



National Lieutenant Governors Association

NLGA Consensus Resolution Regarding Credit for Prior Learning

WHEREAS, evidence demonstrates that credit for prior learning increases student completion, saves students money and shortens time to degree¹, and

WHEREAS, credit for prior learning is the awarding of college credit for experiences a student has learned in and out of an academic setting, and

WHEREAS, adults, on average, who earn degrees with 12 or more credits for prior learning eliminated 9 to 14 months toward their degree. Further, adult learners saved an average of \$1,500 to \$10,200 in tuition costs², and

WHEREAS, adult learners who earn credit for prior learning are 17% more likely to graduate when compared to adult learners who did not³, and

WHEREAS, only 11% of adult learners entering college earned credit for prior learning and among these adult learners, those who were classified as low income and African American were least likely to have earned credit for prior learning⁴, and

WHEREAS, research shows that most working students indicate their jobs are not connected to their course of study and awarding credit for prior learning is considered a useful strategy that colleges and universities can utilize to connect students' work and academic experiences⁵, and

WHEREAS, that same research shows that veterans are a group that can significantly gain from credits for prior learning due to training earned in the military with 22% of veterans more likely to not have earned a degree or certificate than nonveterans, and

¹ "Results from a 72-Institution Targeted Study of Prior Learning Assessment and Adult Student Outcomes," Council for Adult and Experiential Learning and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, Revised December 2020, <https://www.cael.org/hubfs/PLA%20Boost%20Paper%20ExecSummary%20-%20Oct%202020.pdf>

² "Prior Learning Assessment is Available, but Students are Not Using It," New America, March 17, 2021, <https://www.newamerica.org/education-policy/edcentral/low-takeup-of-prior-learning-assessment/>

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⁴ "Results from a 72-Institution Targeted Study of Prior Learning Assessment and Adult Student Outcomes," Council for Adult and Experiential Learning and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, Revised December 2020, <https://www.cael.org/hubfs/PLA%20Boost%20Paper%20ExecSummary%20-%20Oct%202020.pdf>

⁵ "MAKE IT COUNT RECOGNIZING PRIOR LEARNING FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT," Association of Community College Trustees, March 2020, <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED605122.pdf>

21 **WHEREAS**, that same research also shows that 51% of veterans ages 18-24 do not have a
22 degree or certificate enabling many to benefit from utilizing credit for prior learning.

23 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Lieutenant Governors Association
24 (NLGA) encourages NLGA Members in the states and territories to be aware of the benefits
25 that credit for prior learning enables to students to economically earn their degree or
26 certificate in a decreased amount of time while improving their future earning potential.

27 **ADOPTED**, this day, the 1st of August, 2024.

28 Co-Sponsors: South Carolina Lt. Governor Pamela Evette

29 *Proposed for the docket by:* ACT, NLGA Partner