Connections – Survey Summary

Since March 25, 2015, 185 respondents have completed the Adult Education Stakeholders Survey. In addition to the survey data presented at the Adult Ed convening, the survey included the following four open-ended questions:

* What is one thing that you would like to know about adult education in RI?
* What are the biggest strengths of adult education?
* How can adult education be improved?
* What are your biggest hopes and concerns for adult education in RI over the next few years?

The responses to the open ended questions have been synthesized to identify the following common themes: Resources, Access, and Connections. These responses will be shared with Working Groups as they meet this June and made available on the project website (see link below).

**Connections -- Summary of Open-Ended Responses:**

Overall, survey respondents pointed to the interconnectedness of Rhode Island’s adult education providers as the greatest strength in relation to connections. Stakeholders felt that the small size of our state facilitated information sharing, networking, and professional development opportunities for the adult education workforce. Organizations are often able to meet face-to-face regularly and work together on initiatives that strengthen the field. Utilizing the same intake procedures and the same data base system was also noted as a strength as it allows for students to transfer easier from one program to another. Additionally, several respondents mentioned that there were several opportunities to connect directly with the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE).

Despite cross-agency connectedness being identified as a strength, numerous individuals felt there were opportunities to strengthen agency collaboration, particularly in relation to sharing resources, aligning assessment and curriculum, and addressing duplications of services. Furthermore, individuals also expressed a need to improve adult education connectedness with workforce training providers, K-12 schools, higher education, and employers to provide complementary services to adults based on their individual learner needs and goals. In addition, respondents identified a need to also connect better with other social service agencies in order to provide robust and meaningful wrap-around services for students. In general, while respondents felt that the adult education field is generally collaborative, that there is a need to create a more coordinated, streamlined, and navigable system for adult learners. Stakeholders identified RIDE, DLT, and higher education as the institutions that need to work together to address these issues.

**For More Information:**

The full survey responses have been made available on the Adult Ed project website and can be found here: <http://adultedri2015.weebly.com/>