

Illinois Shifting Gears: *First Steps Toward Policies and Practices that Enable Adults to Achieve the American Dream*

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The American Dream

“The **American Dream** is a national ethos of the United States of America in which democratic ideals are perceived as a promise of prosperity for its people... First expressed by James Truslow Adams in 1931, citizens of every rank feel that they can achieve a ‘better, richer, and happier life’.”

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Dream

Dream for Whom?

..... “The presence of the **American Dream** has not historically helped the majority of minority race and lower class American citizens to gain a greater degree of social equality and influence. Instead, the American wealth structure has often been observed to sustain class differences in which well-positioned groups continue to be advantaged.”

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Dream



Illinoisans Who Miss Out

- More than 1.4 million Illinois adults, or 15% of adults 18 years of age and older, do not possess a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Nearly 1 in every 7 Illinoisans is an immigrant (1.77 million of 12.8 million). More than 900,000 between the ages of 18-64 speak English less than “very well”.
- Of the state’s 8 million adults, 44% have not completed any college coursework.

*Executive Summary, Illinois Adult Education Strategic Plan, forthcoming;
US Census, 2005-2007 American Community Survey*



Shifting Gears

“In 2006, The Joyce Foundation launched the Shifting Gears initiative to help five Midwest states– Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin – to re-engineer adult education, workforce development and postsecondary education policies to support economic growth and expand job opportunities for low-skilled workers in the Midwest.”

<http://www.shifting-gears.org/>



Shifting Gears in Illinois

- **Vision:** State and local policy development supports low-skilled adults' access to and success in training and education that leads to jobs and an improved state economy.
- **Target sectors:** healthcare, transportation-distribution-logistics (TDL) and manufacturing
- **Goal:** Increase adult transition from pre-credit programs (Dev Ed and Ad Ed) to postsecondary credit through bridge courses and programs
- **How?** Pilot community colleges develop and implement bridge courses and programs, including evaluation of student outcomes



Illinois' Bridge Definition

“Bridge programs prepare adults with limited academic or limited English skills to enter and succeed in credit-bearing postsecondary education and training leading to career-path employment in high-demand, middle- and high-skilled occupations. The goal is to *bridge the gap* between the initial skills of individuals and what they need to enter and succeed in postsecondary education and career-path employment.”

Core elements:

- Contextualized instruction**
- Career development**
- Transition services**

Bridge Models

- **Dev Ed:** Transition students from developmental education to college-level coursework, creating pre-vocational blended remediation and occupational courses
- **Adult Ed:** Transition students from adult ed and English literacy to postsecondary workforce education, aligning adult ed content with occupational program entry criteria



Target Populations

- **9th and above:** Students whose performance on standard placement scores correspond to 9th grade level or above
- **6th to 9th:** Students whose performance on standard placement scores correspond to between the 6th to 8th grade level



Illinois' SG 1.0 Pilot Projects

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| Developmental Education Bridge Programs | College of DuPage | Manufacturing | 6 th -9 th and 9 th & above |
| | College of Lake County | Manufacturing | 9 th & above |
| | Oakton Community College | Healthcare | 6 th -9 th and 9 th & above |
| Adult Education Bridge Programs | Black Hawk | Transportation, Distribution and Logistics | 9 th and above, including ELL |
| | City Colleges (Malcolm X, Olive Harvey & Wilbur Wright) | Healthcare | 6 th -9 th and 9 th & above |
| | John A Logan | Healthcare | 9 th & above |
| | Lewis and Clark | Manufacturing | 9 th & above |
| | McHenry | Manufacturing | 9 th & above, including ELL |

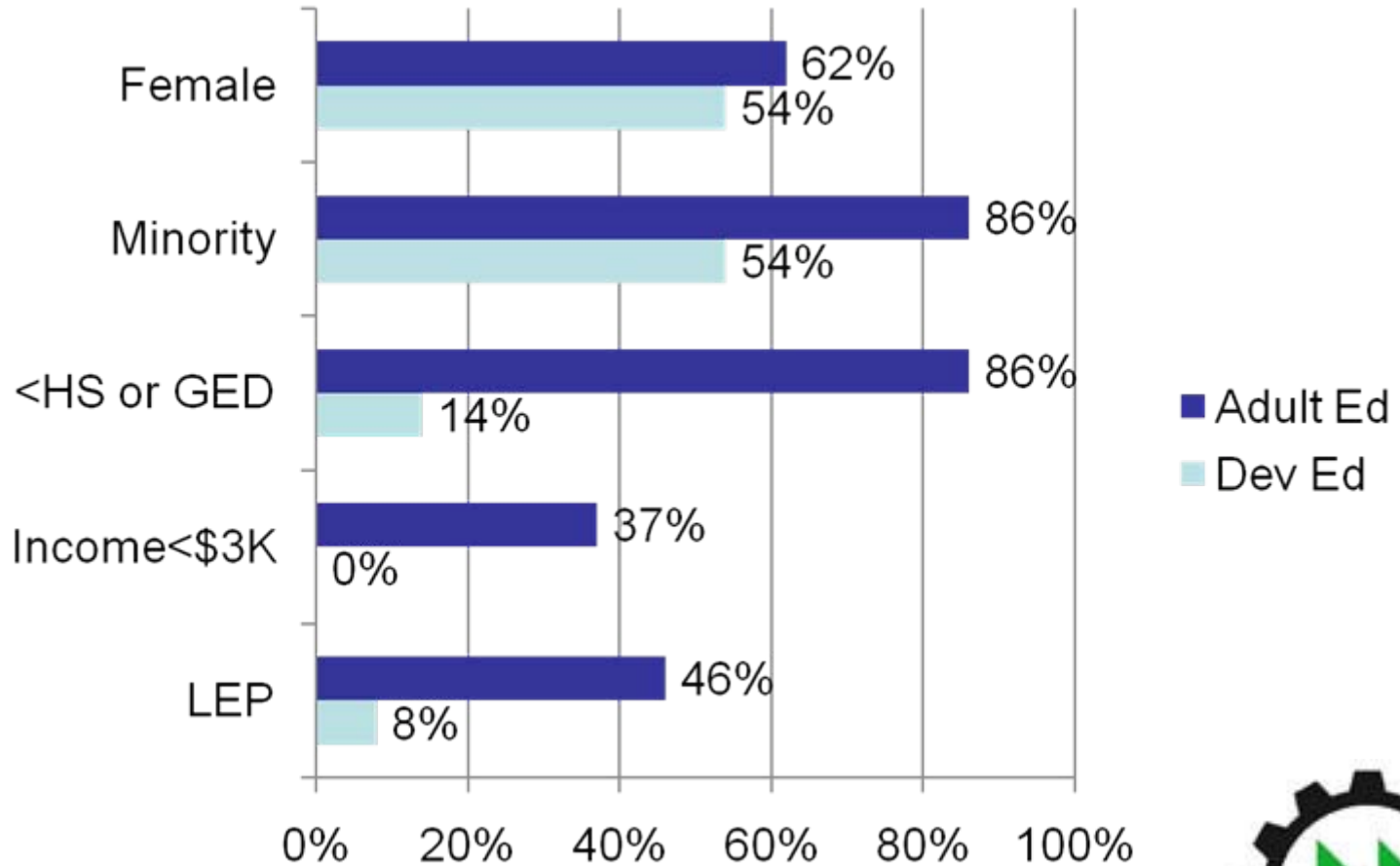
Evaluation Questions



- Students – Who enrolls?
- Bridge core elements – What's happening?
- Student Outcomes – How are students benefiting?



Bridge Students



IL Bridge Core Elements



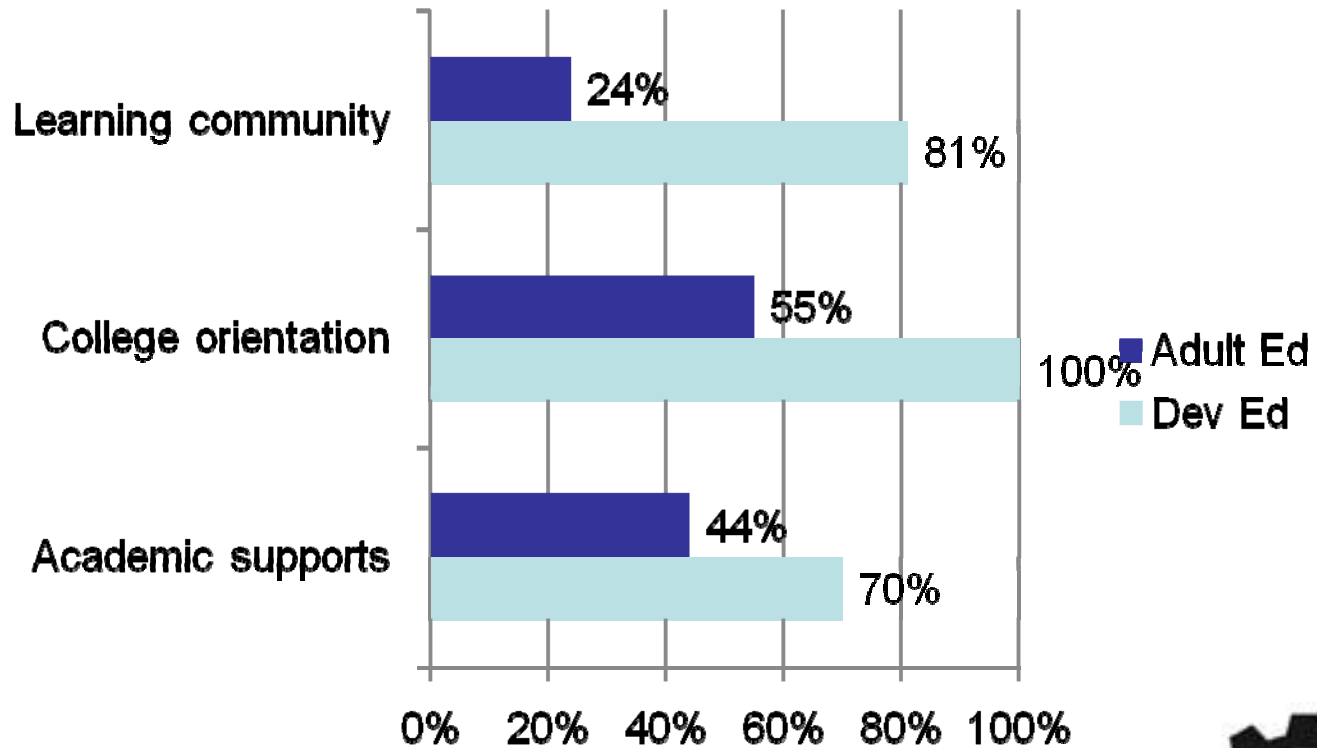
- **Contextualized instruction**
- **Career development**
- **Transition services**

Contextualized Instruction

- Integrated and applied instruction (basic skills, occupational, career development, support services)
- Hands-on and laboratory-based
- Cohort-based learning communities
- Accelerated



Instructional Support

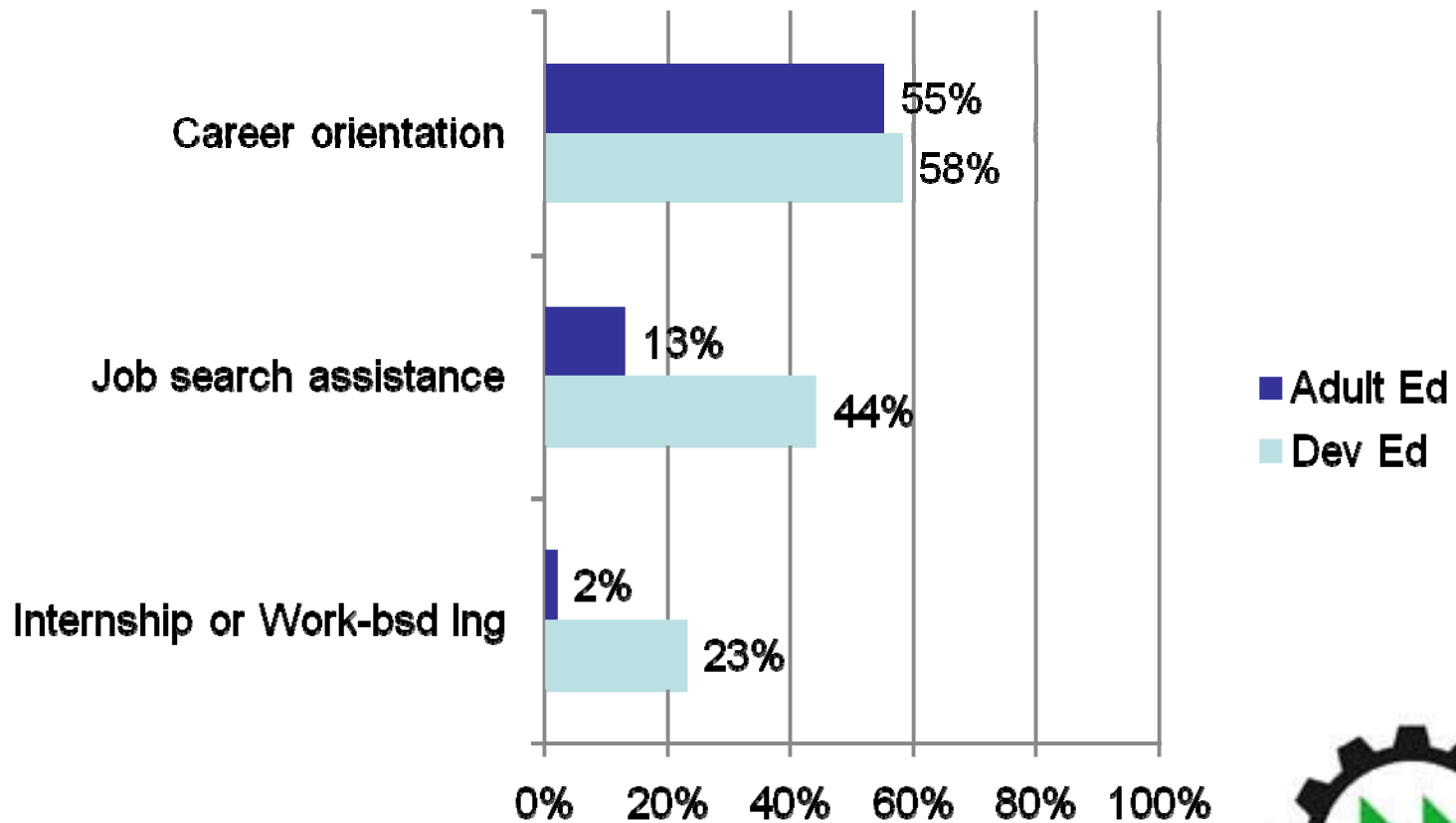


Career Development

- College and career course
- Career awareness, assessment and exploration
- Career advising



Career Services

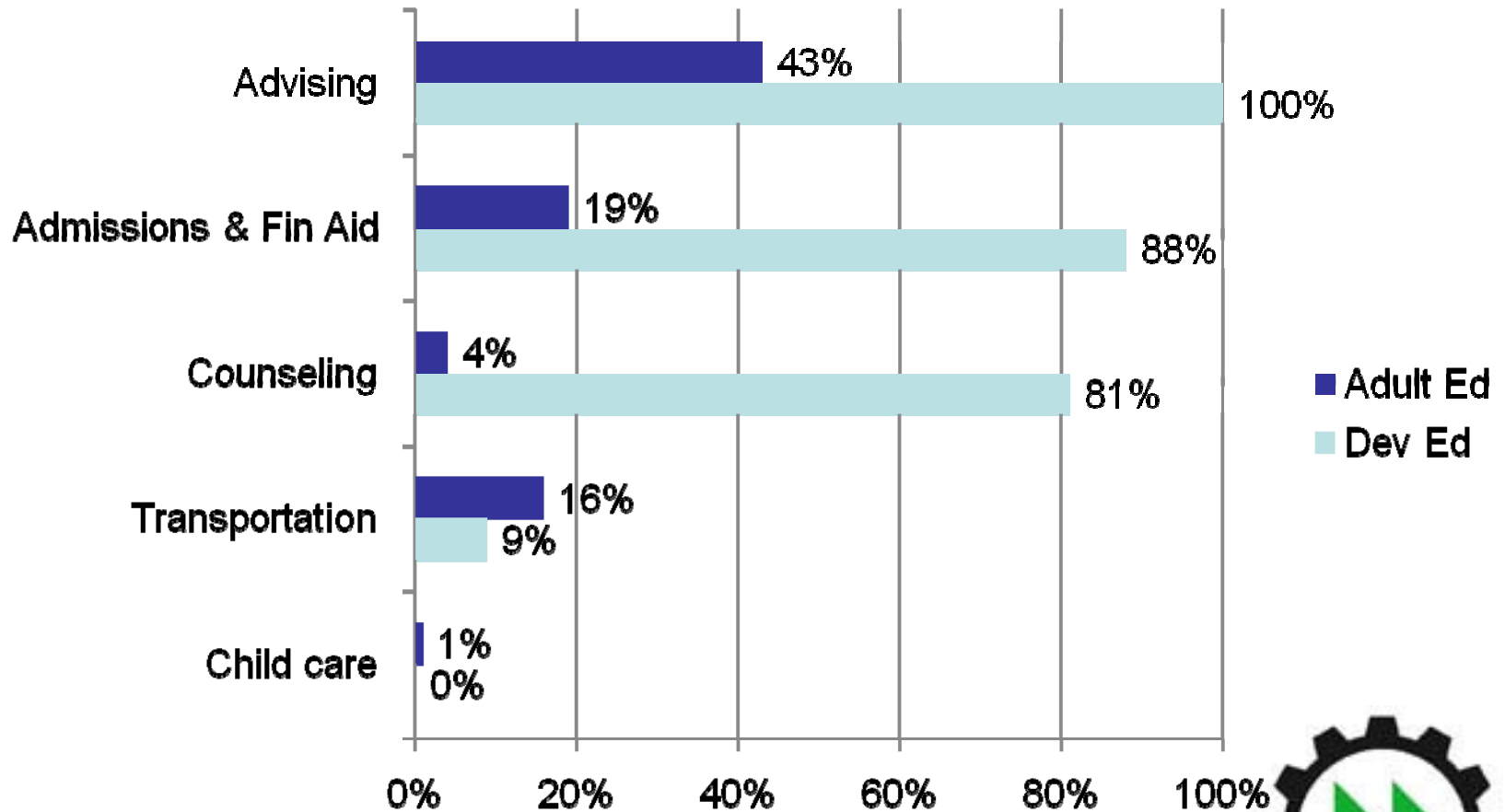


Transition Services

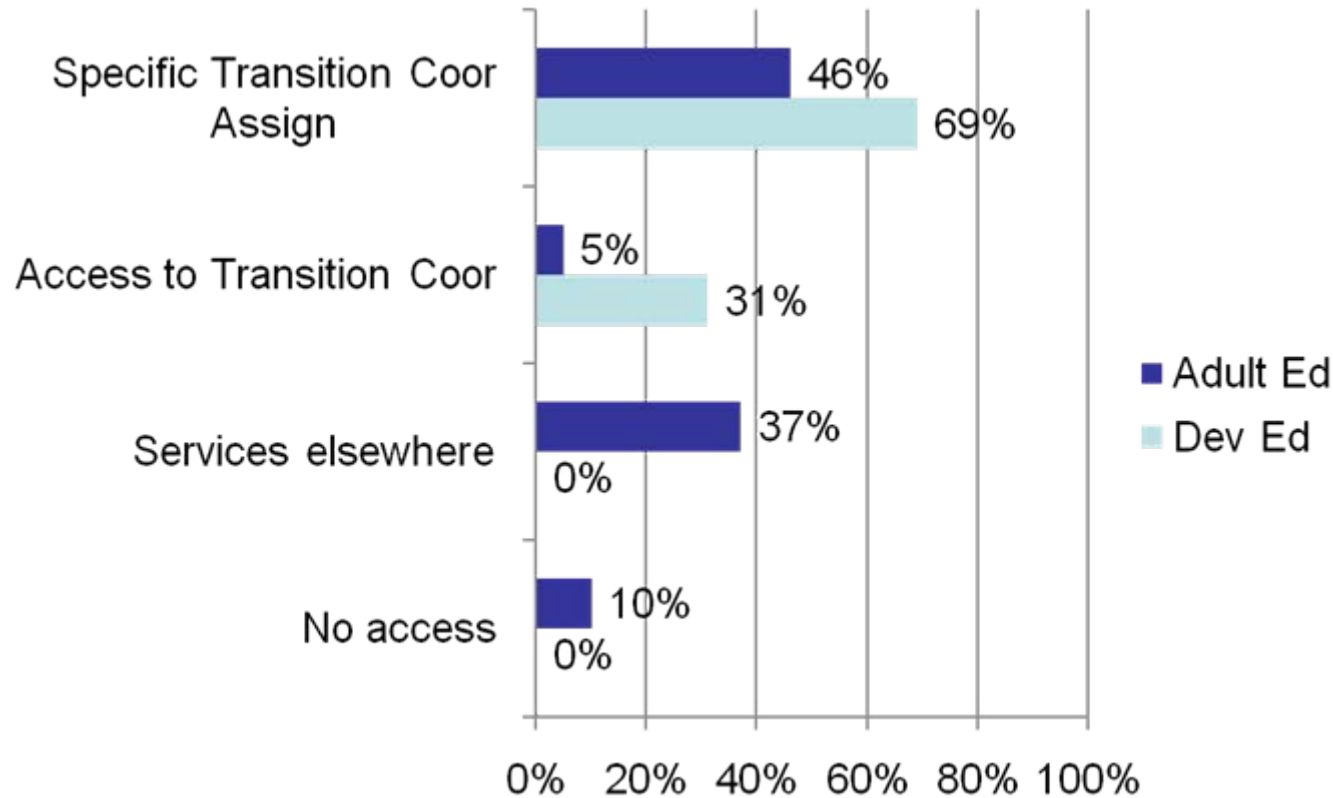
- Transition Coordinator
- Admissions and financial aid assistance
- Advising
- Transportation assistance
- Case management



Transition Services



Transition Coordinator Access



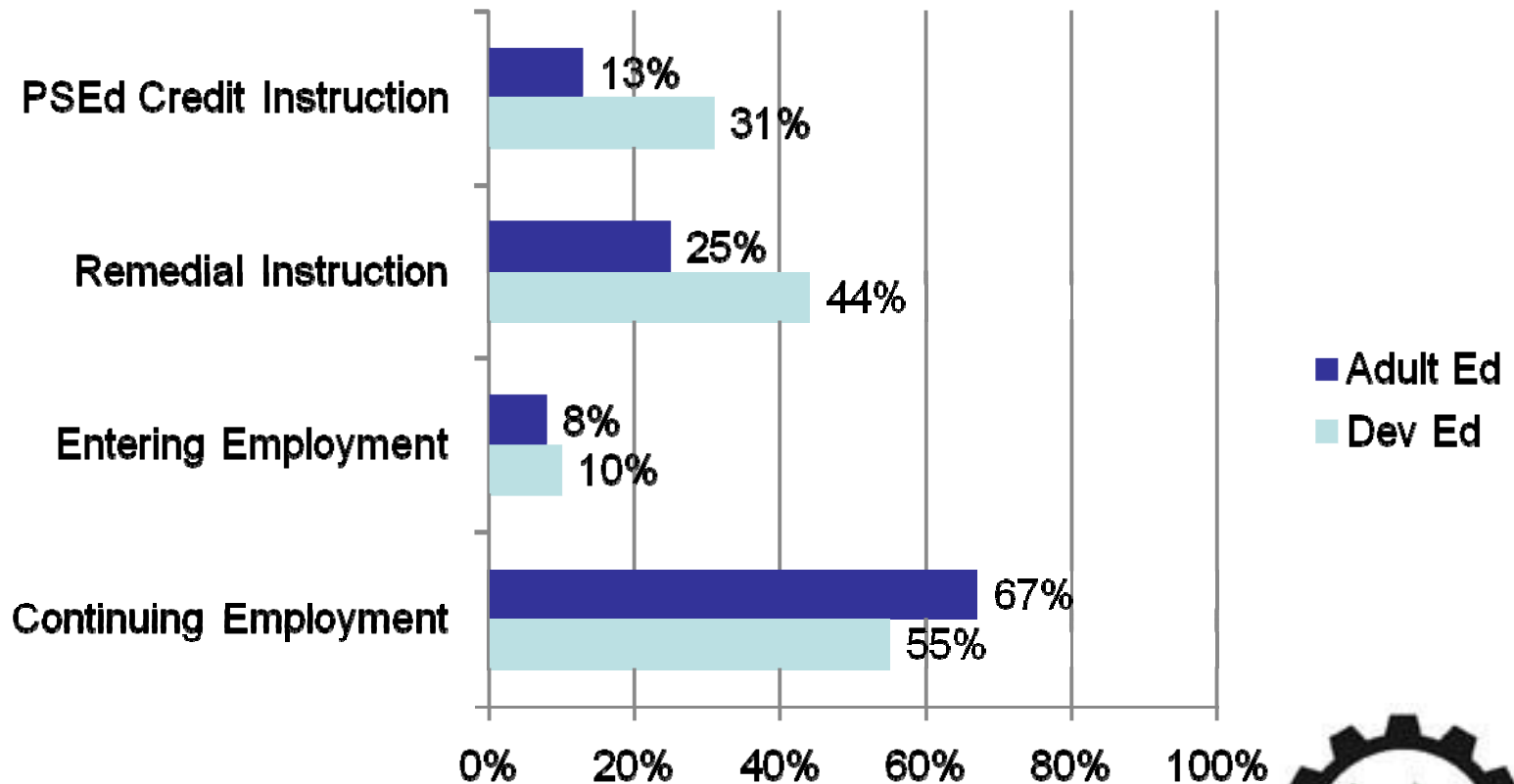
Postsecondary Outcomes



- Postsecondary credit instruction
- Remedial instruction
- Entering employment
- Continuing employment



Postsecondary Outcomes



Success

- Higher rates of student completion occur when the following services are received:
 - Career orientation more than once
 - Admissions and financial aid
 - Advising
 - Transportation assistance
 - Assigned Transition Coordinator/Case Manager



Implications

- Set minimum criteria for Bridge course approval and program review
- Collect and report student-level data
- Use data to set goals for student transition from adult ed and dev ed to college credit instruction



Shifting Gears 2.0

1. Develop and embed new instructional practices at the local level
2. Develop policy and change systems
3. Strengthen data systems
4. Communicate results



THANK YOU!

For more information, contact OCCRL at
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