

Required Reading for 2010 CLLS Learner Persistence Summit

In order to make the most of our time together at the Learner Persistence Summit January 13-14, we ask that you read, *in advance* of our meeting, the attached list of recommended readings on best practices and current research regarding adult learner persistence in adult basic education and literacy programs. There are interesting (and some conflicting) theories presented in these readings and we want you to have the opportunity to review these in advance so that our discussion during the summit can include these varying perspectives, AS WELL AS your personal experience and your own models of success.

All of the readings are available on the CLLS website at http://www.libraryliteracy.org/staff/resources/Persistence_Reading_List_B.doc. There are about 50 pages to be read from the reports listed below in addition to the publication *Making It Worth the Stay: Findings from the New England Adult Learner Persistence Project* which can be downloaded at <http://www.nelrc.org/persist/report09.pdf> and will also be available on the CLLS website. During the summit, we will be working a lot with the information discussed in this publication because the director of the New England Adult Learner Persistence Project will be facilitating the meeting and sharing with us lessons learned from the project. The required readings should take approximately 7 hours or less to complete and will provide you with a solid foundation for discussing learner persistence issues outside of your own experiences.

PERSISTENCE AMONG ADULT BASIC EDUCATION STUDENTS IN PRE-GED CLASSES by John P. Comings, Andrea Parrella, and Lisa Soricone Harvard Graduate School of Education in NCSALL Reports #12 December 1999 (Executive Summary Pages 3-10 and Conclusions Pages 68-73) [NCSALL report12 PREGED Persist] <http://www.ncsall.net/fileadmin/resources/research/report12.pdf>

Staying In a Literacy Program by Archie Willard in Focus on Basics Volume 2, Issue A: March 1998 WORLD EDUCATION NCSALL [NCSALL/ Staying in a Literacy Program] This page is located at: <http://www.ncsall.net/?id=418>

Stopping Out, Not Dropping Out: Students and teachers may perceive withdrawing from a program differently by Alisa Belzer in Focus on Basics Volume 2, Issue A: March 1998 WORLD EDUCATION NCSALL [NCSALL/ Stopping Out, Not Dropping Out] This page is located at: <http://www.ncsall.net/?id=417>

Sponsors and Sponsorship: Initial Findings from the Second Phase of the NCSALL Persistence Study by John Comings and Sondra Cuban in Focus on Basics Volume 6, Issue A: October 2002 WORLD EDUCATION NCSALL [NCSALL/ Sponsors and Sponsorship] This page is located at: <http://www.ncsall.net/?id=221>

“As Long As It Takes”: Responding to the Challenges of Adult Student Persistence in Library Literacy Programs (Executive Summary) by John Comings, Sondra Cuban, et al. in mdrc April 2003 ["As Long As It Takes"/ Responding to the Challenges of Adult Student Persistence in Library Literacy Programs - Executive Summary]
<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/335/overview.html>

“One Day I Will Make It”: A Study of Adult Student Persistence in Library Literacy Programs (Executive Summary) by Kristin E. Porter, Sondra Cuban and John P. Comings with Valerie Chase in mdrc January 2005 [One Day I Will Make It.pdf]
<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/401/execsum.html>

CALPRO’s California Adult Education Research Digest No. 2 || Learner Persistence January 2005 [CALPRO LearnerPersistenceNewsletterPress]
<http://www.calpro-online.org/pubs/100719LearnerPersistenceNewsletterPress.pdf>

Program Administrator’s Sourcebook: A Resource on NCSALL’s Research for Adult Education Program Administrators by Jackie Taylor, Cristine Smith, and Beth Bingman with Margaret Bott, Kim Gass, Bethany Lay, Douglas Ann Taylor, and Kristin Tiedeman NCSALL December 2005 Pages 35-45 [pasourcebook_persistence]
This page is located at: <http://www.ncsall.net/?id=1035>

NCSALL Study Circle Guide: Adult Student Persistence May 2006 (Pages 0-5 and 361-381) [study_circle2006__asp]
<http://www.ncsall.net/?id=771&pid=896>

Possible Additional Readings for the Future to Facilitate Study Circles

Program Participation and Self-Directed Learning to Improve Basic Skills by Stephen Reder & Clare Strawn in Focus on Basics Volume 4, Issue D ::April 2001
WORLD EDUCATION NCSALL [NCSALL/ Program Participation and Self-Directed Learning to Improve Basic Skills] This page is located at: <http://www.ncsall.net/?id=287>

Self-Study: Broadening the Concepts of Participation and Program Support by Stephen Reder & Clare Strawn in Focus on Basics Volume 8, Issue C • November 2006
WORLD EDUCATION NCSALL [Reder's FOB Self-Study]
http://www.ncsall.net/fileadmin/resources/fob/2006/fob_8c.pdf

NCSALL Seminar Guide: Supports and Barriers to Persistence
September 2005 [supportsandbarrierstopersistseminarguide]
http://www.ncsall.net/fileadmin/resources/teach/supports_role.pdf