



October 17-18, 2009 • Seattle, WA

AGENDA

Saturday, October 17

| | | |
|------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 8:00 – 8:45 am | Breakfast and Registration | Cascade Foyer |
| 8:45 – 9:30 am | Welcome and Introduction of Today’s Agenda | Cascade II |
| | <p>Welcome Maria Flynn, <i>Jobs for the Future</i> James Jacobs, <i>Macomb Community College</i></p> <p>Introduction of <i>Breaking Through Practice Guide: Accelerating the Pace of Learning and Providing Comprehensive Student Supports</i> Judith Taylor, <i>Jobs for the Future</i></p> | |
| 9:45 – 10:45 am | <p>Concurrent Sessions: <u>Accelerating the Pace of Learning</u></p> <p>Contextualization Cascade I C Contextualizing remedial content around the occupation/industry in which the student seeks to advance can improve students’ motivation, learning, persistence and transition rates. Learn about various contextualization strategies developed by Breaking Through colleges. <i>Facilitator:</i> Nan Poppe, <i>Portland Community College</i> <i>College Presenter:</i> Linda Lewis, <i>Southeast Arkansas Community College</i></p> <p>Compression Whidbey Compressing the content of two courses’ material into the time of one course can accelerate students’ learning. How is it done and which students can benefit from this approach? <i>Facilitator:</i> Gloria Mwase, <i>Jobs for the Future</i> <i>College Presenter:</i> Elaine Baker, <i>Community College of Denver</i></p> <p>Customization Adams Low-skill adults have diverse skill levels, career ambitions and learning styles, but many remedial classrooms still use the “one-size-fits-all” method of instruction. What strategies can programs adopt to customize instruction for individual student’s needs? <i>Facilitator:</i> Judith Taylor, <i>Jobs for the Future</i> <i>College Presenter:</i> Pat Phillips, <i>Davidson Community College</i></p> | |

10:45 – 11:15 am

Break

11:15 am – 12:15 pm

Concurrent Sessions:
Providing Comprehensive Student Supports

Accessing Support Services

Cascade I C

Students in remedial programs often lack access to support services that they need. Learn what strategies Breaking Through colleges have implemented to ensure access to services that meet the needs of their low-skill adult students.

Facilitator: Alex Hoffinger, Jobs for the Future

College Presenters: Kim Ward, Tacoma Community College

Kathy Gallo, North Shore Community College

Coaches

Whidbey

Low-skill adults come to college with a wide range of needs and challenges that require a “savvy” coach to navigate the supports they need. Find out the different roles coaches play, how they were recruited, and what lessons have been learned.

Facilitator: Vickie Choitz, Jobs for the Future

College Presenter: Kurt Simonds, Portland Community College

Training for Coaches

Cascade I A/B

Breaking Through’s Advisor Training workshops prepare coaches and other staff to work effectively with low-skill adult students. Drop in on a train-the-trainer session, find out what goes on, and ask questions.

Facilitator: Gloria Hatcher Mays, Pike Market Senior Center and Downtown Food Bank

12:15 – 1:00 pm

Lunch

Fifth Avenue

1:15 – 1:45 pm

Introduction of *Breaking Through Practice Guide: Creating Labor Market Payoffs and Aligning Programs for Pre-College Students with College-level Programs* **Cascade II**

Judith Taylor, Jobs for the Future

1:45 – 2:45 pm

Concurrent Sessions:
Creating Labor Market Payoffs

Career Exploration for Low-Skill Adults

Cascade I C

Many Breaking Through students have little knowledge of the labor market and therefore little foundation for making career choices, but most adult remedial programs rarely address this issue. However, many Breaking Through colleges have. Learn about the different approaches these programs have used to help their students make sound career choices.

Facilitator: Bob Watrus, Jobs for the Future Consultant

College Presenters: Linda Kappauf, South Piedmont Community College

Establishing Program Connections to Your Labor Market

Whidbey

Many programs that focus on academic remediation have little experience in working with regional employers and other key players in the labor market—but such knowledge is essential to help students prepare for jobs and careers. This session will address strategies Breaking Through colleges have used to learn about their labor markets, engage with employers, and work with other key labor market stakeholders.

Facilitator: Gloria Mwase, *Jobs for the Future*

College Presenter: Sionna Grassbaugh, *Central New Mexico College*

Creating Seamless Career Pathways by Chunking and Stacking

Adams

All too often, college technical programs take a long time to complete and are disconnected from each other so that students with many life challenges drop out before they finish and find out they cannot build on their prior training if they try to return. Colleges are starting to “chunk” their programs into shorter sections that provide credentials employers want, “stack” toward higher-level credentials, and are “seamless”—no gaps between the credentials. Find out how they do it in this session.

Facilitator: Judith Taylor, *Jobs for the Future*

College Presenters: Cindy Fiorella, *Owensboro Community and
Technical College*

Andrew Roessler, *Portland Community College*

2:45 – 3:15 pm

Break

3:15 – 4:15 pm

Concurrent Sessions: [Aligning Programs for Pre-College Students with College-level Programs](#)

Adult Education Should Infuse College Content and Aspirations

Cascade I C

Many Adult Education programs and students believe that a GED suffices as a terminal credential that will lead to good jobs—if that was ever true, it is not now. Learn how programs work to change the aspirations of students and the beliefs of instructors while making sure their students are prepared for college-level work.

Facilitator: Gloria Mwase, *Jobs for the Future*

College Presenters: Amy Dalsimer, *LaGuardia Community College*
Shannon Carroll, *Dorcas Place*

Non-Credit Workforce Programs Should Align Competencies with College Programs

Whidbey

Most college non-credit workforce programs were never intended to align with the for-credit side of the college, but that means students can't build on non-credit credentials for college-level certificates and degrees. The Workforce Center at Mott Community College draws many dislocated workers from its Flint, Michigan community who want college credentials, but who weren't able to transition to the college until Mott's innovative articulation program was put in place. Learn how it was developed and how it works from the lead innovator.

Facilitator: Randy Wilson, *Jobs for the Future*

College Presenter: Robert Matthews, *Mott Community College*

**Developmental Education Programs
Should Consider Adding Career Content**

Adams

National research shows that developmental education programs are not always successful in preparing students for college and transitioning them into college programs. Experience from *Breaking Through* suggests that Dev Ed programs could improve their track records by appealing to students who have returned to education to get better jobs and careers by offering programs designed to prepare them for their career goals as well as remediate academic skills. Hear how one two colleges are tackling this challenge with promising results.

Facilitator: Judith Taylor, Jobs for the Future

*College Presenters: Linda Lewis, Southeast Arkansas Community College
Vicki Boyd, Owensboro Community and Technical College*

4:15 – 5:15 pm

**Feedback: Your Observations on the
*Breaking Through Practice Guide***

Cascade II

Now that you've spent a day learning about the *Guide*, help us by telling us what you think. Will this be useful to practitioners in other colleges? What could be done to improve it? How can it be shared to scale up practices?

Judith Taylor, Jobs for the Future

5:30 – 6:30 pm

Reception

Fifth Avenue

Sunday, October 18

7:45 – 8:45 am

Breakfast and Plenary Session: The Buzz in DC

Grand I

Join us for an update on current proposals being debated by the Administration and Congress that have the potential *Breaking Through*-type programs and students they target.

Maria Flynn, Jobs for the Future

8:45 – 10:15 am

**National Council for Workforce Education
Opening Session**

Grand III

Hilary Pennington, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

10:15 – 10:30 am

Break

Breaking Through Workshops:**Using Data to Track Student Success****Grand II**

Recognizing that outcome data are essential for demonstrating program effectiveness to stakeholders and funders at all levels, Breaking Through has invested significantly in developing a data reporting tool that can be used for students from Adult Education, Developmental Education and non-credit workforce. However, important questions remain—for example, what are benchmarks of progress for students in career pathways that cut across several college departments? Two of the evaluators who developed the Breaking Through tool will be on hand to describe the tool, collect ideas from participants, and talk through some of the challenges we face.

Facilitator: Theresa “TK” Klebacha, *Jobs for the Future*

Presenters: Rick Voorhees, *Voorhees Group, LLC*

Elisabeth Barnett, *Teachers College, Columbia University*

Career Pathways for English Language Learners**Grand II**

An important target population for Breaking Through is adults whose literacy in their first language is limited. Heide Wrigley is a national expert on this topic and is advising the new Breaking Through initiative in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Bring your questions and experience to this roundtable, which will focus on the Breaking Through goal of creating “on-ramps” to career pathways for this population.

Facilitator: Alex Hoffinger, *Jobs for the Future*

Presenter: Heide Wrigley, *Literacy Works*

**An Internet-Based Remedial Curriculum
Contextualized for Health Care****Grand I**

This web-based educational system was designed by experts in adult learning, and includes modules on reading, writing, health math, and health science for students reading at the 8th grade level and above. It has been tested in the Greater Boston area, mostly in workplace settings. The developers will demonstrate the product, and then will talk with Breaking Through participants to gauge interest in various parts of the country and collect ideas on how it could be used in different settings.

Facilitator: Nick Kremer, *Cerritos College*

Presenters: Sylvia Beville, *Metro South/West Regional Employment Board*
Henry Bryson, *Metro South/West Regional Employment Board*
Cynthia Zafft, *National College Transition Network World Education, Inc.*

Professional Development for Instructors**Grand Crescent**

Many participants in Breaking Through are certain to have experienced this dilemma: they get excited about innovations they learn about at peer learning meetings, but when they return to their programs, their instructors tell them “we don’t know how to do things that way.” Two Breaking Through colleges decided to use electronic technology to introduce their teaching staffs and methods of instruction to one another. They will explain how this experiment worked, what they learned from it, and how other colleges might try to replicate it.

Facilitator: Judith Taylor, *Jobs for the Future*

Presenter: Amy Dalsimer, *LaGuardia Community College*

Kim Ward, *Tacoma Community College*

State Networks Roundtable**Grand I**

Experiences from North Carolina, Michigan, and Kentucky suggest “state networks” of state systems and institutional teams around Breaking Through concepts and goals hold promise as a means for scaling up practice. Join this roundtable to hear what happened in these states and how that may be shaped in a model for future expansion.

Facilitator: Vickie Choitz, Jobs for the Future

Green Jobs Roundtable**Glacier Peak**

Join us for an interactive discussion on how you are building career pathways in various green sectors that are accessible to low-skilled adults.

Share the successes your college has had in integrating basic skills development within these pathways. Get ideas from your colleagues on addressing the challenges you are confronting in your green pathways programs and identify the assistance you need to make these programs more effective.

Facilitator: Gloria Mwase, Jobs for the Future

11:45 am – 1:00pm**Lunch and What’s Next for Breaking Through****Fifth Avenue**

Share in observations on the implications of federal policy and priorities of leading foundations on the future, and learn where the Breaking Through initiative is headed.

Maria Flynn, Jobs for the Future