Credit for Prior Learning:
THE START OF SOMETHING BIG

Dr. Cristy Sugarman
North Shore Community College

Dave Colaizzi
Five Star Development Inc
The Roots of Credit for Prior Learning

Shall I go back to school?
Credit for Prior Learning (CPL)

• College-level knowledge, skills, and abilities gained through work and life experience, military training and experience, and formal and informal education and training

• Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) provides a range of options from evaluation of military and workforce training, to national and local examinations and certifications, as well as portfolios for academic credit
Some Proven Benefits of CPL

From a study of **62,475** students at 48 postsecondary institutions students with CPL:

- Register for and earn institutional credits at a higher rate, 53.7 credits, than non-PLA peers, 43.8 credits;

- Are two and a half times more likely to graduate than students without CPL;

- Are 6% more likely to have GPAs of 3.0 or higher and 10% more likely to have GPA's of 2.0 or higher;

- The opportunity for CPL credit will attract adult students who might not otherwise enroll

**SOURCE: CAEL 2010 FUELING THE RACE FOR POSTSECONDARY SUCCESS**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPL Stage Area</th>
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<td>(1) Exploratory:</td>
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1. **Promote CPL:** Use Data to Demonstrate Success to Stakeholders

2. **Identify Champions:** Use Internal Champions to Promote CPL

3. **Use Existing Practices:** Leverage Institutional Process and Experience

4. **Build a CPL Culture:** Create Shared CPL Language and Strategy
Culture: Focus on Macro Student Outcomes

College programs matched to high-demand careers and interested, qualified students

College Offerings

Individual Experience & Pursuits

High-Demand Careers
Infrastructure

Credit for Prior Learning

1. Research, Collect, & Track CPL Data
2. Develop Working Crosswalks
3. CPL Leader to Coordinate Research & Programming
4. Engage an Experienced CPL Center of Excellence
5. Identify Available Funding Sources
6. Form a ThinkTank Representing Variety of Stakeholders
Infrastructure: Part of Student Pathway Ecosystem

Types of Data Used

LABOR MARKET INFORMATION
- High demand jobs, wages, and employment projections

STUDENT ACADEMIC GUIDANCE
- Program, courses, and educational outcomes

STUDENT WORKFORCE OUTCOMES
- Economic impact generated by students entering the workforce

AGGREGATE ACADEMIC OUTCOMES
- Alignment of program and students with employment demand

Data Storage

- CDIS DATA WAREHOUSE
  - student data anonymizer
  - credit for prior learning
  - research and reporting tool

Data Output

STUDENT PATHWAYS APPLICATION
- This application is designed to help jobseekers and prospective students make informed decisions about career options and to understand the role MA community colleges play in pursuing them. Supported by current labor market information and college offerings, the site provides an engaging experience that culminates with a detailed action plan to drive enrollment.

CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING
- This system streamlines and promotes the process of assessing Credit for Prior Learning through a portal that brings together students and the support staff within the college. The site centralizes all activity through an interactive and comprehensive interface. In addition, it coordinates the coaching of ePortfolio candidates and provides a repository for creation and evaluation of portfolio documentation.

RESEARCH AND REPORTING TOOL
- This browser-based tool puts in-depth analysis and research in the hands of institutional researchers, faculty, and workforce development staff. Longitudinal data can be accessed that focuses on efficacy of academic programs, local and state-wide labor market demand, and the real-world success of program completers in the employment market place.

Who Uses the Data?

The GPSTEM Comprehensive Data Integration System puts critical labor market and educational data into the hands of students, businesses, and institutional researchers tasked with aligning academic programs and outcomes with employment demand in order to drive positive economic impact within the State.

Administrators/institutional research

Program managers/job counselors/educators

Students and workers

Approach is consistent with WDQC

Workforce data quality campaign

Visit workforceqc.org for more information.
Faculty Engagement

- **Build a Knowledge Base**
  Articulate benefits to faculty and staff

- **Provide Institutional Incentives**
  Stipends for training, compensation for evaluation

- **Develop Faculty Training**
  Use CPL Specialists in Professional Development
Faculty Engagement: Clarity on Roles/Process

**Adult Student**
- Get Orientation on CPL Process
- Complete the Prior Learning Wizard
- View Possible College & CPL Opportunities
- Complete one or more CPL Petitions

**CPL Specialist (Local College)**
- Counsel Adult Student on CPL Eligibility & Enrollment
- Create & Manage CPL Petition

**Portfolio Coach (North Shore CC)**
- Work With Adult Student to Complete ePortfolio

**Portfolio Evaluator (Statewide SME)**
- Determine if College Credit Should be Awarded for ePortfolio Petition
Student Outreach & Support

- Technology to support students and to build awareness
- Community outreach to build strategic partnerships
- Student engagement in academic planning and advising
- Early, ongoing mentoring and advising by staff and faculty
- Centralized and accessible CPL offices and centers for student support
Student Outreach & Support: Hybrid Personal/Technical
## Tactical Planning

### CPL Stages

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Thank You!

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References


Klein-Collins, Rebecca (2010). *Fueling the Race to Postsecondary Success: A 48-Institution Study of Prior Learning Assessment and Adult Student Outcomes*. Chicago, IL: CAEL
