Designing a Transitions Program For High Level Students

Colleen Mayer Program Director Literacy Council of Fort Bend County
Session Objectives

1) Understanding the basics of the ICA Curriculum Guide and how it can relate to your ABE practice

2) Identifying Transitions Pathways that are applicable to your students

3) Sharing resources, or the knowledge of where to find them, to connect your students to suggested Pathways
Session Overview

1) Context and Framework of LCFBC

2) Identifying target students

3) Overview of the Integrated Career Awareness Curriculum Guide

4) Identifying additional Transitions Pathways

5) “Next Step” resources
The Literacy Council of Fort Bend County supports

Transitions Focused Programming

Transitions Plan written in March 2016 in response to Needs Assessment Survey

- 5 core programs + CBJT
- Main learning location, 13 Outreach sites
- 1500 - 1700 students served
- 300 - 350 tutors engaged
- Staff involved:
  - Executive Director
  - Program Director
  - Administrative Coordinator
  - Outreach Coordinator
  - Evening Program Assistants, PT
Identifying Transitions Students

- **Transitions Plan** highlighted five key focus groups
  - ESL levels determined by **Best Plus** and **Best Literacy** scores

- Database audit of each key group
  - Consolidate metrics for leadership support & buy-in
  - Data-driven request for new staff: Student Services Coordinator

- High level ESL (5) as top priority
  - 56 **active** students
  - 13 tutors
Job Training & Certification

ESL

GED or ABE

Postsecondary Education
Needs Assessment Survey

Learning English for what?

- Administered to all ESL levels*
- Students to select top three choices, *What do you want to do with the English you learn in class?*
- Choose the one most important topic
- Buy-in from all level tutors
- 96 surveys returned
Choose the one most important topic?

26%

English Essentials
Choose the one most important topic?

GED & College

22%
Choose the **one** most important topic?

- 20% Jobs & Money
- Life in the United States
20%

Life in the United States

Choose the one most important topic?
Integrating Career Awareness into the ABE & ESOL Classroom

National College Transition Network

System for Adult Basic Education Support

- Career Awareness
  - Learning About your Classmates
- Self Exploration*
- Occupational Exploration
- Career Planning
  - Self-Sufficiency
  - Types of Decision Making
  - Setting SMART Goals
  - Problem Solving
- Level 5 ESL tutors received packet of ICA lesson plans
- Self-paced lessons throughout semester

www.collegetransition.org/docs/ICAcurriculumguide.pdf
But students have told us that they are looking for more than just Career Preparation!
Getting Specific with High Level Students

- Group sessions scheduled with ESL 5 students
- Track into “cohorts” based on primary Transitions goals
- Professional Development series
- Ongoing small group & individual case management
- Group sessions scheduled with ESL 5 tutors
Transitioning Students into: Volunteerism

- www.catchafire.org
- www.volunteerhouston.org
- www.volunteermatch.org
- www.idealist.org
- Local hospitals & schools
Transitioning Students into: Higher Education

- Alternative High School Diploma - What is it? Who needs it?
- US Education System Mapping
- Financial Literacy & Financial Aid
- Local community colleges
- Independent & distance learning
- www.coursera.org
Transitioning Students into: Career Pathways

- https://www.onetonline.org/
- https://www.careeronestop.org/
- www.fortbendjobs.com
- www.read writethink.org - Resume & Cover Letters
- Networking Social
Transitioning Students into: Social Situations

- Classes meet offsite at local restaurants or coffee shops
- ToastMasters International
- [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com) - Book Clubs, Hobby Clubs, Athletic Groups
- [www.houstonlanguagepartners.com/](http://www.houstonlanguagepartners.com/)
- [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)
- Calendar of Events - YMCA, Public Libraries, Senior Centers
Key Elements of a Transitions Program

- Present students with multiple pathway options
- Track students into groups based on their preferred pathway
- Professional Development series to reach each group, present resources
- Check in with students after PD - what steps have they taken?
- Set & continually repeat end goal
Sample Transitions Program - LCFBC

- Present students with multiple pathway options
- Track students into groups based on their preferred pathway
- Professional Development series to reach each group, present resources
- Check in with students after PD - what steps have they taken?
- Set & continually repeat end goal
- Large group info sessions each semester, AM & PM
- C/V, HE, CP, S - Currently coded in Excel, future tracking in Salesforce
- Transitions Students required to attend 2 PD events each year
- Informal inquiries by Program Staff apx. Every 2 weeks, Monthly formal inquiries
- "Students will not be eligible to enroll in ESL classes next semester. Let's talk about other options..."
Thank you!

Colleen Mayer
(281) 240- 8181
cmayer@ftbendliteracy.org
www.ftbendliteracy.org