

## Conference Reflections from the Workforce Development System Liaison Project

**Submitted by Chrissie Klinger, Workforce Development Specialist at Penn State**

Loretta Lininger and Chrissie Klinger, Workforce Development Specialists with the Workforce Development System Liaison (WDSL) Project, recently presented and participated in two important conferences in Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Association for Adult Continuing Education Conference occurred in Lancaster, PA, during the last week of April. Along with Chuck Klinger and Chelsea DeLeo, Loretta led an interactive session focused on the PA Foundation Skills. Participants had an opportunity to look at the Workforce Preparation Skills' checklists alongside O\*NET occupational summaries and discuss ways to use the resources together to help support adult learners with career planning and preparation. A new, on-demand, asynchronous course, Introduction to Workforce Preparation Skills, will be available this summer to help adult education staff gain a better understanding of the new PA Foundation Skills. Additionally, WDSL project staff are available to do customized virtual or face-to-face roundtables focused on the PA Foundation Skills. Chrissie led an engaging panel focused on the power of collaboration with student support coordinators from Intermediate Unit 1, Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13, and Keystone Opportunity Center. If you missed the session, please contact Chrissie ([cok5111@psu.edu](mailto:cok5111@psu.edu)) for more information about the promising practices that were shared.

Loretta, Chrissie, and KayLynn presented and participated in the Pennsylvania Workforce Development Association Conference in May in Hershey, PA. This year's conference theme was "Built to Thrive." An adult learner from Huntingdon County Child & Adult Development Corporation received an award for persisting and thriving to improve her skills and achieve the Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma. Staff from all PDE adult education leadership projects helped share information about adult basic education programs at a booth located in the conference's exhibit hall. Visitors to the booth had the opportunity to fill out cards to learn more about the adult education programs in their local workforce development area. WDSL project staff are working to connect the visitors to their local adult education programs and offer cross-training support as needed. Additionally, Loretta and KayLynn participated in conference sessions focused on

apprenticeships, labor market data, and employer engagement activities. The information gathered from the sessions will be integrated into future Friday Lunchtime Webinars.