# 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

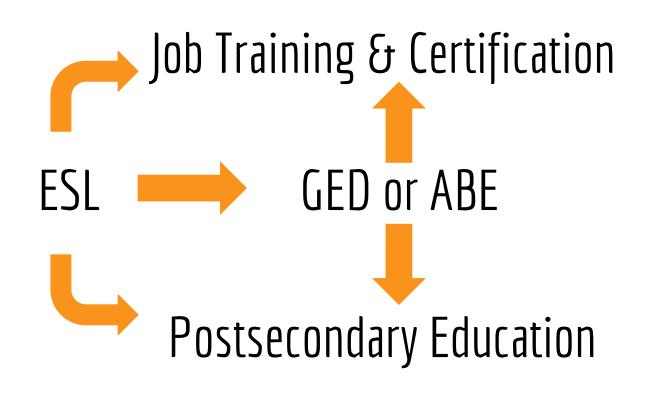
### Transitions Focused Programming

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



#### 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

## 26%

**English Essentials** 

### 

**GED & College** 

### 

**Jobs & Money** 

Life in the United States

Choose the **one** most important topic?

## 

Life in the United States

## 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

### 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

□ <a href="https://www.onetonline.org/">https://www.onetonline.org/</a>

□ <a href="https://www.careeronestop.org/">https://www.careeronestop.org/</a>

□ <u>www.fortbendjobs.com</u>

□ <u>www.readwritethink.org</u> - Resume & Cover Letters

☐ Networking Social

#### Transitioning Students into: Social Situations

- ☐ Classes meet offsite at local restaurants or coffee shops
- ☐ ToastMasters International
- □ <u>www.meetup.com</u> Book Clubs, Hobby Clubs, Athletic Groups
- □ <u>www.houstonlanguagepartners.com/</u>
- □ 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

