



3: Awarding Credit for Prior Learning Assessment with Guest Lynette Livingston

One technical college in Wisconsin is blazing a new trail by offering college credit for core courses using prior learning assessment (PLA) – credits typically reserved for electives. Awarding PLA credit beyond electives has yielded unforeseen results for individuals and the institution. Guest Lynette Livingston, Executive Dean of Business, Arts, Sciences, and Academic Initiatives at [Chippewa Valley Technical College \(CVTC\)](#) in Eau Claire, Wisconsin shares how her institution started with curriculum profiling.

The process of curriculum profiling helped CVTC evaluate how ACT® WorkKeys® Assessments correlated to a current core math course. Although hesitant initially, educators recognized the benefit of awarding credit to students who have proof of demonstrated skills. Rather than reassessing students to prove their competency a second time, students are able to take more advanced courses. Ultimately, this incentive encourages students to finish a degree program more quickly. In fact, creating a dual-credit program alongside the PLA program has increased enrollment at CVTC.

“Students are much more likely to stay in their degree and finish their degree when they earn credit for prior learning.”
-Lynette Livingston

Lynette shares the motivation behind starting with a curriculum profile, challenges CVTC overcame to successfully implement a prior learning assessment program, and what they learned along the way. Listen to Episode 3 to learn how CVTC leverages their prior learning assessment program as a recruitment tool.

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