ALFI Assessment Follow-Up Results Meeting
Adult Friendly Workgroup, ALFI Workgroup, Two-Year Deans/CEOs
MSU Billings COT--June 5, 2012

In Attendance (in person or via conference call): Anne Clark, CRA; Michael Brown, UM Helena COT; Barry Good, Lynn Stocking, UM Missoula COT; Brian Price, Anneliese Ripley, UM Western; Kathleen O'Leary, Bitterroot College Program UM; Mary Ann Vester, Todd Knispel, Dawson Community College; Darren Pitcher, Miles Community College; John Garic, Montana Tech COT of UM; Marsha Riley, Tammi Miller, Carol Berg, MSU Billings COT; Curtis Smeby, MSU Northern; Judy Hay, MSU Great Falls COT; Bob Hietala, Ryan Haskins, MSU Gallatin College Programs; Susan Jones, Dave Hall, John Cech, OCHE; Judy Wertheim, CAEL

The meeting was opened and Judy Wertheim, Vice President of Higher Education Services for the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) was introduced. Judy oversees CAEL’s efforts to reach out to colleges, universities, consortia and state systems to help remove barriers for adults entering school. She has been with CAEL since 2006.

Judy referred the group to two very helpful resources to support adult friendly initiatives:
1. Helping Adults Learners Succeed: Tools for Two-Year Colleges, 2007 (attached)
2. www.learningcounts.org

Judy reviewed the Adult Learner Focused Institution (ALFI) Toolkit, including the nine principles of effectively serving adults that have been identified by CAEL, and provides data on how institutions can best effectively recruit, retain, and graduate adult learners.

Judy pointed out that the ALFI data will help participating institutions identify their strengths and challenges, plan strategically for the future, and discover how best to allocate resources for the greatest impact. She also noted that the areas of strength noted in the results could create an opportunity for campuses to share best practices.

Judy is willing to review the ALFI results with each individual campus who wishes to do so. Her email address is JWertheim@cael.org. You may also contact Sue Jones at sjones@montana.edu if you would like her to help arrange the follow up.

System Results Examples: Areas of strength for Montana’s two-year education is Technology and Life/Career Planning. Based on the ALFI results, it was pointed out that one area that Montana's two-year education could work on is Student Transitions and the Teaching/Learning Process, specifically assessment of learning outcomes.

Finally, Judy walked the group through individual institution information and explained how to interpret results. She pointed out that institutions can use the ALFI institution seal for three years.
It can help promote your college while recruiting adult students. Press releases are just one good way to showcase this.

It was commented by the group that Prior Learning Assessment by individual campuses via a portfolio process can be cumbersome and overwhelming. Judy commented that Learningcounts.org offers a course and evaluation of a student’s portfolio at a distance. CAEL has engaged about 200 faculty members from across the country to help. CAEL is also rethinking the cost for doing this.