

## Institute 2019 Practicum Project

You will create a practicum project that will enhance instruction related to helping adult learners achieve measurable skill gains (MSG). You started this project during your homework when you talked with your coordinator or director about your program's needs concerning improving measurable skill gains. Working with your team this week, you will further develop and refine your project.

### Possible Practicum Ideas:

- ❖ Conduct professional development workshops related to assisting instructors/staff in helping adult learners achieve measurable skill gains. Research shows that multiple professional development sessions done over time with follow up sessions are much more effective than “one and done” sessions. Learners should be held accountable to implement what they learned.
- ❖ Begin a community of practice where participants meet periodically to discuss best practices, issues and how they are implementing new learning with their students.
- ❖ Create a website, LiveBinder or other reference guide with resources related to helping adult learners achieve measurable skill gains.
- ❖ Mentor new instructors or other instructors whose class measurable skill gains need improvement.

### Friday Morning Practicum Project Presentation

On Friday morning you will share your practicum proposal with a small group of 4 – 6 people. Please spend most of your energy this week on your practicum proposal and less on the presentation. As you design your presentation, consider what you are learning this week:

- How will you engage your audience and get them to care about your practicum project?
- How will you present the information using what you have learned this week?

### Turning in Your Practicum Proposal

Workshop Participants: By the end of the week, please email Steve Schmidt a one-page outline describing your practicum project. Steve's email is [schmidtsj@appstate.edu](mailto:schmidtsj@appstate.edu)

Graduate Credit Participants: Since you are taking Institute for graduate credit, expectations are much higher for your finished project. Please turn in a detailed outline of your proposal that includes: an analysis of your current situation, the goal of your practicum project, a description of how you will accomplish your goal, how it will benefit your program, what resources you will need, a brief timeline, and how you will judge the practicum's effectiveness. (**Avoid** using TABE/CASAS/BEST pre/post test results to measure your project's effectiveness! This is very hard to prove.) Email Dianne Barber [barberdb@appstate.edu](mailto:barberdb@appstate.edu) your completed practicum proposal preferably before leaving Institute or no later than June 21<sup>st</sup>. Dianne must turn in grades by June 28<sup>th</sup>.

# **Sample Graduate Credit Practicum Outline**

## **Analysis of Current Situation**

In looking at the Comprehensive Report on Measurable Skill Gains from 2016-17 and 2017-18, we find that our MSG totals were 31.2% and 34.8%. These figures are above the baseline level but below the state goal. Many of our students do not make measurable skill gains and stop out of our programs before post-testing.

We realize that the quality of instruction in our classrooms is a major driver of our students' ability to be successful and show measurable skill gains. We have instructor turnover every year, so some of our new instructors lack knowledge in best practice teaching methods that maximize learning gains. We also realize that one professional development workshop with no follow up produces little change in our instructors' teaching practices.

## **Practicum Project Goal**

Improve our instructors' and program's effectiveness in helping learners achieve measurable skill gains by increasing the use of evidence based teaching practices, applying persistence research and increasing the number of students who post-test by 20% by March 1, 2020.

## **How We Will Accomplish Our Goal**

We will hold three professional development workshops to model effective instructional techniques and one follow up session to discuss best implementation practices.

## **Benefits to My Program**

We want to see all our students' succeed. Having strong MSG data allows our program to keep its Federal funding and qualifies us for additional funding. Improving the quality of instruction will increase student attendance that will lead to measurable skill gain improvement.

## **Resources Needed**

- Professional development funds for part time instructors to attend three workshops and one follow up session

## **Time Line**

- August 10; September 14; October 12, 2019 Prof. development planning committee meets
- August 24; September 21; October 19, 2019 Professional development workshops
- December 14, 2019 All program meeting to discuss best practices implementation
- March 1, 2020 Report submitted to ABSPD

## **Judging the Practicum's Effectiveness**

We will conduct surveys after each professional development workshop. Our instructional leadership team will visit classrooms throughout the 2019 Fall Semester to observe classes to see how instructors have implemented best practices. An all faculty meeting on December 14 will also discuss how instructors' implemented what they learned. Our data specialist will examine our instructors' MSG data.