RI Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner

Featuring the Council on Adult and Experiential Learning and the American Council on Education

Recognizing and Evaluating Credit for Prior Learning Summit
Tuesday, November 1st, University of Rhode Island, Memorial Union Ballroom

8:30-9:00am Breakfast and registration
9:00-9:05am Opening Remarks from Commissioner Purcell
9:05-9:45am Prior Learning Assessment: What It Is and Why It Matters (Scott Campbell, CAEL)
9:45-10:15am Credit for Prior Learning: The ACE Review and Recommendation Process (Mary Beth Lakin, ACE)
10:15-10:25am Break
10:25-11:15am Breakout Sessions I
   A. Prior Learning Accelerator/Doug Flor (CCRI)
   B. Best Practices in Prior Learning Assessment (CAEL)
   C. Demystifying ACE Credit Recommendations: A Deeper Look (Rep. from ACE)
11:20am-12:10pm Breakout Sessions II
   A. ACE Military Credit Recommendations (ACE)
   B. Adult Learning Focused Institution (ALFI)- Driving Student Success (CAEL)
   C. Crafting Institutional Policy (CAEL)
12:10-1:10pm Lunch
1:15-2:05pm Breakout Sessions III
   A. Credit for Prior Learning: Charting Institutional Practice for Sustainability (ACE)
   B. Best Practices in Prior Learning Assessment (CAEL)
   C. Evaluating Military Experience for Credits (CAEL and possibly ACE as well)
2:10-3:00pm Breakout Sessions IV
   A. Getting the Word Out: Effective PLA Communication on Your Campus (Rep. from CAEL)
   B. Portfolio Development (Rep. from CAEL)
   C. Credentials to Credit (ACE)
3:00- 3:10pm Break
3:10-3:30pm- Next Steps in Recognizing Prior Learning for the State of RI (Commissioner Purcell)
Breakout Session Descriptions

Prior Learning Accelerator

In this presentation, participants will get the opportunity to see how CAEL’s Prior Learning Accelerator is being used at CCRI as a proactive measure to engage students in a pre-screening assessment of the various pathways for prior learning that may be available to them as adult learners. Through the reports generated by the Accelerator, Prior Learning Advisors can then advise and guide students with a more targeted plan for earning college credit.

Best Practices in Prior Learning Assessment

This facilitated discussion includes an overview on best practices in PLA as found across multiple institutions. Attendees should bring examples of their best practices or areas of challenge with their institutional PLA practices to add to the discussion. The discussion will also include potential areas for state-wide collaboration and best practices.

Demystifying ACE Credit Recommendations: A Deeper Look

This session will provide a “simulation” of the faculty-driven ACE Review process for the evaluation of workplace training and military training and occupational experiences. Participants will have an opportunity to explore the use of ACE tools and resources for the articulation of ACE credit recommendations to degree programs.

ACE Military Credit Recommendations

Learn more about the current and emerging practices of higher education institutions and systems across the country in creating postsecondary pathways for student veterans. Find out how institutions have created processes for developing “maps to credentials” and view examples of degree maps that apply ACE credit recommendations and other credit for prior learning options.

Adult Learner Focused Institution (ALFI) - Driving Student Success

This session focuses on the Nine Principles for Serving Adult Learners Effectively. The principles and descriptions will be discussed, including how some of the principles were recently used in Washington Monthly’s new adult-learner institution ranking system. The ALFI survey tool is followed by a facilitated discussion on how the principles can be assessed on your campus to help see patterns and set priorities in serving adult learners.
Crafting Institutional Policy

Part of implementing PLA or other initiatives includes the appropriate documentation and communication of policies. This session explores considerations for when crafting policy, such as accreditation criteria, coordination with operations, and communication across campus. Participants are encouraged to bring examples of their institutional policies to add to the discussion.

Credit for Prior Learning: Charting Institutional Practice for Sustainability

What does it take to develop and sustain effective credit for prior learning (CPL) programs and practices? Join ACE in an interactive session that addresses critical implementation topics: aligning practice with mission, creating a faculty-driven process, building sufficient infrastructure, developing feedback mechanisms, and collecting data. Explore implementation tools and strategies that support institutions’ continued development.

Evaluating Military Experience for Credits

This session will focus on valuing the prior learning that service veterans bring to the classroom. Dialogue will include use of the Joint Services Transcript (JST) as well as other veteran-friendly PLA strategies.

Getting the Word Out: Effective PLA Communication on Your Campus

PLA efforts on your campus cannot succeed if no one knows about them. This discussion is oriented toward communication and marketing efforts through an adult learner lens. Practical strategies for embedding PLA into your communications are presented.

Portfolio Development

One PLA option is offering students the opportunity to develop a portfolio to demonstrate their mastery of learning outcomes. This session covers the process of a PLA portfolio, including the identification of learning outcomes, assessment rubrics, and how to lead students through portfolio preparation. Other areas covered in the discussion include the role of faculty in assessing portfolios.

Credentials to Credit

For more than 40 years, ACE CREDIT has successfully worked with thousands of corporate programs offered by businesses and industry, labor unions, associations, and government agencies to evaluate workplace and corporate training. Learn about the successful partnerships that boost college completion through credit for prior learning pathways.