SHOP TALK # 50: GLOSSARY FOR INTENSIVE COLLEGE READINESS INITIATIVES

Are you curious about these intensive college readiness initiatives for adult learners but not sure where you would start to put one together? A review of key terminology may be helpful. Thanks to Lynda Webb, Dean of Adult and Developmental Education at Midland College, for the gentle reminder that we do not all speak the same language when it comes to terms and acronyms! Midland College is one of the recipients of a grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) engaged in delivering intensive, accelerated instruction to GED students who aspire to make a successful transition to postsecondary education and training. For more information on Midland College’s Intensive College Readiness Programs for Adult Education Students (ICRP-AES) initiative, contact Lynda Webb at lwebb@midland.edu.

**ABE-IG:** Adult Basic Education Innovation Grants, in response to Rider 45, are designed to increase participation and success of adult basic education students in workforce training programs at community colleges and public technical institutions. Focus is on career path employment and postsecondary education in high demand jobs in Texas.

**Accelerated Instruction:** Usually intensive in nature, enabling learners to complete courses and accomplish goals and objectives in a shorter period of time.

**ACCUPLACER®** (College Board): Delivered via the internet, placement exams in sentence skills, reading comprehension, arithmetic, elementary algebra, and college-level math. Used by many institutions of higher learning to place students in either developmental or credit-bearing courses of study.

**AEGIS:** The Adult Education Guidance Information System. Compliance standards used to measure, among other things, adult learners’ success in entering post secondary education.

**Aztec:** An educational software solution used by numerous educational institutions, government agencies, and corporations to teach real life academic and workforce skills. Self-paced and modular, Aztec correlates to the GED®, CASAS, TABE®, WorkKeys®, COMPASS®, and many other assessments. Also a popular distance learning tool.

**Becoming a Master Student** (Wadsworth Publishing, 2010): A popular text used by many colleges and universities to prepare students to succeed in college. Now in its 13th edition, the text focuses on taking control of one’s education, discovery, choices, and knowing oneself. TCALL’s Clearinghouse Library has copies available for checkout.
CCRS: College and Career Readiness Standards for Texas. These drive much of the instruction in reading, writing, and math to ensure that learners are able to successfully handle college level instructional materials.

College Culture / College Readiness: Relies on four interdependent skill areas – key cognitive strategies (impacting ways of thinking and habits of learning); key content; academic behaviors; and contextual skills and awareness (college knowledge in terms of gaining admission and navigating the systems).

COMPASS® (ACT, Inc.): A college placement test designed to help educators evaluate and place college students in reading, writing, math, and ESL courses.

Cooperative Learning: A successful teaching strategy in which small teams of learners use a variety of learning activities to improve their understanding of a subject. Each member of the team is responsible not only for learning what is taught but also for helping teammates learn.

“Fatigue Out”: A term used to describe learners who drop out of college before they complete remedial or developmental courses of study.

ICRP-AES: a term coined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for Intensive College Readiness Programs for Adult Education Students. A variation of this acronym is IP-AES.

LASSI (H&H Publishing): Learning and Study Skills Inventory. An eighty-item assessment of students’ awareness about and use of strategic learning. LASSI focuses on thoughts, behaviors, attitudes, and beliefs that relate to successful learning and that can be altered via educational interventions. LASSI provides standardized scores and national norms for ten different scales and is both diagnostic and prescriptive.

Lexile Readability Scores: A tool from MetaMetrics which measures the readability level of a text. The average college textbook is written at a level higher than GED or high school texts, and many entry level occupations use texts with readability scores in a range similar to that of college texts.

Rider 45: The rider directs the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to develop and implement an immediate and long range coordinated plan to align Adult Basic Education and postsecondary education with the purpose of increasing the number, success, and persistence of students transitioning to postsecondary education.

Texas Quick Facts: A website which provides U.S. Census data specific to Texas.

THEA®: Texas Higher Education Assessment. From Pearson Education, a practice test is available online. THEA® is used to determine academic readiness for college studies.

TSI: Texas Success Initiative refers to assessments used to determine students’ reading, writing, and math ability in order to gauge their readiness to be successful in college work. Assessments approved for use in Texas are the THEA®, the ACCUPLACER®, the COMPASS®, and the ASSET®.