

Transitioning California's Adults: Providing 21st Century Education to Meet 21st Century Demands

Debra Jones, Adult Education Administrator, California Department of Education, USA

Marianne Fedele, Director, CALPRO, California Department of Education, USA

Marian Thacher, Director, OTAN, USA

For the first time in its history the United States is the only highly-developed democracy where the current generation of young adults is less likely to have completed high school than the previous generation. There are currently more than 12 million adults without a high school diploma in the workforce. In California one of every three students do not graduate from high school and four of five students enter the community college system unable to do college level work. Adult educators play a critical role in helping these students succeed and transition to further education and career opportunities.

"We will provide the support necessary for you to complete college and meet a new goal: by 2020, America will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world."

- President Barack Obama, February 24, 2009

The Obama administration has a goal of increasing the number of adult education students transitioning from basic skills and English language programs to community colleges and to promoting a better quality of living through expanded educational opportunities. It is clear that success in the contemporary economic environment and job market requires education and training beyond a high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED).

The panel will provide an overview of the state and national landscape of adult education in the current economy. They will provide information, research, and resources on professional development and technology in the 21st century, and will discuss the critical elements of a college transition program for non-traditional adult learners including; curriculum & instruction, guidance & advisement, and collaboration & partnership building between adult basic education and post-secondary institutions. As technology is playing a broader role in education in general, the panel will address ways that technology will be integrated in to adult education classrooms and distance learning to prepare students to transition to other learning environments.
