



University of Illinois
College of Education



OCCRL

Project Profile

SHIFTING GEARS

ILLINOIS WORKGROUP

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Overview

The Shifting Gears initiative (2006 – 2011) was a 6 state effort to link education, workforce development and economic development at local, regional and state levels by creating pathways to postsecondary credentials for lower-skilled adults. Illinois' Shifting Gears initiative was targeted at developing policy and practices that support bridge programming to increase adult learners' transition to postsecondary education and acquisition of the credentials needed to enter the workforce in high-demand, middle skill jobs. The major efforts of the Illinois Shifting Gears initiative included:

- Engaging key stakeholders in the implementation of Illinois' bridge program definition
- Developing materials for use across agencies and institutions
- Analyzing and disseminating lessons learned from bridge program implementation
- Creating contextualized bridge curricula for statewide use
- Creating student outcome measures that gauge the success of bridge programs
- Expanding support services and other resources for bridge students

OCCRL's Shifting Gears Project Activities

- Provide Project Management services
- Conduct bridge program survey and disseminate results
- Provide technical assistance to support adoption of bridge instruction
- Provide content for the Illinois Bridge program guide

Products

- Bridge Program Status Report
- Technical Assistance to bridge program providers
- Project management-related activities
- Illinois Bridge Program "How To" Guide

Funders

The Illinois Community College Board (<http://www.iccb.org/>), with funding from the Joyce Foundation (<http://www.joycefdn.org/>) and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (<http://www.commerce.state.il.us/dceo/>).

For more information

Visit http://occril.illinois.edu/projects/shifting_gears for more information and links to other related sites.

