

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.

AA Degree Program: Next Step

- ◆ LOCATION: Philadelphia, PA
- ◆ ESTABLISHED: September 2000.
- ◆ AFFILIATED/FREE-STANDING: Affiliated with Philadelphia Community College, the Department of Public Welfare, the County Assistance Office, and Philadelphia Workforce Development.
- ◆ NUMBER ENROLLED AND PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS: There are currently 88 students enrolled, of whom 95% are women.

◆ % Low Income	100%	◆ % Married	2%
◆ % Employed	24%	◆ Mean Age	29 yrs.
◆ Racial/Ethnic Profile	95% African American, 5% Hispanic		

- ◆ NUMBER GRADUATED: No graduates yet.
- ◆ GOALS: To provide education and training for welfare recipients who will be able to obtain employment at a family-sustaining wage.
- ◆ IMPETUS/POLITICAL CLIMATE AT OUTSET: There are many welfare-to-work programs in Philadelphia, but the overwhelming majority of them emphasize quick job placement, which usually does not result in family sustaining wages. Lobbying at the state and local level brought about a proposal for a welfare-to-work program emphasizing educational training as a path out of poverty. The welfare-to-work climate was adversarial at first.
- ◆ STATE TANF LIMITATIONS: Pennsylvania allows for two-year college attendance.
- ◆ ORGANIZATIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT: Next Step is financially supported by a state grant through the Bureau of Employment and Training Programs. The Community College of Philadelphia provides administrative support. Other affiliates provide referrals and develop policy and procedures.
- ◆ COST TO THE PARTICIPANTS: Participants pay for tuition and books. Grant scholarships are available if financial aid does not adequately cover these costs. The Department of Welfare provides allowances for childcare and transportation.
- ◆ SERVICES OFFERED: Financial assistance, case management, job development, counseling, peer support and advocacy within the college and with the Department of Welfare. They are in the process of developing a mentor program. The college provides academic tutoring, workshops and a career center.
- ◆ FUTURE PLANS, POLICY ISSUES: The program is funded for three years by the state. Future funding depends on the state and federal climate around welfare-to-work programs, though the state has become more supportive of the program over the last year. The program continues to face issues with the Department of Welfare because allowances for childcare and transportation are not always consistent.

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.