

# Executive Summary

## Increasing Academic Achievement: SkillsCommons Field Guide of TAACCCT Innovations

10/10/2018

Moderator(s): [Cheryl Martin](#) & [Erin Berg](#)

Speaker(s): [Anne Kamps](#) & [Matthew Cloud](#)

Community colleges have developed innovative methods to increase academic achievement to accelerate completion, such as authentic assessment and credit for prior learning, as grantees funded by the [Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training](#) (TAACCCT) grant program.

This webinar, part of the *SkillsCommons Field Guide of TAACCCT Innovations* is a compilation of innovations in motion, created by TAACCCT grantees. Featuring two presenters:

[Anne Kamps](#), from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College in Wisconsin, presents on the implementation of a statewide credit for prior learning (CPL) policy to help recruit and retain students. Given the rising cost of tuition and the expansion of non-traditional training programs, CPL has gained momentum as a college recruiting tool to mitigate tuition costs and reduce the time to completion.

[Matthew Cloud](#), from Ivy Tech Community College in Indiana, presents on authentic learning and assessment opportunities for students leading to job placement. Matthew details how regional and statewide contests tied to a career fair, conferences, and training helped engage faculty, employers, and students to evaluate and change curriculum, which led to direct employment of students.

The presenters answer questions from the audience, covering additional topics including whether students pay a fee for the credit for prior learning, how to get buy-in from faculty and other stakeholders, how to keep the program offerings current in a fast-changing industry, and other topics.

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