

College Preparatory Program: Women in Transition

- ◆ LOCATION: Danvers, MA
- ◆ ESTABLISHED: 1988.
- ◆ AFFILIATED/FREE-STANDING: Affiliated with the North Shore Community College.
- ◆ NUMBER ENROLLED AND PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS: Each year 20 to 25 women are enrolled.

◆ % Low Income	75%	◆ % Married	25%
◆ % Employed	>50%	◆ Mean age	35-40 yrs.
◆ Ethnic/Racial Profile	Predominantly Caucasian		

- ◆ NUMBER OF GRADUATES: There have been 400 to 500 graduates.
- ◆ GOALS: The goal is to support women as they begin their college education so that they can gain confidence and feel comfortable navigating the educational system.
- ◆ IMPETUS/POLITICAL CLIMATE AT OUTSET: Doctoral research at North Shore Community College identified the need for a program addressing the barriers and challenges women face returning to school.
- ◆ STATE TANF LIMITATIONS: Massachusetts currently allows for two-year college attendance.
- ◆ ORGANIZATIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT: Currently all financial, organizational and administrative support comes from North Shore Community College. Initially, the program received grant funding to supplement college administrative support.
- ◆ COST TO THE PARTICIPANTS: Participants pay approximately \$900 dollars a year for tuition and books at North Shore Community College. Financial aid is provided by the college with limited scholarships available through the Alumni network
- ◆ SERVICES OFFERED: Academic support, tutoring, personal counseling, peer mentoring, student support group, orientation, and planned social and cultural events.
- ◆ FUTURE PLANS, POLICY ISSUES: Plans are underway to address crisis and short-term financial support. Recruiting enough women, securing funding for additional services and addressing the transportation needs of the students are problems which need attention. Given the restrictive policy climate around low-income women's access to higher education, the program continues to struggle with recruiting sufficient numbers of low-income women.

BA Degree Program: Carlow Hill College

- ◆ LOCATION: Pittsburgh, PA
- ◆ ESTABLISHED: 1983
- ◆ AFFILIATED/FREE-STANDING: Affiliated with Carlow College.
- ◆ NUMBER ENROLLED AND PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS: There are currently 69 students enrolled, of whom 96% are women.

◆ % Low Income	100%	◆ % Married	33%
◆ % Employed	> 50%	◆ Mean Age	35-45 yrs.
◆ Racial/Ethnic Profile	96% African American and 4% Caucasian.		

- ◆ NUMBER GRADUATED: There have been 59 graduates.
- ◆ GOALS: To provide educational opportunities to primarily African-American women who would not otherwise have opportunities for a college education.
- ◆ IMPETUS/POLITICAL CLIMATE AT OUTSET: Members of the community, churches and community organizations identified the need for an educational program specifically for low-income, adult students in their community. The needs of the neighborhood, being one of the poorest in Pittsburgh, have not been addressed by the city for over 30 years. Initially, Carlow College was concerned that they would not be able to cover the financial costs of a scholarship-based program.
- ◆ STATE TANF LIMITATIONS: Pennsylvania allows for two-year college attendance.
- ◆ ORGANIZATIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT: All financial, organizational and administrative support comes from Carlow College, which is supported by the Sisters of Mercy. Initially, the program received financial support from foundations and corporations.
- ◆ COST TO THE PARTICIPANTS: Childcare and computer facilities are available to students \$1.00/week respectively. Tuition is based on income and family size. Most students pay approximately \$600-\$700 per year.
- ◆ SERVICES OFFERED: Financial assistance, peer support, childcare, peer academic tutoring and leadership development opportunities.
- ◆ FUTURE PLANS, POLICY ISSUES: The program is beginning to publicize the school and its successes on the state and local level in order to gain more support and funding from the government. Currently, they are in need of a counselor for the program, but do not have the financial resources to hire one yet.