A Targeted Approach to PLA

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The plan for our time together

- Introductions
- Brief definition of/basic info about PLA
- Models for evaluating PLA
- North Park process
- Participant experiences
- Questions/conversation
Introductions

• Name

• Institution and position

• Involvement with PLA
A definition to begin…

• As defined by ACE (American Council on Education): Academic credit granted for demonstrated college-level equivalencies gained through learning experiences outside of the college classroom, using one of the well-established methods for assessing extra-institutional learning, including third party validation of formal training, or individualized assessment, such as portfolios.
Why is it important?

• CAEL study of 48 higher education institutions and 62,000 students found that learners with PLA credit had better academic outcomes, including better graduation rates. ²

• There is a perceived mismatch between what employers need and what traditional education is providing. ³

But…

• Students expressed frustration with the lack of clear information on the process. ⁴
Models/Methods of PLA

- Portfolio review – individualized and reviewed by their institution
- Standardized exams – CLEP, DSST, etc.
- Third party evaluations – ACE, CAEL
- Individualized assessment – language skills, hands on ability
- Institutional equivalency exams
PLA in Action at NPU

• History of PLA at School of Adult Learning
  – From 92 – 96 total of 62 students with an average of 5.67 credit hours per project
  – From 10 – 14 total of 244 students with an average of 7.00 credit hours per project

• Types of PLA available
  – Exams – CLEP, BYU language, etc.
  – ACE evaluated and military transcripts
  – Written Projects
PLA in Action at NPU

• Student focused
  – Information available to students
  – Meeting with PLA Coordinator
  – What type of project
  – Who is involved and when
  – Costs and transcripting
Participant experiences

What have been your experiences with PLA?
Questions and Conversation
THANKS FOR BEING HERE TODAY!
End Notes and References


