



## SHOP TALK # 30: CONNECTING THE DOTS

The first annual *Transitioning into College: Connecting the Dots* Conference which convened in San Antonio on September 12, 2008, was a collaborative initiative for adult education practitioners, community college educators, and city and area stakeholders.

In 2006, the **PATH (Postsecondary Awareness: Transition to Higher Education)** Committee was formed. A group of concerned educators began focusing on the assistance adult learners need in identifying educational and career opportunities and eliminating barriers to successful transitions from adult education to post secondary education and training. The **PATH** Committee took their concerns to a new level, working diligently to bring together educators from both sides of the “divide” or gap to share resources and ideas. The goal: to work toward creating a seamless network of services for adult learners wanting to continue their education and training.

140 participants registered for the conference. Sessions focused on the professional development needs of educators serving these adult learners. Effective instructional techniques and strategies were highlighted, course syllabi were shared, and participants had opportunities to interact with other educational professionals in an effort to understand what is required to bridge the gap. Sessions included the following titles:

- The 1,2,3 s and ABCs of Starting College
- Engaging the Adult Learner
- Tools, Techniques, and Strategies for the Educator Working with Non-Traditional Learners
- Understanding Learning and Using Mental Models for Students in Poverty
- One Size Doesn't Fit All: Brain-Based Learning Strategies
- Starting Out on the Right Foot: Becoming a Savvy Student
- Preparing Students for Freshman Composition and Workplace Writing
- Using Effective Questioning Strategies in the Classroom
- Juggling Multiple Roles as an Adult Learner: Using Effective Time Management Techniques to Create Academic Success
- Generational Differences: What They Mean in the Classroom
- Information and Communication Literacy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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