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Penn State and Graduate! Philadelphia Partner to Increase Education of Workforce

A college degree can increase a person's lifetime earnings by $1.2 million over a high school diploma, but some students who start college don't finish. That's true for nearly 300,000 adults in the Greater Philadelphia region who have at least one year's worth of college credits. Graduate! Philadelphia, an organization created to help these adults, has invited Penn State to join its workforce development effort.

"Through Penn State Abington, Penn State Brandywine and the World Campus, Penn State can bring a wide range of academic degree programs and other educational resources to adults in the Greater Philadelphia Region," said Penn State Abington Chancellor Karen Wiley Sandler, Ph.D. "We welcome the opportunity to work with Graduate! Philadelphia and its partners to help build a better-educated workforce in this region."

Penn State Brandywine Chancellor Sophia T. Wisniewska, Ph.D., agreed, noting, "Penn State Brandywine's 10 baccalaureate degree programs and location 20 miles west of Philadelphia, with easy access to public transportation, make our campus an ideal choice for adults who are ready to return to college."

Hadass Sheffer, executive director of Graduate! Philadelphia, said, "After only eight months of operation, Graduate! Philadelphia has emerged as a nationally recognized regional model for getting adults back to college to complete their degrees. We know that the key to their success this time around is to ensure that returning students connect with the program that is best for them, and that they have access to ongoing advice and support until they graduate."

Graduate! Philadelphia is a joint initiative of the Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board and United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania.

For more information, visit www.outreach.psu.edu/ce/online.

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