



Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training

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What is I-BEST?

- **Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training is not your momma's bridge course**



What is I-BEST?

- **Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training pairs an adult basic education/ESL instructor and a professional/technical instructor so that students gain both skill sets at the same time**



I-BEST

What is I-BEST?

- **New look at the old notion that adult students must have all their basic skills to learn workforce skills**
- **Learning model that requires both instructors and students to gain new skills**
- **Instruction that prioritizes outcomes that improve student lives, transform campuses, and support local economies**



Where did I-BEST come from?

The Perfect Storm - Demographics

- **Net growth in Washington's work-force for the next 20 years will come from second-language speakers and other under-prepared adults**
- **Non-English speakers 25 or older doubled between 1990-2000**
- **Half of all Hispanics, the fastest growing population, have less than a high school education**



Where did I-BEST come from?

The Perfect Storm - Economics

Skills Gap Widens:

- Height of the recession, employers still couldn't find qualified workers
- Washington employers identify under-prepared workers as a factor in low productivity
- Lack of skilled workers cause companies to leave or not come to Washington state



Where did I-BEST come from?

The Perfect Storm – Workforce Development

- Washington state's leadership in Skills Standards move focus away from front-end qualifiers to back-end qualifications
- Enrollments soften
- Programs completions decline



Where did I-BEST come from?

The Perfect Storm – Adult Basic Education (ABE)

- **86% of students identify work as a purpose for their education**
- **College/partner data confirm that ABE is necessary, but not sufficient**
- **Low ABE success and transfer rates**
- **ABE reporting system provides rich data on individual students**



How did I-BEST begin?

- **Handful of colleges experiment with integration models**
- **State Board for Community & Technical Colleges / State WIB / Adult Education Advisory Council urge progress**
- **ABE / Workforce Education Directors set aside small pool of federal funds**



How did I-BEST begin?

I-BEST pilots:

- ten colleges
- five career pathways
- three years
- data, observation, data, re-application, data, group reflection

Legislature and partners engage.



How did I-BEST begin?

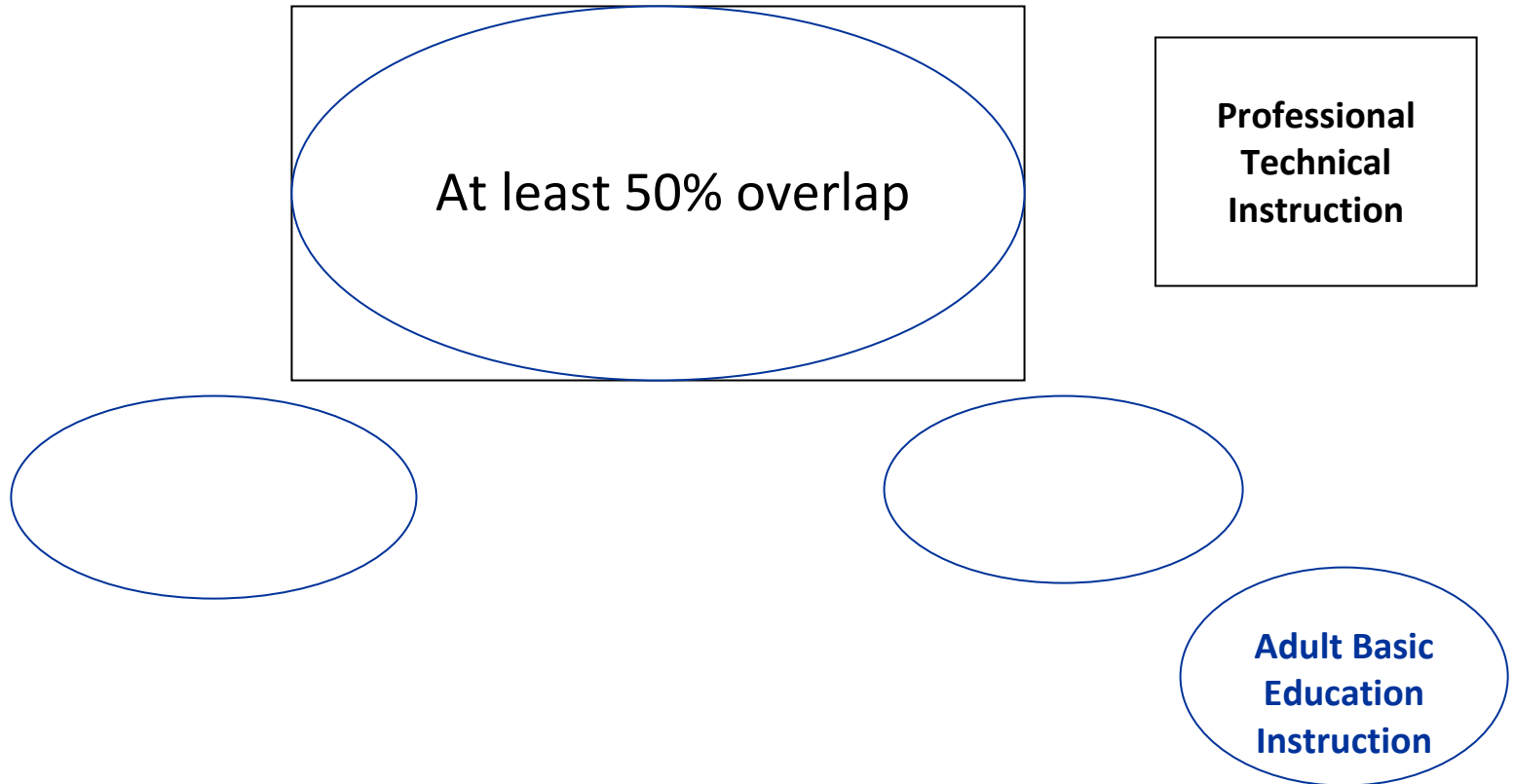
Pilot students demonstrate success

- **Five times more college credits than other ABE/ESL students**
- **Fifteen times more likely to complete workforce training**
- **Completers get jobs and/or continue their education with skills to succeed at the next level**



Pilot to Systemic Change

Instructional Model identified





Pilot to Systemic Change

Funding model identified

- **1.75 FTE for professional-technical credits earned – overlap of faculty and additional student services**
- **Additional adult basic education and other coursework funded by other FTE and federal support dollars**
- **Enhanced FTE available by successful application January, 2006**



Pilot to Systemic Change

Research and Data Support – The Tipping Point

- **One year of college credits and a credential is the tipping point for self-sufficiency**
- **Earnings bump from \$8,500 a year for students who begin in ABE to \$2,700 for those who start in GED classes**
- **Jobs that require one year of college credits and a credential are in greatest demand in Washington state**



Pilot to Systemic Change

Internal and External Champions

- **Adult Education Advisory Council and State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (governor-appointed bodies)**
- **Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (state WIB)**
- **Legislative and congressional leaders, Governor Gregoire**



Where is I-BEST now?

Included in strategic documents/ conversations

- **ABE state plan**
- **State Board for Community and Technical College Strategic Direction**
- **Washington Learns and P-20 Council**
- **State plan for workforce development system – High Skills, High Wages**



Where is I-BEST now?

Implementation at increasing levels across the community and technical college system

- **70 programs at 32 of 34 colleges**
- **More than half of the programs focus on Health Care or Office Support/Technology**
- **Six other career pathways range from Early Childhood Education to the Trades**



Where is I-BEST now?

Center of the largest, historic increase in the community and technical college operating budget

- **+500 FTEs – I-BEST - \$7,350,000**
- **+1250 FTEs – ABE - \$11,438,000**
- **+600 FTEs – High Demand - \$5,280,000**
- **+Opportunity Grants - \$15,000,000**

Additional funding for general enrollment, apprenticeships, early childhood, and transfer



Where is I-BEST now?

Early indicators of unprecedented success:

- **Renton Technical – LPN cohort of 11**
 - **10 completers documented a level increase in writing and 26 other measurable gains**
 - **Attempted and earned more credits than their traditional counterparts**
 - **Had higher completion rates and GPAs**



Where is I-BEST now?

Early indicators of unprecedented success:

- **Tacoma CC – Accounting cohort**
 - **100% were retained, versus 75% of traditional students**
 - **Had average GPAs of 3.5, versus 1.7 for traditional students**
 - **All I-BEST students passed, versus 47% of traditional students**



What's next for I-BEST?

- **Hit expansion targets as we document success across all programs**
- **Address financial aid gap, leveraging success with Opportunity Grants**
- **Broaden targeted populations, including lower-level ESL students and low-income youth - populations identified by data and research**



I-BEST Resources

- **SBCTC: Building Pathways to Success for Low-Skilled Adult Students: Lessons for Community College Policy and Practice from a Longitudinal Student Tracking Study (*The “Tipping Point” Research*) .**
http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu/data/rsrchrpts/Resh_06-2-TippingPoint.doc

- **SBCTC: I-BEST - A PROGRAM INTEGRATING ADULT BASIC EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE TRAINING**
<http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu/Data/rsrchrpts/Resh05-2-I-BEST.doc>