

# The Need for Non-Traditional Students



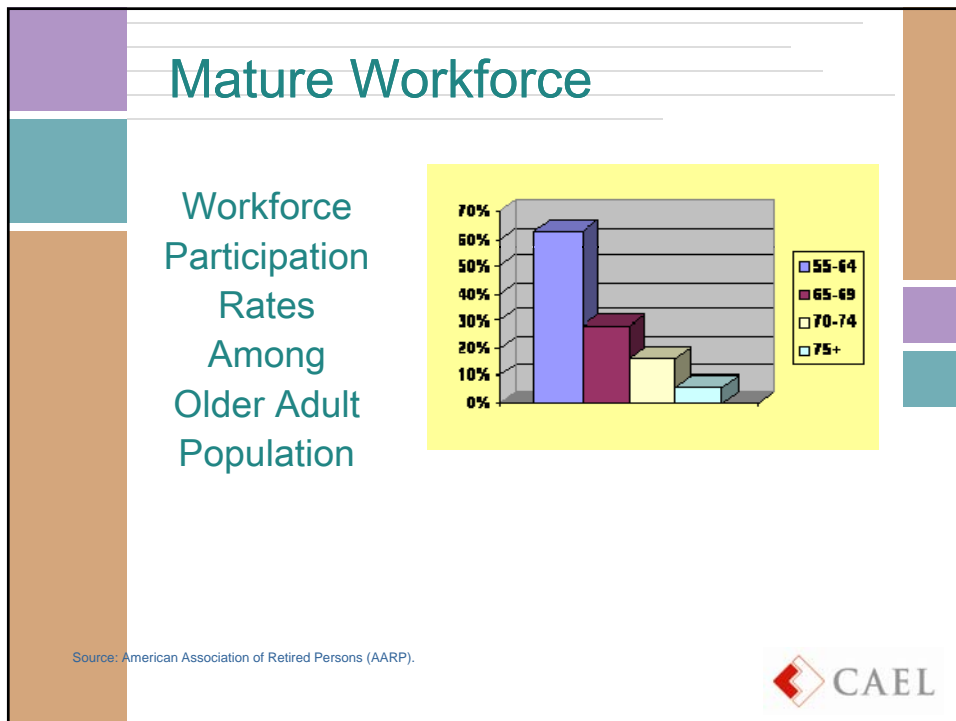
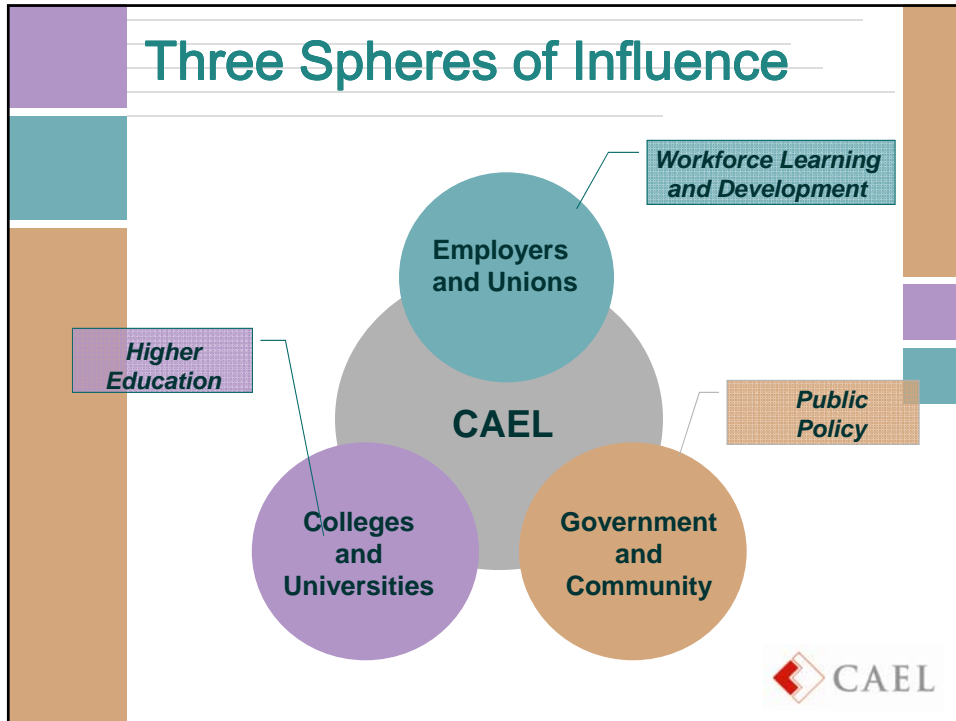
Presented by:  
Gabi Zolla  
VP, Programs & Policy  
The Council for Adult and Experiential Learning



## What is CAEL?

- Council for Adult and Experiential Learning
- A 501(c)3 non-profit, international organization with 30+ years of experience
- Headquartered in Chicago, IL with offices in Philadelphia, PA; Denver, CO; and New York, NY
- Dedicated to removing barriers to adult learning





## Mature Workers

- In 2000, 18.4 million people age 55 and over, or about 1/3 of the over 55 population, were in the labor force.
- The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that there will be nearly 32 million older workers by 2015.
- By 2012, workers 55 and older will account for 19% of the labor force; workers 40 years and older will make up about 53% of the labor force.
- As workers age, they move toward white collar and service occupations and away from jobs that are physically demanding.

Source: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Center for Workforce Preparation. *Voice of Business on the Mature Workforce*. A Summary Report of the Pre-White House conference on Aging Event, June 15, 2005.



## Skills Needed

By 2018, 63% of jobs will require some level of postsecondary education



*Compared to  
28% in 1973*



## Who is the Non-traditional Student?

▷ Time to redefine “Non-traditional”

- Adult Learner



## Who is the Adult Learner?

▷ The Adult Learner...

- Independent
- Competing responsibilities
- Working
- 3 out of 4 undergraduates



## Who is the Adult Learner?

- ▷ 45% of postsecondary students are between 25 and 44 today
- ▷ Large majority going to school part-time
- ▷ Large majority working at least part-time



## Serving the Adult Learner

### CAEL's Principles of Effectiveness for Serving Adult Learners

1. Outreach
2. Life & Career Planning
3. Financing
4. Assessment of Learning Outcomes
5. Teaching-Learning Process
6. Student Support Systems
7. Technology
8. Strategic Partnerships



## Adult Learners & College Credit

- ▷ Learning gained outside the college classroom is evaluated
- ▷ If college-level, award college credit



## What is Prior Learning Assessment?

The evaluation for college credit of the knowledge and skills one gains from life experiences  
(or from non-college instructional programs)




Sources of  
College-Level Learning

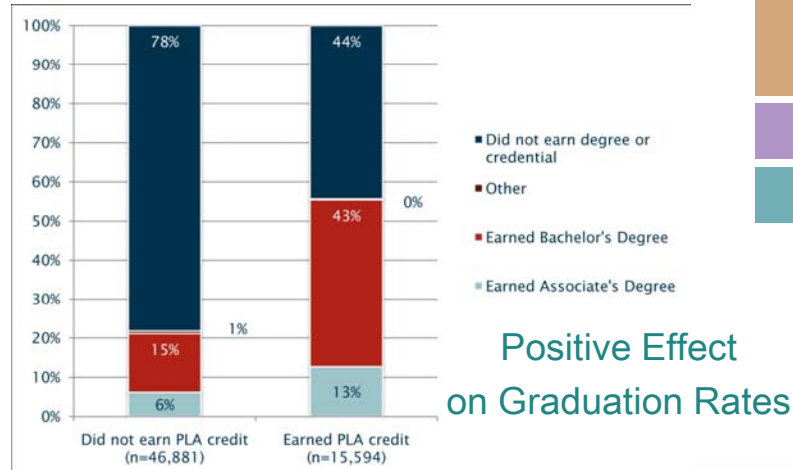
Employment  
Corporate Training  
Military Service  
Civic Activities  
Volunteer Service



PLA Testimonial



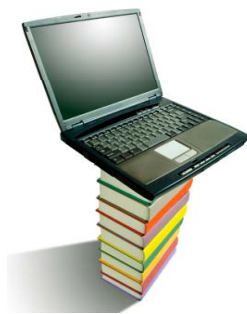
## Gets Employees to Degrees and Credentials



Positive Effect on Graduation Rates



## New System for Assessment



Online access to evaluations

Recommendations for credit accepted by many accredited schools





## Learning Counts

### Partnering with ACE and College Board



## Who Will Learning Counts Serve?

- ▷ **Individuals already enrolled**
  - Support for institutions w/o programs
  - Augment existing programs
- ▷ **Unaffiliated individuals**
  - Active duty military and veterans
  - Workers in transition
- ▷ **Employers and industry groups**
  - Credential employees
  - Document learning and identify skill gaps

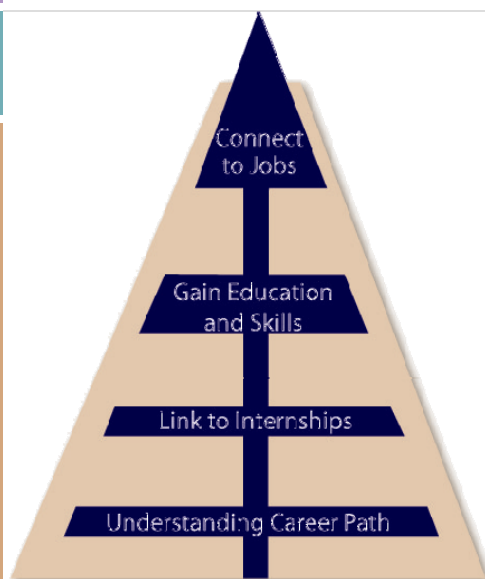


## What Adult Learners Need

- ▷ Guidance
- ▷ Jumpstart
- ▷ Support in getting there



## Career Pathways



Working to provide both younger and older adults a visible map and strategies for navigating the education needed for careers in the accounting profession



# Questions?

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