



Council for Christian  
Colleges & Universities

# Center for Research in Adult Learning

INDIANA  
WESLEYAN  
UNIVERSITY

**Mission:** *The CCCU Center for Research in Adult Learning will serve Christian institutions by facilitating and encouraging research, which will enhance the quality of Christ-centered adult programs.*

## Register Now: Fall Teleconference on Curriculum Design

On **October 20 at noon** (eastern time) Dr. Don Finn from Regent University will present a teleconference titled: ***Integrating Universal Design Techniques into Online Courses for Student Success***. This teleconference will introduce ideas for making classes welcoming and useful for diverse learners through the integration of Universal Design (UD) techniques. The session will address diverse characteristics of students (cultural, learning styles/preferences, and disabilities), and how these diversities can be effectively addressed through UD principles

and techniques. This session will be particularly useful for instructors and instructional designers who teach and design instruction for adult learners in online and face-to-face settings. Upon completion of the session, participants will have a broader understanding of diversity found in online classes and techniques for making classes, supplemental materials, and lessons more accessible for all learners through the integration of UD principles. **Donald E. Finn, Ph.D.** has been an adult educator for nearly 20

years and is currently an Associate Professor of Adult Education and Professional Development at Regent University in Virginia Beach, VA. Don has been a contributing author for books about effective instructional practices for diverse learners that have centered on universal design (UD) concepts. **Invite a group to listen in on this teleconference for one low price!** Cost is \$79 for CCCU member institutions and \$99 for non-member institutions. [Click here for online registration](#)

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Cynthia Tweedell, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
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Administrative Assistant

### Research Agenda

- Learning outcomes assessment for adults
- Benchmarking
- Retention of adult students
- Spiritual transformation of adults
- Best practices in online learning
- Teaching diverse learners
- Alumni surveys

### Strategic Goals

- Sponsor at least one conference per year.
- Publish at least one monograph per year.
- Provide benchmarking data on adult education.
- Assist in student learning outcomes assessment
- Serve as a resource for research in adult programs.
- Coordinate projects at the request of institutions

## Adult Programs Excel in Retaining Minority Students

The Center is coordinating a retention study among Christian college adult programs. Several years of data indicate that these adult programs attract and retain a substantial number of minority students. Entrance Survey data from seven Christian colleges indicate that 18% of adult program students are African American and 7% are from other minority groups. Graduation Survey data indicate that 16% are African American and 7% are from other minority groups. At a time when many educators and policy makers are scratching their heads trying to figure out how to increase minority graduation rates, it is clear that adult programs at Christian colleges are already excelling in this area. For details and to participate in this ongoing retention project see <http://www.indwes.edu/CRAL/Current-Research/> or contact [Cynthia Tweedell](#).

## Spiritual Formation Project

We have been analyzing data from Christian colleges to uncover the impact of adult programs on spiritual growth. Data from entry and exit surveys indicate that upon graduation there are fewer adult students who say they seldom or never pray or go to church.

However, since these are two independent samples, we might be looking at a characteristic of those who are more likely to persist to graduation: Someone who does not attend church may be more likely to drop out of a Christian college. To further investigate the spiritual differences between CCCU adult students from entry to exit, we have been conducting an Adult Spiritual Formation Inventory, developed by a CCCU Task Force led by Larry Chamberlain of Indiana Wesleyan. Data indicate that exiting adult students are statistically more likely to report they volunteer in church or community organizations and are more likely to report they put the interests and well-being of others ahead of their own.

The finding that CCCU Adult Programs have a spiritual impact on students is further supported by the Center's Student Learning Outcomes Project. Essays from 250 beginning and graduating adult students from seven Christian colleges indicate a significant increase in Christian worldview.

For more information and to participate in the CCCU Center for Research in Adult Learning Retention, Spiritual Formation and Student Learning Outcomes Projects, see <http://www.indwes.edu/CRAL/Current-Research/> or contact [Cynthia.Tweedell](mailto:Cynthia.Tweedell@indwes.edu) (Cynthia.tweedell@indwes.edu).

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.indwes.edu/cral](http://www.indwes.edu/cral)

### Steering Committee

Richard Ellis– John Brown University, AR  
Don Finn– Regent University, VA  
Steve Holtrop– Huntington University, IN  
George Howell–Indiana Wesleyan Univ., IN  
Lori Jass– Bethel University, MN  
Audrey Kelleher– Belhaven University, MS  
Toni Pauls– Warner Pacific University, OR  
Shirley Roddy– Mid-America Christian U., OK  
Anita Underwood– Nyack College, NY  
Mimi Barnard– CCCU  
Cynthia Tweedell– Center for Research

## Book: *Best Practices in the Integration of Faith and Learning for Adult and Online Students*

Edited by Cheryl Torok Fleming and Cynthia Benn Tweedell

Practical teaching tips from over 20 institutions

On site, Online and Hybrid Techniques

\$15 single copy; \$12 for 10 or more

To order, contact [Jennifer.vermilion@indwes.edu](mailto:Jennifer.vermilion@indwes.edu)

## Center Activities

- Annual Conference (May 23-25, 2011 in Indianapolis)
  - Publications
  - Regular Teleconferences
- Student Learning Outcomes Benchmarking Project
  - Spiritual Formation Project
  - Moral Reasoning Project
    - Retention Project
- Gathering useful Information about CCCU Adult Programs
  - Bibliography on Adult Education

Consult our website for more information: [www.indwes.edu/cral](http://www.indwes.edu/cral)