

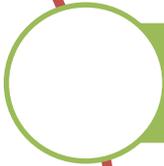
# PLA with a Purpose



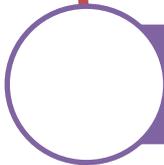
Amy Sherman  
CAEL  
June 27, 2013



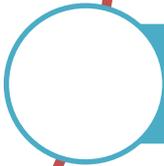
Council for Adult and Experiential Learning



A 501(c)(3) non-profit, international organization with nearly 40 years of lifelong learning experience



National leader in PLA best practices, research, and writing



Dedicated to removing barriers to adult learning



Recognized by regional accrediting bodies



# Ensuring PLA Quality

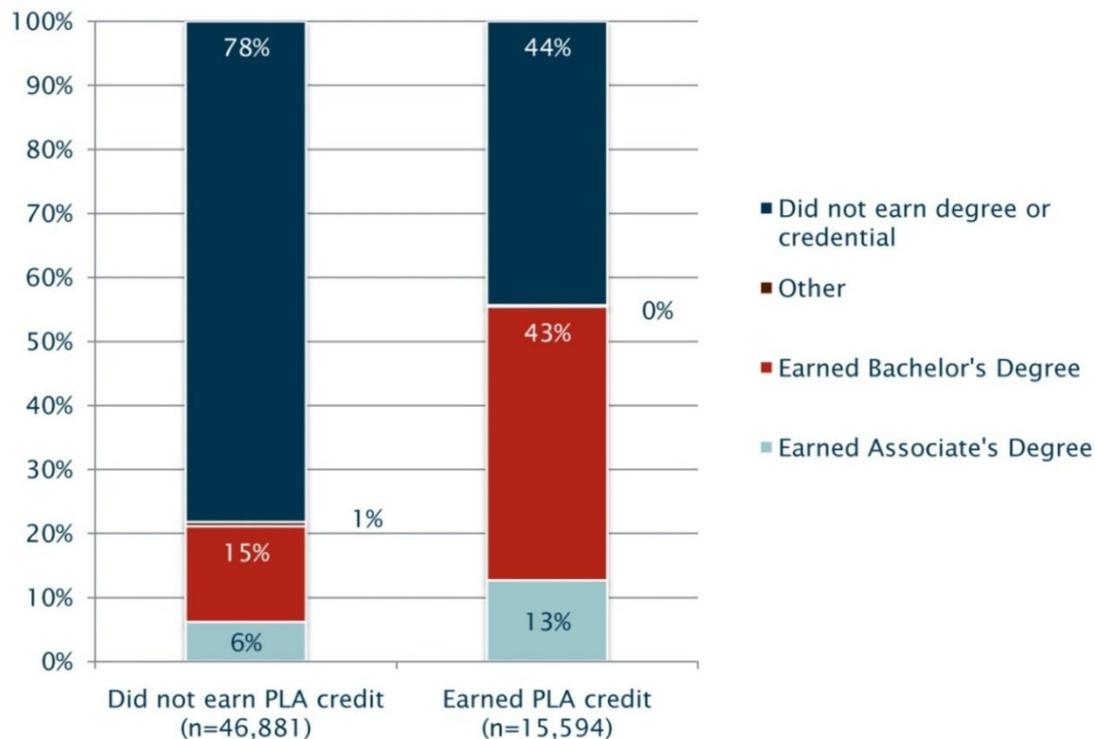
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- Quality Assurance Principles

Source:

*Assessing Learning: Standards, Principles, & Procedures*, by Fiddler, Marienau & Whitaker. CAEL: 2006

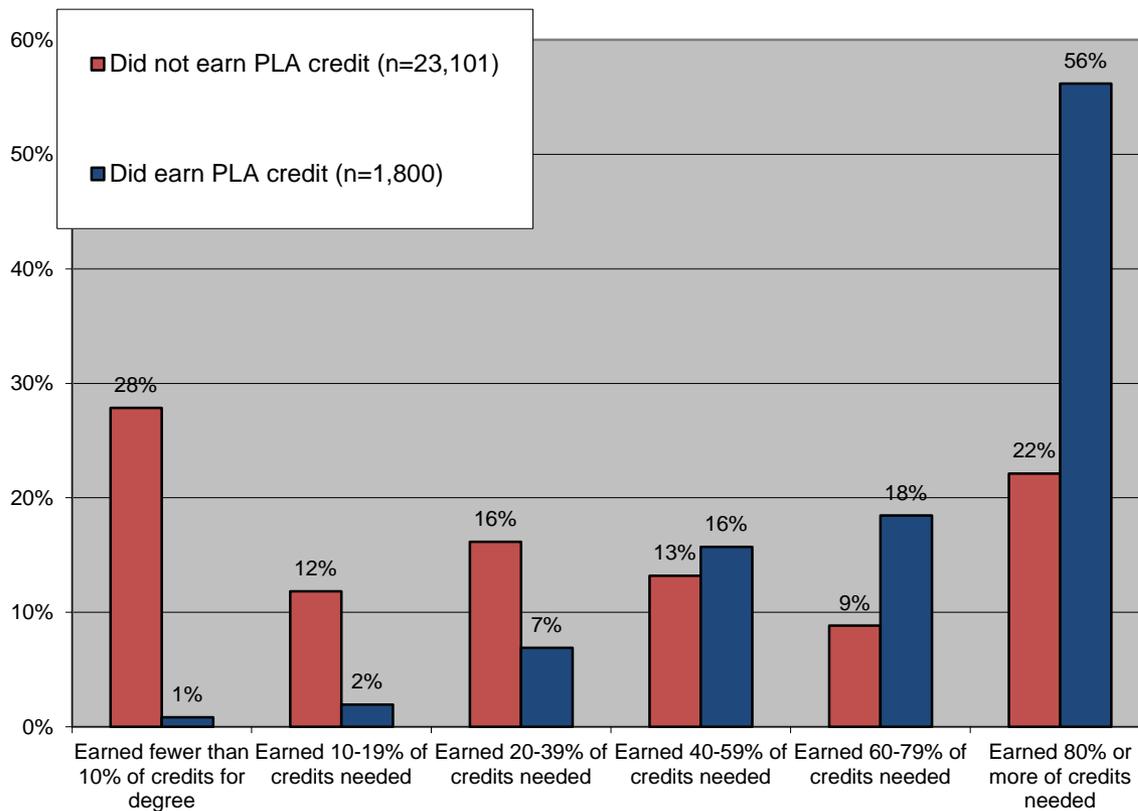
# PLA helps students graduate



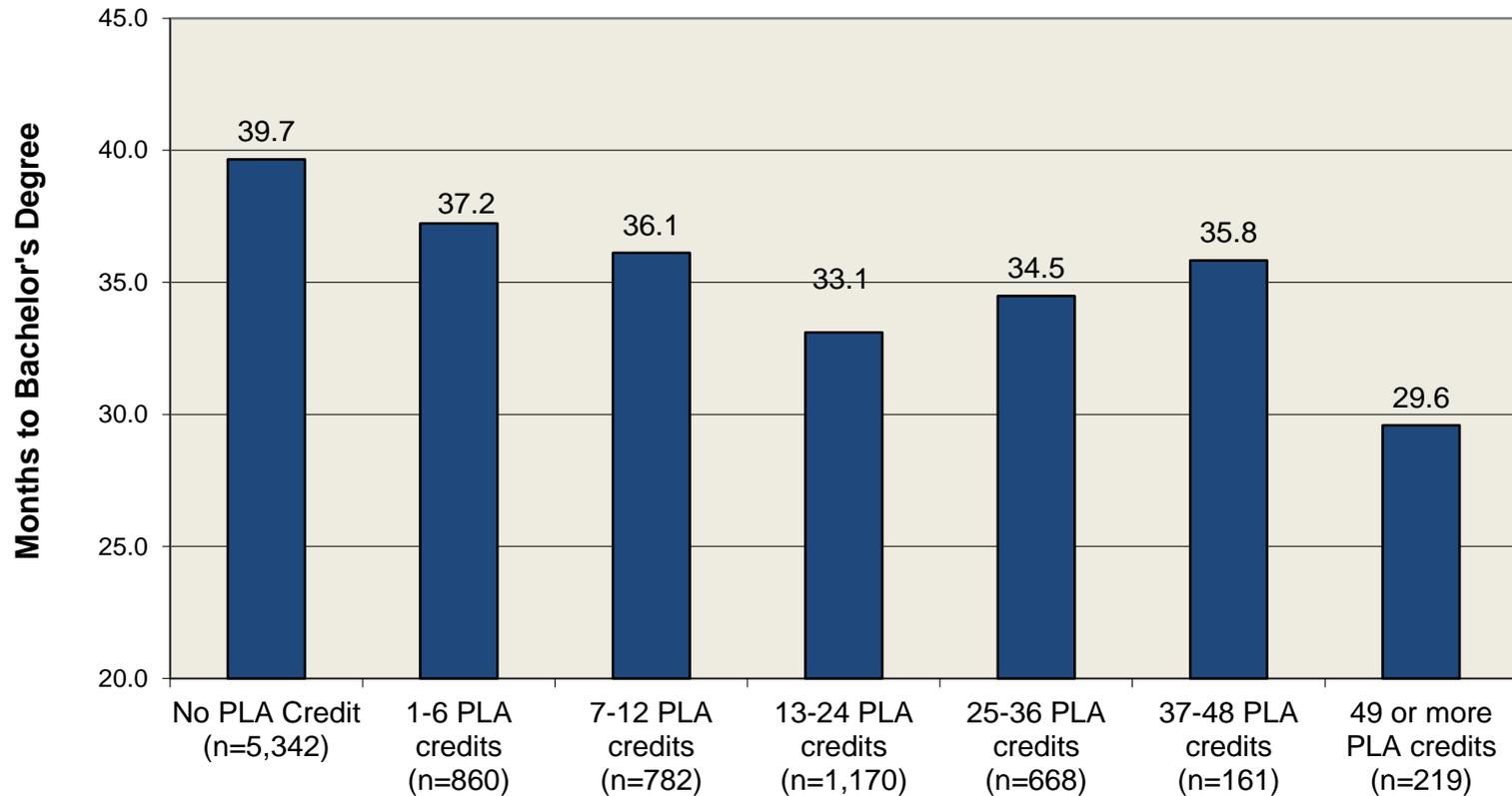
Graduation rates are 2 ½ times higher for students with PLA credit

[Fueling the Race to Postsecondary Success, March 2010](#)

# Credit Accumulation, No Degree Earners

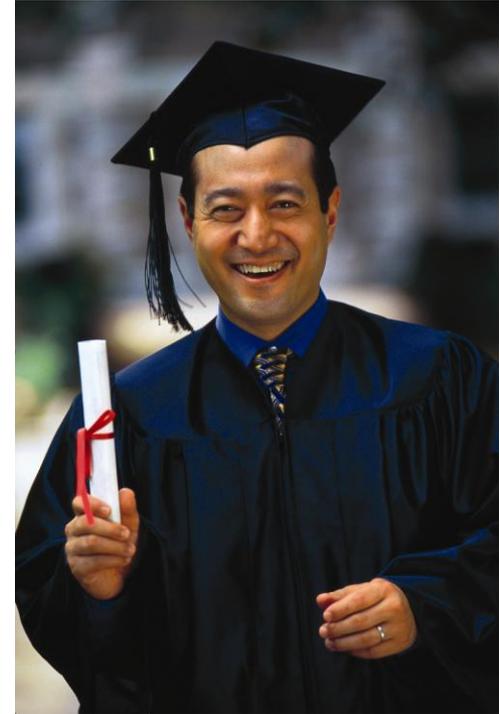


# Time Saver: Time to Degree



# Money Saver

An adult student who earns 15 credits from PLA applied to a degree saves \$1,605 to \$6,000 on tuition costs.



# LearningCounts.org





# Overview of LearningCounts.org

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- Free PLA College Credit Predictor
- Complimentary student guidance on all forms of PLA
- Courses to teach students how to discover their own college-level learning and build a portfolio online
- One portfolio per subject area, 1-12 credit hours can be requested per portfolio.  
Portfolio Assessment Fee: \$250



# Overview (cont.)

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- Portfolios are routed electronically to CAEL-trained faculty assessors with appropriate subject matter expertise
- Students find out within 2 weeks if credit is recommended or denied
- Credits are transcribed on a CAEL/NCCRS Transcript or directly by LearningCounts.org Partner colleges and universities

# Some of the other colleges and universities working with us



Widener  
University



INDIANA **TECH**



University of Maryland  
University College

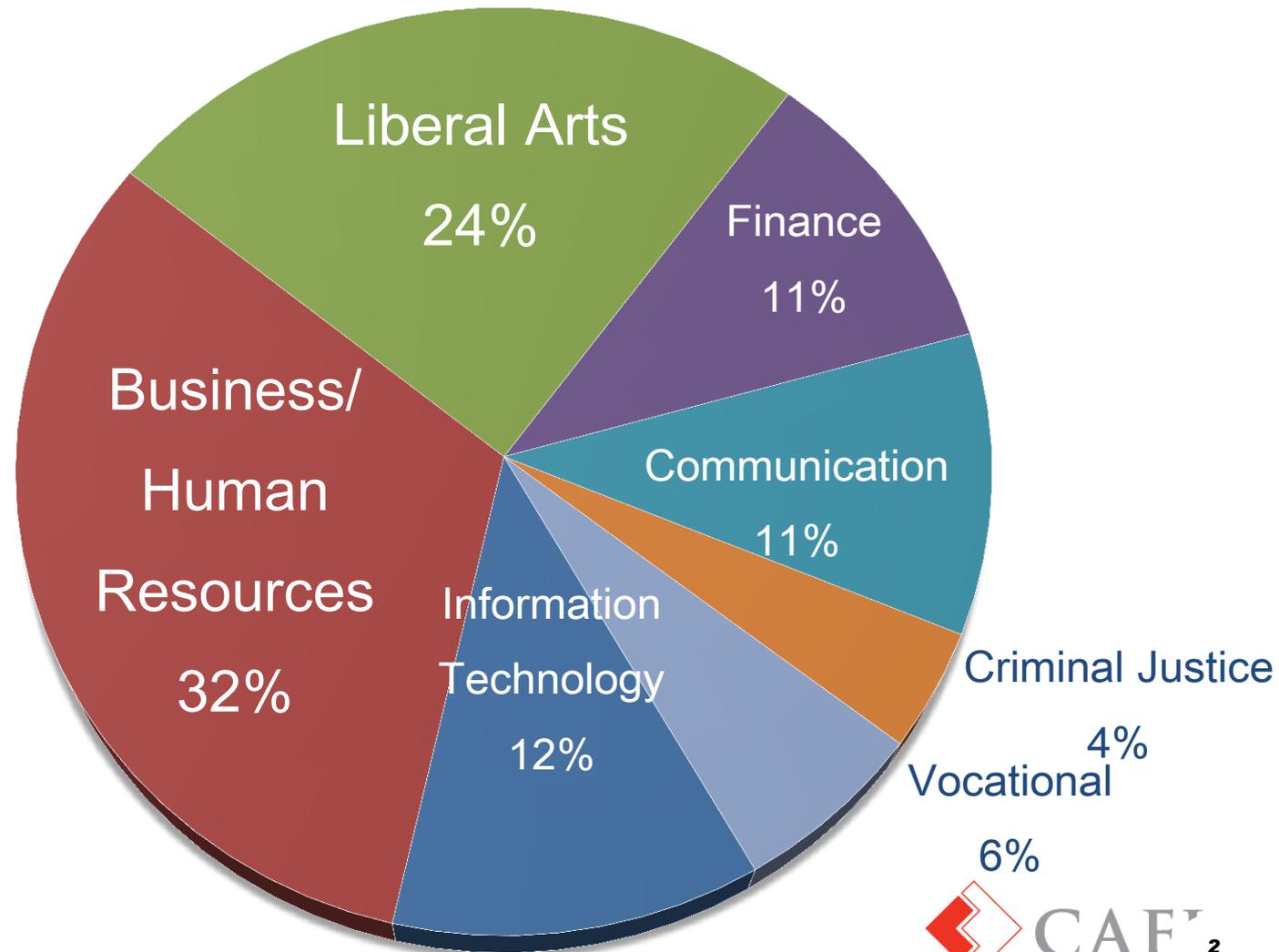


BISMARCK  
STATE COLLEGE  
bismarckstate.edu

UNIVERSITY OF  
WISCONSIN **River Falls**



# Portfolio credits awarded



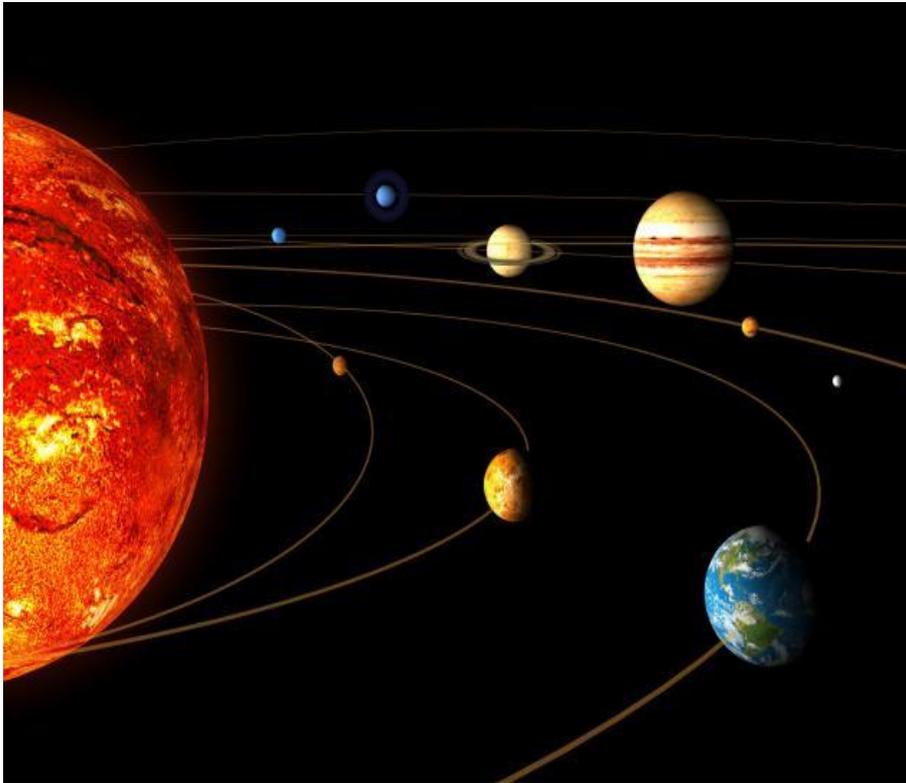
# Impacting Veterans through LearningCounts.org



“This was a great experience for me, saving thousands of dollars and a year of school.”

-Jason Wolfe  
(2013)

# Examples of “System” Approaches to PLA



- Tennessee
- Pennsylvania
- Indiana
- Minnesota

# Ensuring that PLA has purpose

- ✓ When are students eligible for PLA?
- ✓ Does financial aid cover it?
- ✓ Can we assure faculty is trained?
- ✓ Who accepts PLA credits within a college?
- ✓ Are PLA credits accepted in transfer?
- ✓ Will PLA credits within associate degrees transfer to 4-year colleges and universities?
- ✓ Do PLA credits count toward Gen Ed/Major Requirements?
- ✓ How will the credits appear on the transcript? Block credit, course match credits, or competencies? *Can they be discriminated against?*

