

THE APPLIED BACCALAUREATE DEGREE: THE RIGHT TIME AND PLACE?

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Applied Baccalaureate Degrees



Townsend, Bragg, & Ruud (2008): “In this study the applied baccalaureate degree is defined as *a bachelor’s degree designed to incorporate applied associate courses and degrees once considered as “terminal” or non-baccalaureate level while providing students with higher-order thinking skills and advanced technical knowledge and skills.*” (p. 4)

Background

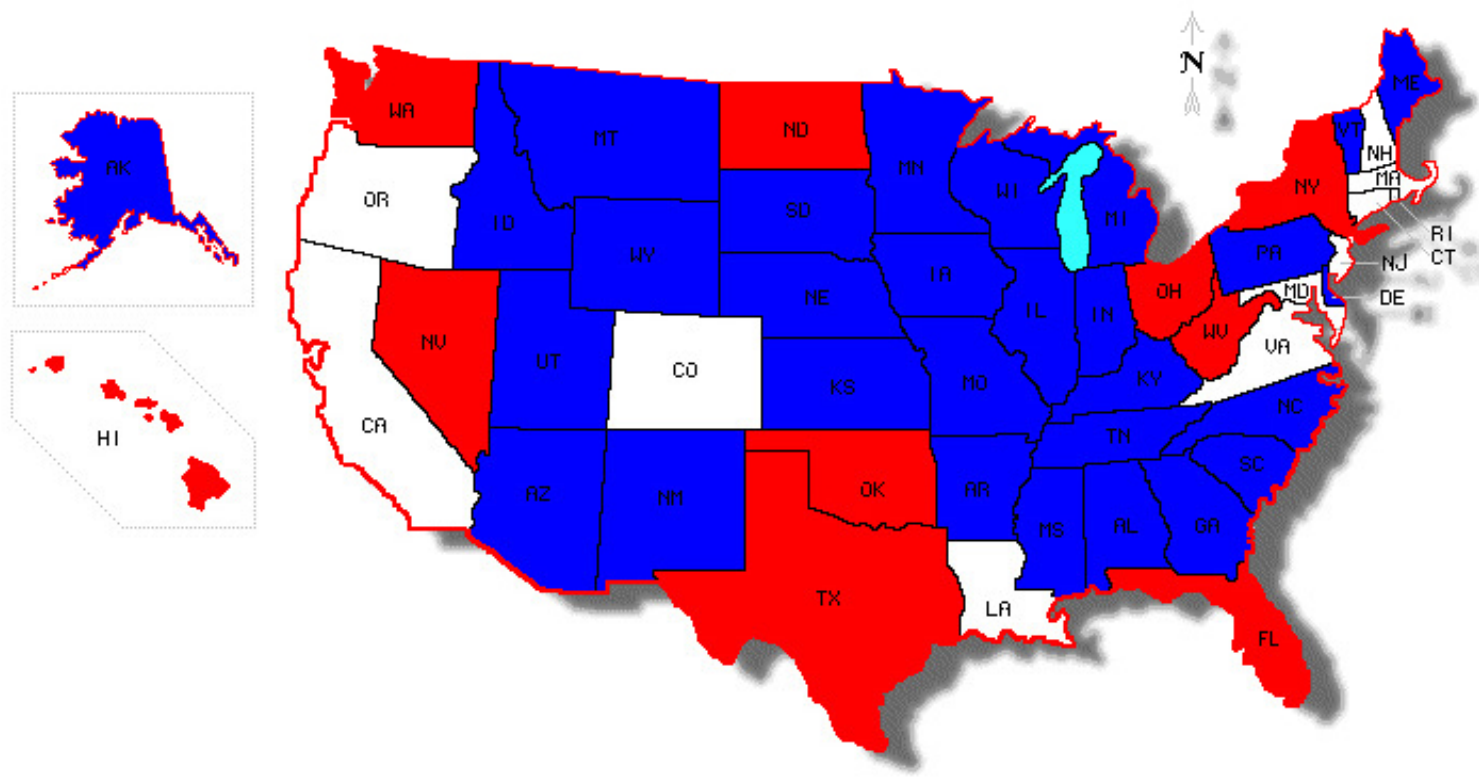


- “The Adult Learner and the Applied Baccalaureate”
 - Lumina Foundation
 - Fall 2007
- Inventory (Townsend, Bragg, & Ruud, 2008)
 - <http://occr1.ed.uiuc.edu/Projects/lumina/AppBaccInventory.pdf>
- Policy Brief (Bragg, Townsend, & Ruud, 2009)
 - <http://occr1.ed.uiuc.edu/Projects/lumina/AppBaccBrief.pdf>

Results, Inventory

Map 1: Applied Baccalaureate in the Public Sector

- - Traditional Baccalaureate Degree-Granting Institutions Only
- - Both Associate Degree-Granting and Traditional Baccalaureate Degree-Granting Institutions



NOTES:
The Adult Learner and the Applied
Baccalaureate (Townsend, Bragg, & Ruud)

Results, Policy Brief



- “Further implementation is likely” (p. 6)
 - ▣ Growth since the 1970s, when three four-year institutions implemented AB degrees
 - ▣ Present discussions on the potential for more degrees
- The degree was created to address institutional and statewide concerns
 - ▣ Adult learners
 - ▣ Workforce development
 - ▣ Strengthening transfer
 - ▣ Baccalaureate attainment

This Paper



- Use of policy frameworks
 - ▣ Kingdon's (1995) Multiple Streams
- Extension of policy brief
- Setting new direction for second phase research
 - ▣ To be explained at the end of this presentation

Multiple Streams?



- Kingdon's (1995) model
 - ▣ Based loosely on “Garbage can” model (Cohen, March, & Olsen, 1972) which challenged conventional theories
 - Utilizes streams – Problems, Solutions, Opportunities, and Participants
 - Wikipedia (☺) – “Problems may eventually arise for which a search of the garbage might yield fitting solutions”
 - ▣ Uses stream theory
 - Problem
 - Politics
 - Policy

Multiple Streams, cont.



- Convergence
 - “Window of opportunity”
 - A particular policy to solve a particular problem in a particular political environment
 - “Policy entrepreneur”
- Cases

Case #1: Florida



- Problem
- Politics
- Policies
- Policy Entrepreneur

Case #2: Washington



- Problem
- Politics
- Policies

What does “Multiple Streams” Imply?



- Appropriate timing
 - ▣ What problems exist/are at the forefront?
 - ▣ Is the public receptive to such changes?
 - ▣ Are applied baccalaureate degrees viewed in a positive light?
- Not a “perfect” solution and not necessarily the right time and place for every state
- Other policy models

Next Steps



- Year 2 research
 - Site visits
 - In-depth looks at policy context
 - Revision in the works?

References

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