

LINCS Resource Collections



Basic Skills



Program Management



Workforce Competitiveness

Welcome to LINCS Resource Collection News!

In this edition, we feature the [Workforce Competitiveness Collection](#), covering the topics of workforce education, English language acquisition, and technology. Each month Collections News features one of the three LINCS Resource Collections—Basic Skills, Program Management, and Workforce Competitiveness—and introduces research-based resources that you can use in your adult and family literacy programs and classrooms.

What's New in the Workforce Competitiveness Collection?

Workforce Education Collection

Preparing adults to transition successfully to postsecondary education and careers has become the central message for adult educators in terms of learner outcomes. The underlying message, however, is that learners need to improve their basic skills if they are to be successful in those transitions. This message is clear in [Crossing the Bridge: GED Credentials and Postsecondary Educational Outcomes](#), and the first year report of a longitudinal study on the effects of obtaining the GED on postsecondary enrollment, persistence, and completion. Findings show that higher GED scores result in a greater likelihood of postsecondary success.

English Language Acquisition Collection

[Promoting Learner Transitions to Postsecondary Education and Work: Developing Academic Readiness Skills from the Beginning](#) also addresses transitions with a focus on adult English language learners. The resource reviews the current and projected need for skilled workers, and the academic and higher level thinking skills immigrants will need to be able to take these positions. Reviewers found this to be a highly valuable resource that makes the case for integrating academic and higher level thinking skills with ESOL instruction from the start, providing examples of how to do so at the beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels. The Adult English Language Acquisition Discussion List featured this resource in January 2011, hosting the authors who shared information with list subscribers and answered their questions. Find summaries of Discussion Lists Events at http://lincs.ed.gov/lincs/discussions/list_events.html

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Technology Collection

[Developing Discipline-Based Critical Thinking Skills Via Use of Interactive Technologies](#) may be of particular use to GED teachers and those who are involved with efforts to help students transfer to postsecondary institutions. The resource provides a rationale for incorporating the teaching of critical thinking skills into the online learning environment, maintaining that critical thinking skills assist learners to evaluate and link the extensive information and ideas available via online and social networking technologies (bulletin boards, wikis, hypertext). The author explicitly lays out strategies for each principle of learning included in the resource.

How can I learn more about the Workforce Competitiveness Resource Collection?

The research articles, instructional materials, reports, and Web pages in the [Workforce Competitiveness Collection](#) will introduce you to strategies useful in building students' English language skills; provide information on integrating technology into your program; and help you develop effective, work-focused programs. Additional work-focused resources, organized by career clusters or occupational categories, can be found in the [Career Pathways Instructional Materials Library](#). You also can subscribe to topical discussion lists to interact with experts, ask questions, and share ideas with colleagues. To subscribe, go to <http://lincs.ed.gov/lincs/discussions/discussions.html>.

For additional information about the resources, technical assistance, and professional development opportunities that are available at no cost, contact the Workforce Competitiveness Collection content experts: Workforce Education—Wendy McDowell, wlm12@psu.edu; English Language Acquisition—Blair Willson Toso, bwt121@psu.edu; and Technology—Tim Ponder, tponder@literacy.kent.edu, and Maria Marvin, mlm504@psu.edu.

What is LINCS?

LINCS is a project funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, providing online information and communication networks for adult and family literacy practitioners. LINCS' offerings include Discussion Lists, Regional Resource Centers, the Collections, and training opportunities. Learn more about LINCS on the Web site, <http://lincs.ed.gov>.

What will I find in the New LINCS Resource Collections?

The [LINCS Resource Collections](#), expanded in 2010, include items that have completed a rigorous internal and external review as well as those vetted through OVAE. Use these resources directly in the classroom or to guide development of customized professional development, programs, and classes.