



# FINISH for YOUR FUTURE

Fulfilling Ohio's Adult Learner Promise:

Report of the Adult Learner Working Group

## The Adult Learner Working Group

- Supported by a Lumina Adult Promise grant awarded to Ohio
- Membership: leaders from post-secondary education communities, business and industry, community and non-profit groups
- Charge: review and prioritize recommendations to better serve adults seeking education after high school

## **FFYF GOAL**

**Increase adults (over 25) in public higher education from 27% to at least 40% by 2025.**

## Seven Guiding Principles

- Adult learner focused and addresses adult student needs
- All completions are valued and need to be increased
- Access and success must be improved
- Build upon existing initiatives and experiences
- Recommendations based on data
- Strategies using a systemic approach
- Maintain academic quality

## Four Charges / Four Work Groups

- High Impact Practices (Heather Kincaid, Washington St.)
- Return on Investment (Stephanie Sutton, Stark State)
- Close Equity Gaps (Kelly Hogan, Columbus State)
- Policy Improvements (Michael Thomson, Northwest State)

Subgroup reports are available in their entirety at:  
<https://www.ohiohighered.org/FFYF/reports>



## Report Format

- 24 recommendations spanning five pillars
- Additional section on the importance of ROI
- Actions steps for specific stakeholders



**Pillar 1:** Recommendations (1-5) that postsecondary institutions provide adult learners with flexible, customizable, student-centered and adult-friendly programs and supports

**Pillar 2:** Recommendations (6-11) that value adult learners' real-world, workplace knowledge, skills and experience

**Pillar 3:** Recommendations (12-17) that identify and close equity gaps

**Pillar 4:** Recommendations (18-20) that identify and address financial barriers to maximize adult learners' use of Ohio's wide array of postsecondary institutions

**Pillar 5:** Recommendations (21-24) that clarify opportunities, enable success and document progress



## Review Strategies & Initiatives Through ROI

- Think beyond the conventional budgeting process
- Evaluate costs while considering potential future revenue gains of increased adult learner enrollment and success
- Identify opportunities for investment in new initiatives

**Use an ROI model to think long-term about the costs and benefits of deploying the recommendations in this report**

See: <https://www.ohiohighered.org/FFYF/reports>  
ROI Subgroup Report (pages 12-19) and Full Report (p 38 - 39)

## Adult Learner Report Overview

Next Steps for Three  
Target Audiences:

- Governing Boards of Postsecondary Institutions
- Campus-Level Leaders, Faculty, and Staff
- State Policymakers





## Thank You!!

The Working Group Report, the Overview and all four Subgroup Reports can be found at:

<https://www.ohiohighered.org/FFYF/reports>

