2021 | July-Dec 85% |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Fiscal Year | Test Takers | Completers | Passed | AR pass rate |
| 2019-2020 | 2813 | 1771 | 1455 | 82% |
| 2020-2021 | 1552 | 996 | 842 | 85% |

\*GED Analytics does not complete pass % by monthly basis. Too little data to get a realistic picture.

All Centers Black/African American Demographics

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Fiscal Year | Test Takers | Completers | Passed | AR pass rate |
| 2019-2020 | 268 | 138 | 68 | 48% |
| 2020-2021 | 154 | 82 | 44 | 54% |

\*Will need Adhoc committee to study this trend and find strategies to increase pass rate for this demographic.

10% of students who took the GED did so through Online proctoring in Arkansas. Pass rate for online proctored students is 54% for Arkansas.

The percentage of students who score College Ready and College Ready + Credit has increased.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | College Ready | College Ready + Credit |
| 2019-2020 | 11% | 2% |
| 2020-2021 | 18% | 4% |

**Design Group Marketing Campaign**

Dr. Miles provided the group with an overview of the new marketing campaign to target counties/programs who have decreased in enrollment based on demographics over the last few years. Data was shared regarding the demographics and the targeted counties. In order for the marketing campaign to work, there must be buy in from all staff. The campaign is designed to drive foot traffic to centers. Programs were encouraged to follow up with students to do customer service surveys. The state office will work with programs to help market their locations to recruit and retain students. Centers should be student and customer service focused.

**Advisory Council Nominations**

The Committee elected a new slate of officers for the new year:

* Barbara Hamilton, Chair
* Tammie Lemmons, Vice Chair
* Amy Sturdivant, Secretary

Dr. Debbie Faubus-Kendrick made a motion to accept the slate of offices. Dorissa Kaufman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Standard Meeting Dates for 2020-2021**

* March 11-12, AALRC
* May 13-14, National Park Adult Education Center, Hot Springs
* July 8th-Call Meeting
* September 9-10, Black River Technical College
* November 18-19, SAU Tech Adult Education Center, Magnolia

April 8-9, Virtual Partner’s Meeting, 9am-noon each day.

Motion Adjourned.