

More News You Can Use

John Gugerty, Column Editor

Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation has produced several new publications that are available for downloading at http://www.mdrc.org/area_publications_1.html

Service Delivery and Institutional Linkages: Early Implementation Experiences of Employment Retention and Advancement Programs

By Jacquelyn Anderson and Karin Martinson

Describing the initial experiences of 15 Employment Retention and Advancement programs in eight states, this report emphasizes implementation issues and focuses on connections among the agencies and institutions that deliver retention and advancement services to low-income workers and hard-to-employ populations. As of December 2002, a total of 15 ERA programs are being tested in eight states. This report describes the initial experiences of those programs, focusing on implementation issues and institutional connections.

Changing Courses: Instructional Innovations That Help Low-Income Students Succeed in Community College

By Richard Kazis and Marty Liebowitz

This paper looks at curricular and program redesign strategies currently used by community colleges to speed nontraditional students' advancement from lower levels of skill into credential programs and to shorten the time commitment required to earn a credential. This paper presents a framework for understanding the range of experimentation with program and class reformatting and redesign. It identifies programs that exemplify promising approaches. The paper concludes with issues and questions that MDRC will need to address in assessing whether to proceed with a research program focused on program redesign efforts geared to working adults' needs.

Money Matters: How Financial Aid Affects Nontraditional Students in Community Colleges

By Victoria Choitz and Rebecca Widom

Examining federal, state, and institutional programs, the paper presents a framework for understanding challenges to securing comprehensive financial assistance for low-income working students. The paper identifies promising approaches for supplementing student financial aid based on a range of programs implemented in the past and planned for the future. It also raises issues that bear consideration in designing a program that would be both effective in ways that can be measured through random assignment studies and replicable.

"As Long As It Takes": Responding to the Challenges of Adult Student Persistence in Library Literacy Programs

By John Comings, Sondra Cuban, Johannes M. Bos, and Kristin E. Porter, with Fred C. Doolittle

Based on a study of nine adult literacy programs in public libraries, this report examines student characteristics, participation patterns, and new strategies to raise student persistence. This interim report from the study examines the period, starting in 2000, during which the programs developed plans to improve student persistence and began to implement service enhancements.

Supporting CalWORKs Students at California Community Colleges: An Exploratory Focus Group Study

By Laura Nelson and Rog air Purnell

The Opening Doors initiative is designed to help low-wage workers, at-risk youth, and recipients of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) earn college credentials as the pathway to better jobs and higher earnings. Concentrating on a program implemented in California, this report supplements efforts from an earlier Opening Doors focus group study to gain insights from low-income students on the factors that affect their ability to enroll in school and earn a college credential while balancing work and parenting responsibilities.