

Learner Web



for adults continuing to learn

Using the Web to Improve Adult Education

It is estimated that less than 10 percent of adult learners in need of further education are being served by existing classroom programs. Furthermore, many adults who never attend programs are interested in working independently to improve their basic skills. The *Learner Web* project at Portland State University is developing new ways to use the Web to increase access of adult learners – whether in programs or not -- to the learning resources they need to become productive citizens in today's economy.

The *Learner Web* is a web and telephone software application providing guided support to adults in programs or working independently to improve their basic skills, prepare for the GED, college transition, workforce or other learning goals.

The *Learner Web* is not a web portal or distance learning product. It is a *learning support system* that matches learners' goals and progress to relevant on-line resources (including learner portals and distance learning products) and local community resources such as adult education programs, on-demand telephone help and tutors. *Learner Web* users have their own online workspaces and e-portfolios that, with their permission, their teachers, tutors or other helpers may view.

State adult education systems, libraries, employers, volunteer and other community-based organizations can partner to support *Learner Web* users in their regions. Adults in a *Learner Web* region can use Learning Plans for broadly applicable goals such as GED preparation, career or work preparation, or college transition. Regions may customize these Learning Plans to align with state content standards, accountability structures, workforce readiness credentials, employee development objectives or other specific learning goals.

The *Learner Web* team is led by Steve Reder and Clare Strawn from Portland State University and David Rosen from Newsome Associates and is based on findings from NCSALL's Longitudinal Study of Adult Learning. The software is nearing completion and a number of Learning Plans are being developed across the country. Eight Regions are developing implementations as part of a 3-year demonstration project with support from a National Leadership grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. These implementations will go live in the fall of 2008. Formative and summative evaluations will inform a subsequent national rollout. For more information about the *Learner Web* or becoming a *Learner Web* Region, contact Steve Reder (reders@pdx.edu) or visit www.learnerweb.org.