



Northeast Resiliency Consortium Promising Practices

Our goal for the Northeast Resiliency Consortium (NRC) was to create a regional partnership that strengthens the capacity of seven community colleges and their strategic partners to improve the delivery of educational programs and to better prepare participants to obtain the skills, competencies, and credentials needed in the current and future workplace. From the outset, our goal was to use the USDOL's innovative TAACCCT program as a catalyst for larger-scale transformation of the workforce development and community college system.

While only in our second year of implementation, several promising practices have emerged that contribute to how we hope the NRC's efforts become sustainable and impactful—both at the individual colleges and the consortium as a whole. These promising practices are grouped by the consortium's seven cross-cutting strategies.

Resiliency

- *Use of Resiliency Competencies to Ensure Completion of Training and Development of Transferable Skills.* Kingsborough's resiliency curriculum builds on participant's previous professional and academic experiences with group activities, services, and workshops which increase resiliency competencies. Participants work with program staff to identify, address, and resolve barriers to success.
- *Expand Use of Resiliency Competencies into Additional Programs of Study.* Bunker Hill is adding resiliency competencies to current offerings in their Computer Information Technology Department, and faculty have requested to incorporate these competencies into additional curriculum.

Career Pathways

- *Expand Opportunities for Low-Skilled Adults to Enter and Advance in Programs of Study.* LaGuardia recruits low-skilled adults for the Supporting Adults through Vocational EMT Training (SAVE EMT), for those who don't meet the entry-level reading requirement for the existing program. It is an intensive program including contextualized basic skills in a team-taught classroom, psych trauma resiliency curriculum, career development and support services.
- *Link Community-based Partners and the College through a Culinary Arts program.* Passaic's partnership with the Culinary School at Eva's Village will provide an opportunity for students to enter directly into the AAS in Culinary Arts. Completers will receive advanced standing in the program through Prior Learning Assessment.

Prior Learning Assessment

- *Expand Options for Offering Credit for Prior Learning.* Atlantic Cape Community College has demonstrated very clear institutional support for Prior Learning Assessment, and they are expanding this work through the NRC. Students in NRC programs may receive credit for prior learning through CLEP exams, current professional license or certification, portfolio review, and military experience. These credits can be applied to an Associate's Degree in Technical Studies, which can be customized to fit different career aspirations.

Contextualized Learning

- *Make Remedial Subjects More Accessible to Students of Diverse Educational Backgrounds.* Kingsborough has incorporated the Quantway style of contextualized learning into their culinary program. Success in the culinary field depends on essential math concepts such as fractions, ratios, and percents. The curriculum team at Kingsborough has developed contextualized math lessons around realistic problem situations that a chef may find himself in, and students must understand and apply crucial math skills.

Student Supports

- *Offer Enhanced Student Supports throughout Programs of Study.* LaGuardia Community College provides enhanced student supports for participants in their NRC programs, including one-on-one meetings and advising sessions, and assistance with social, financial, and academic issues. Employment supports, including career preparation seminars and job clubs, are integrated into NRC programs to help shape and guide their career development, rather than taking place after program completion.
- *Use of Academic Mentors as Additional Resources to Ensure Student Success.* Housatonic uses a holistic model which utilizes the entire staff and every team member's strengths. Because each participant comes to the NRC at a different point in their life, staff are cross-trained to make a personal connection with each student, address their individual needs, and boost retention rates. Staff are also designated as Academic Mentors for particular classes where they serve as an extra resource for students and faculty. Academic Mentors facilitate workshops on resiliency and job readiness, and maintain consistent communication with instructors to ensure student success.
- *Use of Integrated Planning and Advising Services.* Capital is using Simplicity Insight to integrate a college-wide tracking system for students. Students can use the system to make appointments with counselors and advisors, request tutoring, and more. The system draws information from Banner so that advisors can view all academic information and plans and add their notes. The system also includes an Early Alert feature that provides advisors with a list of Students of Concern referred for academic, behavioral, or well-being issues. The Career Service module features resume builder tools, an employer database, and mock interview tool.

Employer Engagement

- *Respond to Employer Needs by Expanding Course Offerings.* Atlantic Cape Community College has an extensive history of working with local employers which paved the way for their joint effort to assist dislocated casino workers in obtaining healthcare training through the NRC programs. AtlantiCare Medical Center identified four entry-level occupations in high demand, and Atlantic Cape quickly expanded its course offerings to include training for these occupations. AtlantiCare is offering scholarships to selected participants, who are eligible to apply for employment at AtlantiCare or any employer of their choice.
- *Engage Employers in Curriculum Development and Training.* Passaic has developed a collaborative partnership with PSE&G to offer an Energy Industry Fundamentals course. PSE&G assisted with identifying an instructor and provided test administration on site at Passaic.
- *Invite Employers to Campus to Meet with Graduates.* At LaGuardia, employers came to campus to meet with graduates of their EMT program. Representatives from employer partners made presentations to students and conducted interviews on the spot. As a result all students from that cohort who were able to work were hired.

Advanced Technology

- *Provide Access to Digital Tutoring Materials to Prepare for Certification Exams.* Participants in EMT programs of study across the consortium are able to access digital tutoring materials which they have used to prepare for certification exams. At Atlantic Cape, the exam pass rate for the first cohort to fully access the online materials was significantly higher than the prior cohort.