

# Have an IMPACT: Partnerships for student and program success



March 26, 2010

# Agenda

- Set the context
- Focused discussion
- The Missing Piece: Students as Partners
- Harvest strategies and tools
- Clarify the models - Q & A
- Action strategy sessions - What are your next steps?

# Learners as Full Partners: A culture shift in adult education

Students helping students works

- Authentic engagement of current learners and alumni has many benefits and improves outcomes
  - For learners, programs and communities
  - In retention, persistence and capacity building
  - In transitions to college and career
  - For the adult education system

# Focused Discussion

How have you promoted learner leadership and what is one strength or challenge you encountered?



# The Missing Piece

## Students as Partners in Adult Education

- Video explores 3 models of student leadership
  - Transition to College Internship (systemic level)
  - IMPACT at Future Now (local / program level)
  - Adult Education Alumni Alliance (building a movement)
- Identifies tools and strategies
- Identifies partners and allies

# Reflection - Listing and Ranking

What struck you as most important?

What questions do you have or what would you like to learn more about?

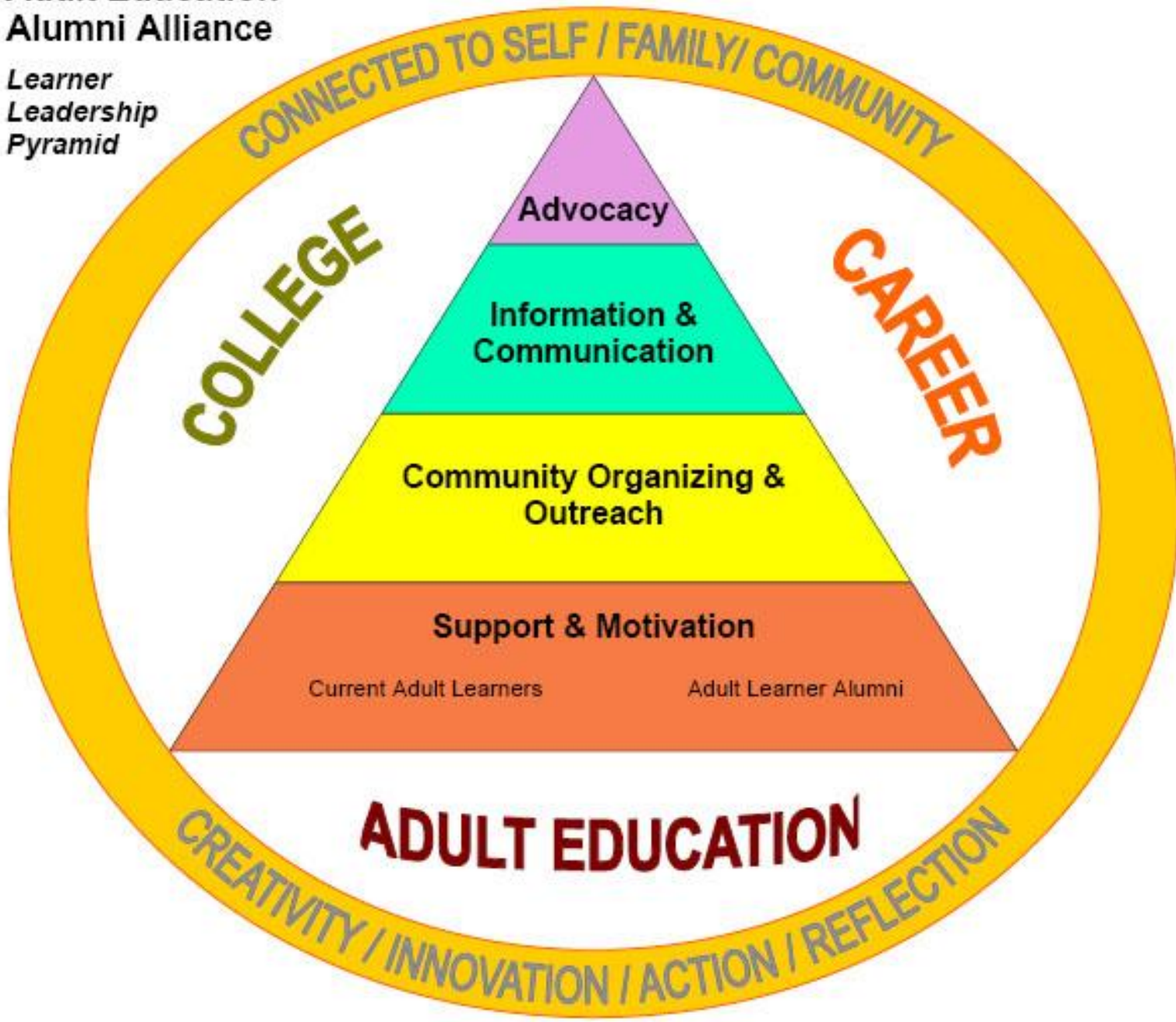
# Strategies and Tools

- Leadership development
- Recognition
- Outreach and community organizing
- Information and communication
- Motivation and support
- Advocacy
- Expert consultant
- Combating stigmas and stereotypes
- Evidence-driven / action research
- Any others?

# Adult Education Alumni Alliance

Learner Leadership Pyramid

Quality of Life ↑



Knowledge / Skills → Capacities / Assets → Resilience / Voice → Empowerment

# IMPACT at Future Now

## Improving My Progress At College Today



# Improving My Progress At College Today

IMPACT was created by GED alumni to support peers to transition and succeed in college.

- IMPACT provides:
  - A strong network of liaisons to college offices
  - Learner-led home base and biweekly meetings
  - Peer mentoring, tutoring and counseling
  - College knowledge and concrete college prep
    - entrance exam prep, admissions, financial aid, etc.
  - Creative solutions to institutional barriers
  - Ongoing motivation and support and ‘tough love.’

# The Impact of IMPACT

- Alumni leadership key to transition
- Helps make transition to college much easier and faster
- Breaks the isolation of college life - especially in critical first year
- Positive social capital (family / connections)
- Significant shifts in learners' vision for themselves and their lives in leadership capacity
- Dramatic improvement in transition to college, persistence, retention, GPA
- In partnership with the Future Now program, has strengthened program outcomes.

# Future Now / IMPACT

## Program Data

IMPACT was established in Fall 2007: Since then, GED graduation, college enrollment and college persistence have all increase.

- Percent of GED graduates going to college has increased:
  - 95% of GED grads accepted into college immediately.
  - 80% of those accepted complete enrollment process
- One semester college persistence rates have increased:
  - 2006: 20%
  - 2007: 60%
  - 2008: 82%
  - 2009: 90%
- The number of freshman in remedial courses has gone down from 65% to 40%

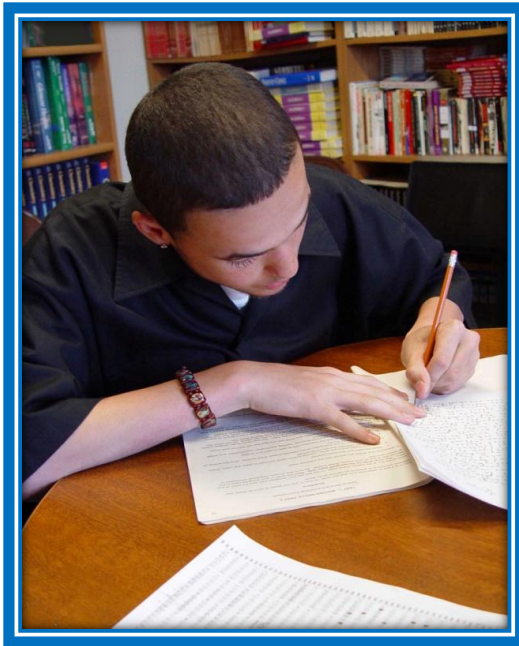
# GED Admission & Graduation Guide: 12 Steps to College Enrollment

1. Take TABE Examination
  2. Individual Interview
  3. Program Orientation
  4. Pre-GED / GED courses
  5. Career Planning Meeting
  6. Pass General Test
  7. Pass Predictor and Take GED Exam
  8. College Prep
  9. Work Readiness Training
  10. Admissions and Financial Aid
  11. Take College entrance exam
  12. Register and Validate Courses
- 
- Early Engagement
- College Readiness
- College Enrollment & Retention

# College Retention Guide:

## 5 points of contact for college retention

IMPACT team members make monthly contact with Future Now alumni enrolled in college



1. **Pre-semester orientation**
2. **Before midterms check-in**
3. **Follow-up after midterms**
4. **Check-in with students before finals**
5. **Follow-up after finals**

# FUTURE NOW

## Building a Learner-Centered Program

- Campus-based GED / College readiness program
- Steps that led to culture shift that made IMPACT possible
  - Steady program improvement based on whole student-centered principles
    - Head – strong academics and college prep curriculum
    - Heart – emotional support and caring relationships
    - Soul – the values adult learners bring to the classroom
  - Building resilience
    - Confident / Competent / Connected
- Top to bottom support for student-centered program and learner leadership – Respect and listen
- Commitment to learner leadership starts at orientation

# Transition to College Internship



# NYC Mayor's Office of Adult Education

## Transition to College Internship – 2008 - 2010

- Organizing adult learners within the system
- 30 adult education alumni participated between 2008 - 2010
- Founded the Adult Education Alumni Alliance and the Speaker's Bureau
- Outreach to over 1000 students in adult education programs throughout the city, including Rikers Island
- Interns earned 3 college credits for a course on Leadership & Community Development from Kingsborough Community College
- Policy consultations and advocacy opportunities
- Identifying and documenting best practices
- Peer mentoring and training
- Provided ongoing support for adult education programs
- Participatory research –
  - Helped to identify key issues that affect adult learners
  - Strengthening student voice

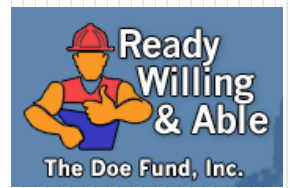
# Partnerships for success

## Government, Institutions, & Non-Profit organizations

- **Mayor's Office**
  - The internship helps CUNY GED programs increase student retention and college transition rates
  - Calvin Miles Award for Student Leadership
- **CUNY** – helping to strengthen adult learner leadership
  - Campus-based adult literacy programs
  - College Transition Program (CTP) –
    - Academic readiness
    - College knowledge
  - Peter Jennings Laurel Award Scholarship
    - Providing support and encouragement for adult ed college bound students
- **LAC / Fortune Society / College Initiative / NCTN**
  - Resources
  - Information



# Professional Partners involved with Transition to College Internship



College and Community Fellowship



# Adult Education Alumni Alliance



# Adult Education Alumni Alliance

## Mission Statement

- The mission of the Adult Education Alumni Alliance (AEAA) is to create an empowered and connected community of adult learners. The AEAA will partner with literacy programs and other allies in order to advocate for a state-of-the-art adult education system. Our aim is to help adult learners succeed in achieving their educational, career, and life goals.

# Adult Education Alumni Alliance

## Objectives:

- To help improve outcomes for adult education students and alumni in transitioning to college and in career-related technical training.
- To build a sustainable network/movement of adult learners and alumni to help strengthen the adult education system in New York City.
- To help create a student-centered adult education system

# Insights that support learners as partners in adult education

- Adult Education is a 4-legged stool -
  - Natural partners - teachers, programs, allies + learners
- Authentic learner leadership is a continuum
  - listening → engagement → leadership → partnership
- Create an environment that supports authentic learner leadership/partnerships.
  - Steady steps to prepare the soil
  - Build from strengths - an asset based approach
- It's a process and takes hard work
  - Genuine program decision. Top to bottom commitment
  - Willing to examine assumptions
  - Willingness to be led by learners
- Listening is key in creating a learner-centered environment.
  - Follow the evidence

# Contact Information

**NYC Mayor's Office of Adult Education**

[www.nyc.gov/adult-ed](http://www.nyc.gov/adult-ed)

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**Future Now / IMPACT**

Bronx Community College

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