

Opportunities: Adult Education and Community Colleges

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Texas Success Center

Research Partnership

The Texas Success Center is partnering with the Texas Peer Mentor Network (TX-PMN) housed at Amarillo College to create effective pathways between adult education and literacy (AEL) programs and community colleges.



Both organizations have the **shared goal** of creating clear and coherent pathways to postsecondary credentials that provide access to careers with family-sustaining wages for adult learners.



Texas Success Center

Research Plan

- Development of TX-PMN tenets for integrating AEL into community colleges
- Review of relevant literature
- Qualitative studies of TX-PMN partner programs
- Development of recommendations for effective integration for community college leaders



Statewide Convenings

- AEL leaders met at statewide convenings during the 2018-2019 academic year to discuss the alignment of AEL programs with community college programs. Convenings have continued in 2019 – 2020 with more partnering programs.
- Each summit provided professional learning opportunities that yielded examples of successful integration efforts occurring in TX-PMN partners.
- Lessons learned from TX-PMN partnering organizations supported the development of 10 tenets for AEL and college integration.



Preliminary Findings

- Opportunities exist to **scale promising alignment practices**, but efforts need to be made to engage various stakeholders to implement with fidelity.
- Opportunities exist to **spread promising practices across institutions**, but efforts need to be made to systematize knowledge sharing.
- Stakeholders are **breaking down silos**, but information barriers exist regarding best practices across the state and funding.
- Integration will require the **engagement of high-level community college leadership and a strong tri-agency partnership**.



Ten Tenets for AEL and College Integration

Leadership and Culture

Professional Learning

Structural Change

Student Services

Curriculum

Data Integration

Instruction

Workforce Board Development

Faculty Engagement

Financial Effectiveness



Initial Recommendations for Community College Leaders

1. Charge a leadership team with AEL and community college personnel to develop an integration plan
2. Align AEL career pathways with certificate and associate degree program maps
3. Identify and remove barriers to accelerate transitions into college-level programs for AEL completers
4. Explore funding options for continuous and ongoing student supports for AEL completers in college pathways
5. Create a data-driven continuous improvement plan

