TRANSFORMING EDUCATION AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts’ 15 community colleges were awarded a $20 million, three-year grant from the United States Department of Labor to implement the Massachusetts Community Colleges and Workforce Development Transformation Agenda. The Transformation Agenda is an innovative venture that brings Massachusetts’ community colleges, the Commonwealth’s adult basic education and workforce development systems, and industry stakeholders together to transform the delivery of education and training programs. Through accelerated programs linked closely to industry need, the Transformation Agenda is creating greater economic opportunities for Massachusetts residents.

“This grant is not about tinkering, it’s about transformation. This is not about getting more students to enroll, it’s about getting more students to graduation day and into good jobs.”

- Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education

Redesigned, Career-Focused Certificate and Degree Programs

New or redesigned certificate and degree programs in one or more of the targeted industry sectors below are designed to meet the unique needs of adult students.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Healthcare</th>
<th>Advanced Manufacturing</th>
<th>Information Technology</th>
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<tr>
<td>Biotechnology &amp; Life Sciences</td>
<td>Clean Energy/Sustainability</td>
<td>Financial Services</td>
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Four key priorities drive the Transformation Agenda

- To accelerate progress for low-skilled, un- and under-employed workers.
- To improve retention and achievement rates; reduce time to gain industry recognized credentials, certificates and degrees.
- To build programs that meet industry needs, including developing career pathways.
- To strengthen online and technology enabled learning.

Modeled on the Breaking Through initiative

The Transformation Agenda incorporates proven best practices to achieve these priorities:

- Compressing course material to accelerate learning.
- Contextualizing content and customizing delivery of foundational and technical education and training to meet individual student needs.
- Providing College & Career Navigators to connect students with support services in the college and community.

Through these efforts, the community colleges and their partners are working together to ensure more people attain a college education and a sustainable job, and collectively strengthening the community colleges’ contribution to a healthy, productive economy.
The Transformation Agenda will serve 4,000 students and place 2,800 in employment throughout the three year period.

The following strategies are being implemented statewide to accomplish the Transformation Agenda goals and priorities:

**Industry Aligned Programs**

Each community college is offering new or redesigned certificate and degree programs in one or more of the targeted industry sectors below, designed to meet the unique needs of adult students.

- Healthcare
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Information Technology
- Biotechnology & Life Sciences
- Clean Energy/Sustainability
- Financial Services & Entrepreneurship

An industry team in each area, made up of staff and faculty, work with industry representatives to:

- Determine course content.
- Provide hands-on experience and job placement.
- Inform career path development and competency models.

**College and Career Navigators**

These new staff are building bridges with every community college and its local one-stop career center.

- Hired by each college, works out of the local one-stop career center to support customers seeking college credentials.
- Regional trainings involving navigators, college and career center staff build mechanisms to coordinate services and leverage the resources within each institution.

**Contextualized ABE and Developmental Education Curriculum**

- The Transformation Agenda consortium developed contextualized developmental education curriculum with involvement of college and ABE system staff and faculty and industry partners from healthcare, advanced manufacturing and IT.
- Online repository of contextualized modules available at mccwdta.etlo.org.
- This new curriculum was piloted in Fall 2012.
- Statewide regional trainings followed by a full roll-out of new curriculum in the Spring 2013 semester.

**Systems Team**

- A team comprised of community college staff from Financial Aid, I.T., Registrars, and other student management departments convened to study options for flexible student information systems that accommodate alternative scheduling (accelerated, off-semester, condensed.)

**Best Practices**

- Through ongoing professional development opportunities and Team meetings, Transformation Agenda partners regularly share best-practices, delivery models, news, information and more.