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G!CT in Denver - Adult College Completion Network conference

Monday, November 07, 2011

Graduate!CT recently attended the [Adult College Completion Network](#) conference in Denver, October 19-21. The conference was hosted by the [Western Interstate Commission of Higher Education \(WICHE\)](#) and the [Lumina Foundation](#), and it brought together over 40 organizations all committed to working with adults who want to return to college and finish degrees.



The conference gave us a chance to learn what's happening all across the country to locate, recruit and help adults with some college credit and no degree go back to school and finish what they started. Graduate!CT attended with our parent program, [Graduate! Philadelphia](#), and together with Hadass Sheffer, Executive Director of G!PA, we were able to meet with the third Graduate! program, *Complete the Degree, Chicago*, soon to be launched.

The main two issues of relevance to G!CT and our partner programs are how to locate and recruit potential 'come-backers', and how to engage regional employers to encourage their workforce to continue to educate themselves and complete degrees, certification programs and even graduate work. We all understand that our economic success depends on a well-trained, well-educated workforce, and that there are large numbers of adults who have started college and stopped-out for whatever reason. We want to convert these 'stop-outs' to 'come-backers'.



The Lumina Foundation's 'Big Goal' is to increase the percentage of Americans with college degrees to 60% by 2025. To meet this national goal we are going to have to get 278,781 million adults, aged 25-64, college degrees every year until 2025. But don't worry, in Connecticut we only have to get an additional 1,835 adults their degrees every year until 2025.

Graduate!CT offers advisory services to individuals who want to return to college for any reason: personal satisfaction, employability, retraining, whatever it is, we would like to discuss options with you. Our advisors are knowledgeable about all the adult-friendly college programming in the area and you may be surprised at how close you are to a degree and how many new options there are out there for the adult learner. We are non-judgmental and know that there is a lot of fear and trepidation when you haven't been to school in a while, but we also know that for many, it's been a long-standing goal. So if you are ready to finish what you started, give us a call and we will sort out the options. *It's free to talk to us, so there are no more excuses.*

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