

**TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT
NOTICE**

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TO: ALL STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES
ALL STATE WORKFORCE LIAISONS

FROM: THOMAS M. DOWD 
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SUBJECT: Release and Availability of report titled, *Flexible Learning Options for Adult Students*

1. Purpose. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) announces the release and availability of a report titled: *Flexible Learning Options for Adult Students*.
2. Background. The report takes a closer look at emerging trends in public postsecondary education that offer adult learners more flexible access to courses and help accelerate their progress through credential programs. The report includes an examination of the literature, interviews with public postsecondary education practitioners and research experts, and surveys with state-level experts in an effort to identify promising practices, good program models, and barriers to program development and diffusion.
3. Publication Description. The report begins with a framework that categorizes various approaches to flexible and accelerated learning including alternative scheduling and locations such as weekend courses and work-based courses. The framework also includes alternative course and program designs such as modularized courses and accelerated programs as well as distance learning courses. The report then includes profiles of programs at community colleges – where most adult learners are enrolled – from across the country, such as the Community College of Denver, Madisonville Community College in Kentucky, Housatonic Community College in Connecticut, and Mt. Hood Community Colleges in Portland, Oregon, and a Washington State program.

The report includes an analysis of data from interviews and surveys on barriers to institutions developing and implementing more flexible and accelerated programs designed to better fit the adult learners' needs. The top three barriers include lack of financing to redesign and/or develop new program models, faculty resistance to designing and/or teaching in new models, and lack of faculty to teach in the new model formats. The report concludes with a series of strategies for addressing these barriers.

4. Availability. To download the full report or introduction as a PDF, visit the ETA Research Publication Database Web site at: <http://wdr.doleta.gov/research/keyword.cfm>. To request a hard copy of this publication, call the order line at 202-693-3666, or write the Dissemination Team, Division of Policy, Legislation and Dissemination, Office of Policy Development and Research, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N5641, Washington, DC 20210.