

CEANY Regional Conference

Presentation: Educational Opportunity Centers: Student Empowerment, Developmental Education and Middle Skill Sets

Presenter: Susan C. Perkins, Ph.D.

Institution: University Center for Academic and Workforce Development
SUNY System Administration, 10 N. Pearl Street, Albany, NY 12246

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Presentation Description: Each Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) is the State University of New York's haven for students who persist despite longstanding educational and economical disadvantages. EOCs span from Long Island to Buffalo, leveraging a fifty-year history of strengthening career and college pathways for adult learners. Many EOC students have experienced unemployment and underemployment due to a lack of basic literacy, persistent poverty and/or dependence on public assistance. All these circumstances serve as obstacles to securing jobs that may require middle skill sets and ensuring movement toward self-sufficiency. Conference attendees will have an opportunity to learn about the EOCs' history of serving students with dreams of "doing more" than circumstances might dictate, featuring promising practices that help to get students focused on asset-building. The EOC history includes decades of strengthening long-standing partnerships to serve communities that are economically disadvantaged, implementing instructional practices that empower students and supporting students with compromised self-esteem to persist in developmental programming.

Outline:

- Introductions and EOC History
- What Matters Most: Transferable Middle Skill Sets
- Promising Practices: Partnerships, Instruction and Empowered Students
- Resources: NYSED's Four Pathways to Achieving HS Diploma Four Pathways and NWRC Credential
- Additional Questions? What's Next?

A/V Requests: LCD and Internet

Materials: Newsprint and masking tape/large Post-it Notes

Special Accommodations: N/A

Presenter Bio:

Susan C. Perkins, Ph.D.

Dr. Susan Perkins is the Director of Programs and Services for the State University of New York's University Center for Academic and Workforce Development (SUNY UCAWD). Reporting directly to the Associate Provost and Director, Ms. Lisa McKay, she is responsible for oversight of the day-to-day administration of ten Educational Opportunity Centers, two Outreach Centers, and thirty-six Advanced Technology Training and Information Networking (ATTAIN) labs. SUNY UCAWD promotes the socioeconomic well-being of students who typically live in distressed areas (urban and rural) and are educationally underprepared, by developing and maintaining quality educational and workforce development opportunities throughout New York State. Prior to joining SUNY UCAWD, she worked for the New York State Department of Labor as a Rockefeller College Center for Women in Government Fellow and Youth Support Specialist. Most of her tenure prior to joining UCAWD included instruction, curriculum development and administration for the City School District of Albany as an English Teacher, High Schools That Work Coordinator and High School Equivalency Instructor-Coordinator.

Dr. Perkins is a certified NYS School District Administrator. She double-majored in college, earning a B.A. in English and a B.A. in psychology at the University at Stony Brook. She completed her graduate work at the University at Albany, earning a M.S., in Special Education and a M.S., C.A.S., and Ph.D. in Educational Administration and Policy Studies at the University at Albany.