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BATEC Bridge to Community College

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Summary/Abstract

The Bridge to Community College Program is a comprehensive college program that creates postsecondary education access for nontraditional learners with limited technology skills. It offers two credit-bearing technology courses combined with English and Mathematics tutoring to reinforce the basic math and literacy competencies required for entry into a community college. The Bridge Program transitions students into higher education by partnering with trusted community organizations to offer introductory college technology courses at a community site with a facilitated transition to the partner community college.

Goals and Objectives

Information and communication technology skills: the 21st Century economy is based upon on them, the 21st Century employer demands them and the 21st Century employee must be equipped with them. Lack of these skills puts a person at educational and economic disadvantage. The economic life of an individual can significantly improve if provided with an educational opportunity combined with encouragement, a community of peers, and technology skills training. Yet, for many adults, the prospect of returning to school for a college degree or additional training is daunting. Work schedules, transportation difficulties, and family responsibilities can make it seem impossible to take that next step to more secure employment, higher earnings, and a defined career path.

Providing educational programs close to home lessens the barriers to nontraditional students completing a college degree. Community Based Organizations (CBOs) are able to provide local and accessible solutions. CBOs provide strong support to their surrounding community through a wide range of services such as advocacy, housing assistance, community organizing and workforce development. CBOs are ideal conduits through which information resources can be channeled to individuals. This provided the impetus for the creation of the Bridge to Community College Program.

Results/Impacts

The Bridge to Community College program has served more than **320** students with over **75% obtaining work or pursuing further education**. A key element in a Department of Labor TAACCCT initiative, this program was also selected as a replicable model by Microsoft's Unlimited Potential Program.



Image: Bridge students standing with certificates of completion at graduation from the BATEC Bridge program at DotWell

BATEC has created a Bridge to Community College toolkit which can be downloaded at <http://batec.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/BATEC-Bridge-DotWell-v1.3.pdf>

Approaches and Methods

The Bridge to Community College was built as an educational pathway to provide inner city residents a "bridge" from programs such as Technology Goes Home, an introductory ten-week technology-training program to Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC). There is a preliminary qualification of potential participants through a course entitled ICT Career Exploration. Bridge to CC students then take one of three 3-credit courses at the CBO. These include:

- **CIT110 Computer Applications & Concepts**
- **CIT133 Introduction To Microsoft Office Applications**
- **CIT182 PC Hardware & Software**

These courses are offered two days a week in the evening or in a condensed format during the day. Students receive targeted Math and English tutoring in order to place into College Math and English upon completion of the bridge program. Upon successful completion of the on-site CBO course, students then are matriculated to an ICT "fast-track" stackable certificate of their choice, for either Entry-level or Middle Skills employment.

Conclusion/Next Steps

A characteristic that makes BATEC a truly unique entity is the "gluing" function it serves in the Greater Boston area and increasingly, within New England and the nation. BATEC used a process later coined as system netting – developing a vision, policies and programs that sustains and strengthens the system by institutionalizing collaborative practices among its stakeholders – to achieve its success. This involved developing a regional vision for the education and workforce system as a whole in knowledge-based industries; researching the changing needs of the region and identifying education and workforce development opportunities; developing the programs and processes that support those regional opportunities; structuring partnerships and collaborations among private, public and non-profit stakeholders; and helping stakeholders identify resources to improve regional cohesiveness and connectedness.

Community-Based Organization Partners



St. Mary's Center
for Women and Children
Change comes from the Center

NEW ENGLAND CENTER FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

dotWELL
for a healthy neighborhood



VILLA VICTORIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS
Celebrating Latino Arts and Culture!

Community-Based Organizations:

- The New England Center for Homeless Veterans <http://www.nechv.org>
- DotWell: <http://www.dotwell.org>
- Saint Mary's Women & Children Center: <http://www.smwcc.org>
- Timothy Smith Network: <http://www.timothysmithnetwork.org>
- Boston STRIVE: <http://www.bostonstrive.org>
- Villa Victoria: <http://www.villavictoriaarts.org>