Emerging Postsecondary Transition Opportunities

Planning Now for Dramatic Change

Robert Purga
Objectives

1. Quick snapshot of forces driving change
2. Highlight two made in New York models for adult postsecondary transition that reflect the future
3. Update on 6 literacy zones in central New York; show how they can support postsecondary transition in distressed communities;
4. Discuss regional pipeline, with your help.
It’s Coming

- Federal legislation on the horizon will call for greater alignment between adult education, job training, and postsecondary training.
- Initiatives recognize that a high school diploma or GED no longer ensures entry into the middle class nor a family sustaining wage.
- Special challenge for NY: “All hands on deck approaches” are needed in distressed urban and rural communities if youth and adults are to be career/college ready.
  - Multiple, inter-connected, barriers compound ed. gaps
  - Rural gaps just as great as urban
  - Immigrant communities also uniquely challenged
  - Comprehensive approaches need to address school, family and community at the same time: with supports, benefits, case management, new metrics, technology. Cross generation (cradle through career). Cross-education. Cross-system.
Federal Initiatives Drive Change

1. Reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA): job training, adult education, vocational rehabilitation

   - It will expand adult education mission beyond GED
   - It will call for explicit alignment of adult education, postsecondary education, and job training to provide jobs that require skills and credentials beyond the GED
   - It will enable funding to support bridge and pathway programs beyond GED preparation. Right now gaps cannot filled with federal funds (EPE State aid and FTE, foundation funding)
   - Call for new models that share credit, combine instruction, blend and connect funding, cut down on the “dev ed” gap that eats up federal student aid, aggressively use technology, expand accountability, and link case management and supports cross-system.
   - Rethink how PD is delivered, cross-system possibilities.
   - 75 million Americans already in the workforce, 18 to 64, lack the skills and credentials needed for family sustaining wages or upgrade to good paying jobs being created
2. New GED test aligned with rigorous standards.
3. America’s graduation initiative--$9 billion
4. Support for holistic, intergenerational approaches to postsecondary transition beginning at birth
   - Promise Neighborhoods—20 planning grants
   - Challenge Neighborhoods--$113 million
   - Expansion of community school funding
5. TANF reauthorization
6. Immigration Reform

Key impediment for legislation is time on the floor in the Senate.
Laying Foundations for Successful Education Pipelines in Central NY

- Benchmark and pilot successful adult postsecondary transition models, including those made in New York
  - Erie Pre-collegiate model (incredible results compared to national results for GED students seeking associate degrees---1 in 4 vs. .5%)
  - Cayuga model: shared credit a key strategy
  - CUNY models for intensive instruction and bridge programs
  - Mid-Hudson: Florida’s GED Plus
  - I-BEST models piloted
  - Looking at “Shifting Gear” states with stackable credentials
  - New York selected as one of 8 states by USDOE to focus on postsecondary transition: customized T.A., access to national models, cross-state initiatives, but also sharing our success nationally
Foundations for Success

Share best practice and support joint planning

- 2nd Literacy Zone Summit: September 28-29, 2010 in Syracuse—postsecondary transition and veterans transition a focus; “making connection” cities
- State Postsecondary Transition Summit, November 9-10, 2010 in Albany, Marriott
- Team building Summit, Spring 2011
- Participation in USDOE postsecondary transition meetings and webinars through 2013; also bring in best practice
Foundations for Success

- Restructure GED testing, including examination of OPT scores to reflect postsecondary success
- Raise standards and performance for GED preparation programs, including work with
- Expand focus of data system
- Pilot new approaches to PD for math (CUNY)
- Address curriculum for college readiness (Regents task force; online curricula for adult education geared toward skills and sub-skills of new GED but also ACT and SAT)
Literacy Zone Strategy: Made In New York And Poised for Transition Support for Youth and Adults

- 3 year, $15 million commitment creates first wave of 18 literacy zones—6 in central New York (handout)
- Place based, holistic, cross-system
- Very comprehensive; hard work of getting everyone in the community including community leaders to the table and committed to the literacy zone framework
- Postsecondary transition for adults a core priority, but also strong support for K-12 and early childhood, including supports, benefits, and programs that help comprehensive models like Say Yes to Education or Strive: focus on smooth pathways and readiness to serve as effective education pipelines for all community members, regardless of age.
What do they bring? For Starters

- One or more family welcome centers that serve as portals to benefits, skills to navigate complex systems, and 10 pathways out of poverty.
- Comprehensive connections to community partners and services (14 mandated)
- Community partnership coordinator
- Trained case managers (Cornell University national benefits certification, DOH, OTDA training) who can partner with postsecondary case managers. They have access to benefits portals from OTDA and potentially Single Source USA. Access and training for DOL job zone and career zone.
- Financial literacy, health literacy instruction
- Disability literacy training for front line staff and connections to Independent living centers, vocational rehabilitation, and one-stop disability navigators to help support education pipelines for individuals with disabilities, including returning veterans who have access to new G.I. Bill.
- Piloting online curricula to assess and support skills and sub-skills for the new GED and for postsecondary access beginning at the intermediate reader through postsecondary (McGraw Hill, e-literacy)
Literacy Zone Value contd?

- Comprehensive connections for parent engagement a priority of 2\textsuperscript{nd} summit: Even Start, head start, VESID early childhood center network, VESID special education center network, new NCLB parent action centers, Independent Living Centers, 40\% of adult education students are parents; trust building through family welcome centers
- Americorps and VISTA volunteers for mentoring to help close dev ed gap
- Teachers trained in state of art work readiness curricula connected to National Work Readiness Credential
- 500 vouchers for the National WRC credential ($70 apiece)
- Wired by IBM Lotus Live so that case managers can work cross literacy zone, training easily mounted, and connections in central New York to connect postsecondary and workforce development case management (25 licenses)
- GED test screening for the public, free
- Central New York piloting of Web Learner: incredible virtual cross-system learner plans for 10 pathways that enable teachers, tutors, volunteers, case managers
What value do LZs Add?

- Strong foundation connections and system connections to support literacy birth, through adult
- Innovative postsecondary youth transition programs like Say Yes to Education
- Opportunity to develop, support pilots of more holistic transition programs like STRIVE
- SED incentive grant funding priority
- Reauthorized WIA will enable funding 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 3\textsuperscript{rd} waves to become core adult education mission in New York State
For Discussion: Central New York regional pilot for postsecondary and workforce transition

- 6 literacy zones developing strong connections individually with postsecondary and workforce and connections with each other.
- Central New York uniquely positioned to pilot regional approach: 6 literacy zones connecting with 6-7 community colleges and one-stops to support effective transition
Lowes offer: Let’s build it together

- SUNY community colleges in Central NY take the lead as anchors in developing comprehensive regional approach to postsecondary transition: 6 literacy zones to serve as pipelines for education; Similar approach to career pathways with one stop career centers
- Not only adult postsecondary models but possible models like STRIVE? Syracuse already has one model, “Say Yes to Education.”
- Building blocks and enablers
  - 6 very comprehensive, wired Literacy Zones with case managers, family welcome centers, backed by strong community leader and community foundation support, literacy coalitions— already at the table and ready to partner in effective ways, doing the hard work of getting youth and adults college/career ready
  - Lotus Live: licenses for intra region connections to support new endeavor and for experts in postsecondary transition, e.g., Steve Hinds from CUNY, Erie CC, other pilots
  - Regional Web Learner license to create, modify postsecondary and workforce pathway learning plans for postsecondary transition and career pathways. Connect and focus case managers, instructors, mentors, etc. on steps tailored to each community college and one stop career center in the region. Ongoing support from Portland State researcher Steve Reder and templates already developed by St. Paul, Minnesota, a Shifting Gears state.
  - Potential SED incentive grant support in 2010
  - Strong RAEN, based at community college
  - Strong foundation and United Way support
  - Adult postsecondary transition models being developed
  - Community college leadership already working together
Interest and next steps?