

## Davis Foundation Supports CONNECT Prior Learning Assessment Initiative

In January 2015, the Davis Educational Foundation awarded \$200,000 to the CONNECT Partnership to develop, design, and implement an aligned Prior Learning Assessment system at each of the consortium's campuses. Funding, provided by the Davis Educational Foundation and augmented by each of the CONNECT institutions, has been utilized to develop capacity within and across the member campuses in an effort to improve services to adult learners while increasing their postsecondary degree attainment and lowering their costs. Like the Davis Educational Foundation, CONNECT is committed to improving assessment of undergraduate learning outcomes, collaborative efforts to reduce costs and improve learning, and faculty development.

In collaboration with the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL), CONNECT has embarked on a multi-year process designed to implement a Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) system throughout its institutions.

PLA is an important strategy that encourages degree completion among adult students by acknowledging and validating, through formal assessment practices, that many adults already have some college-level learning gained outside of the college classroom that could help them complete a degree more quickly and cost effectively.

Since the award was granted, members of the CONNECT institutions have convened to develop new policies and procedures with ongoing support from CAEL. In January 2017, CONNECT hosted a PLA Summit at Bridgewater State University where members of CAEL presented on a variety of topics that supported faculty and staff from all CONNECT institutions.

In October 2017, members of the Bristol Community College faculty and staff will travel to Chicago where they will continue to hone their skills and marketing strategies for PLA. In November 2017, seven faculty and staff members from Bridgewater State University and Bristol Community College will travel to San Diego to attend CAEL's international conference *Waves of Change, Oceans of Opportunity*. There, attendees will participate in workshops such as: *Competency Based PLA- New Directions for the Field; Connecting Education to Careers by Fostering Relationships across industry; Military PLA 101: The ins and outs of ACE Military Evaluations; and Community College Collaborations: Small, Medium, and Large*.

Congratulations to Bristol Community College for its recent ranking of 95 in the Best Colleges for Adult Learners among 2-year colleges in *Washington Monthly's 2017 College Guide and Rankings*. Click [here](#) to learn more about BCC's ranking.