

Adult Education Report—September 2016

Enrollment Update

We are off to a good start in our programs this year. As of September 1st, we have had 805 students enter our program, which is within 2 percent of last year's enrollment at the same time. Numbers in our ESL classes are again strong, and we have had to institute waiting lists for our Iowa City ESL program.

Building Cultural Awareness

A number of adult education staff members have attended presentations by Dr. Mark Gray from the University of Northern Iowa. Dr. Gray has been working with many of the human service agencies in the Cedar Rapids area, presenting information on the "Changing Faces of Iowa." His presentations have helped staff to better understand the cultural changes that are occurring with new immigrant groups arriving in Iowa.

New Managed Enrollment Courses

We have launched new course opportunities this fall in Washington as well as at the IowaWORKS office in Cedar Rapids. Both locations will continue to work with students that need to come in by appointment basis, but our emphasis is to have students attend classes on a weekly basis. Students can enroll in courses in math, English, Science, or Social Studies depending on the location. Our intent with moving to courses is to better adopt Iowa Dept. of Education guidance for adult education programs, and to shorten the time students spend in adult education programming.

Pathways to Success

We also are working on expanding our extended orientation process to other locations. Currently, Washington and the KLIFE building are using the Pathways model for student intake, and we will be working this year to adopt this approach for all students looking to work in ABE and HSED programming. We are in the process of hiring a new high school pathway navigator who will be responsible for this programming at KLIFE as well as in Iowa City.