Council for Christian Colleges & Universities

CCCU
Center for Research
in Adult Learning
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Key Innovations in Higher Education

How Does Higher Education Respond to a New Society?

Cynthia Tweedell, Ph.D.

What is the Center for Research in Adult Learning?

- Partnership between Indiana Wesleyan University and Council for Christian Colleges and Universities.

INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Council for Christian Colleges & Universities

Steering Committee

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Mimi Barnard– CCCU
Cynthia Tweedell– Center for Research

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.
  - May 10-12, 2010 In Cincinnati
- Publish at least one monograph per year.
  - *Integration of Faith and Learning for Adults*
- 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

www.indwes.edu/cral

Keller, George. (2008). *Higher Education and the New Society.*

Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Univ. Press

- Population shifts
- Technological upheavals
- Volatile economic landscape

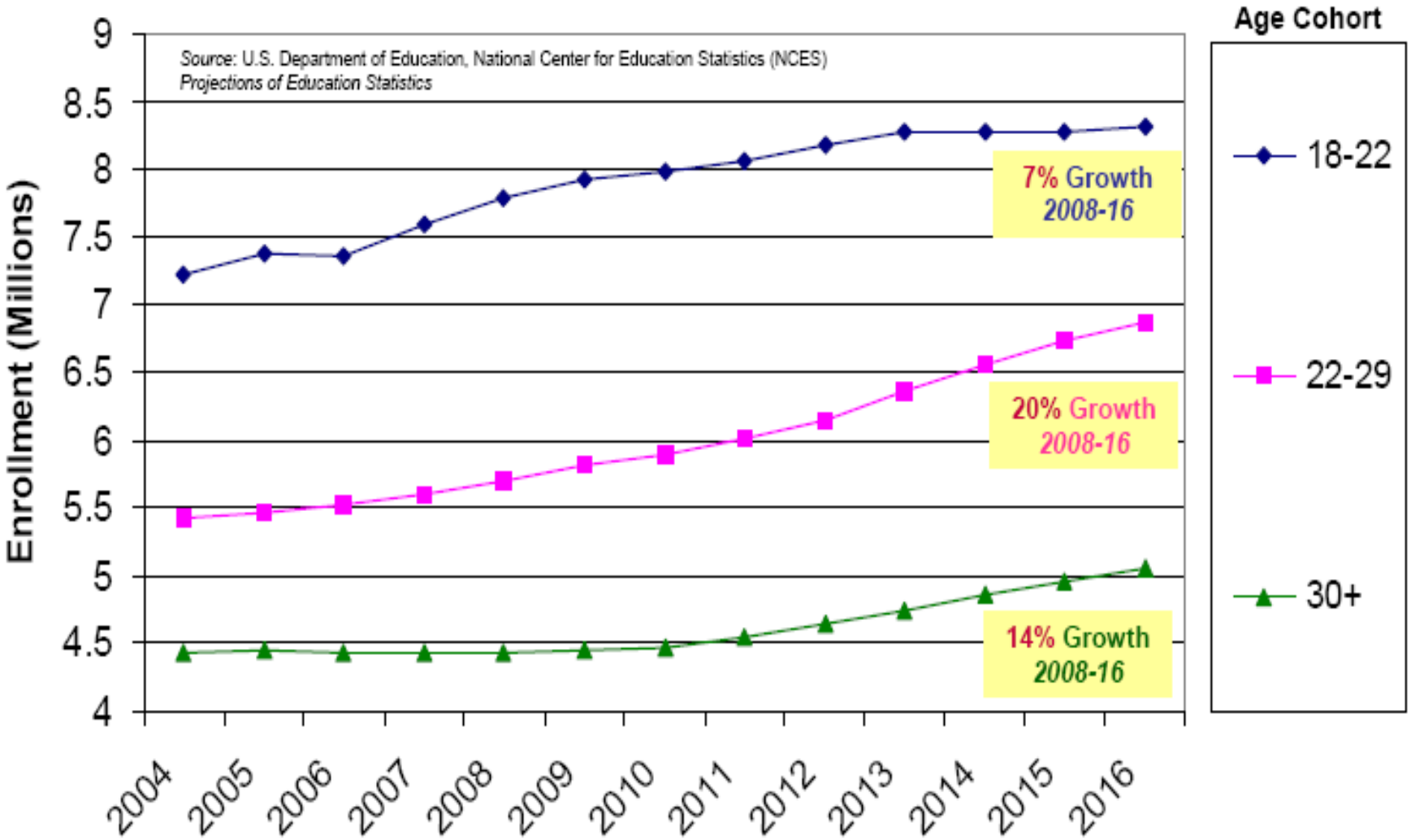
How does higher education respond?

One Response: Accommodate Adult Learners

43% of undergraduates are over age 24

(National Center for Education Statistics, 2003)

Projection of Enrollments by Age



Nearly all the structures for traditional students do not accommodate adults

New Structure for a New Student

Old Structure

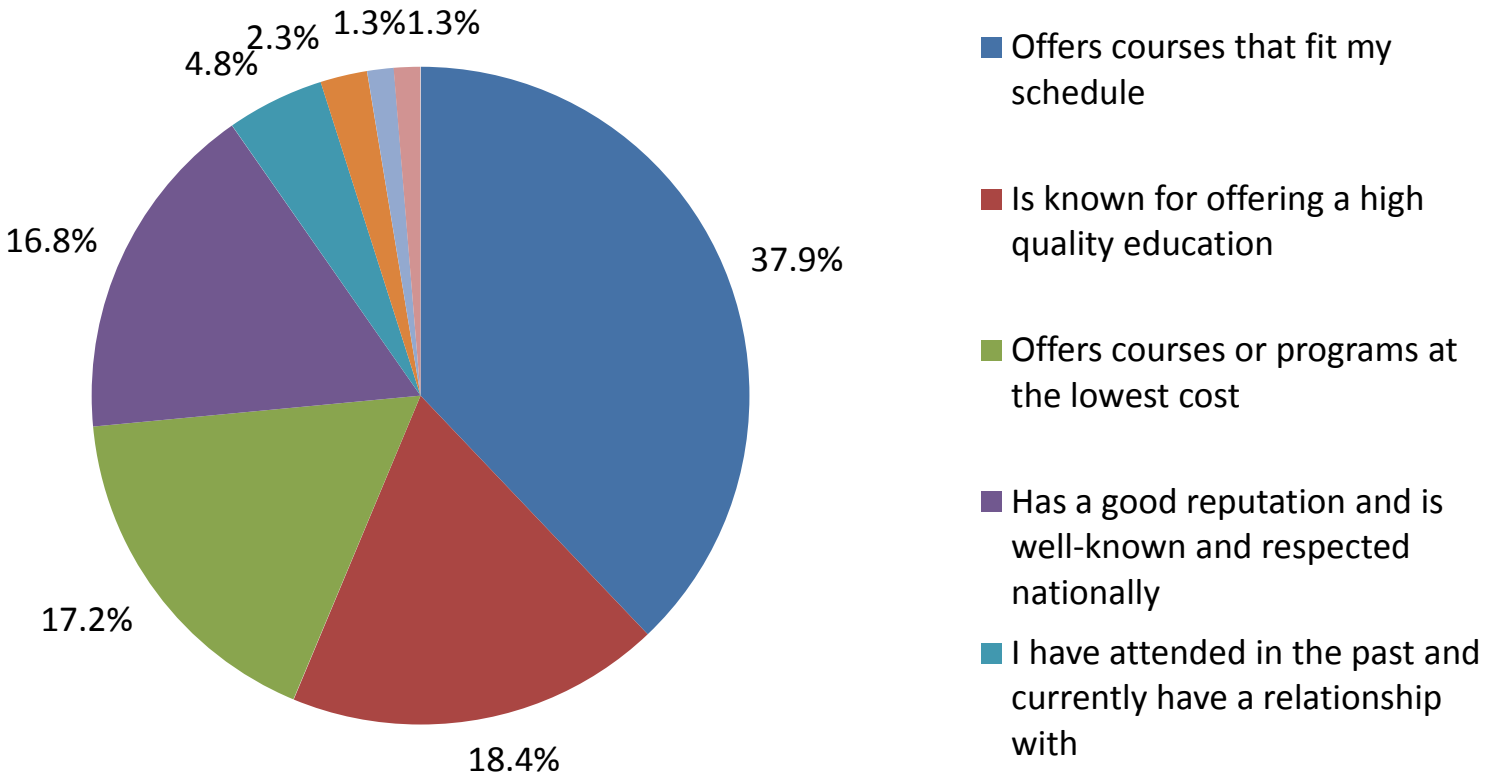
- Semesters (start 1x per yr)
- Full-time research faculty
- Daytime, weekday classes
- Travel to residential college
- Emphasis on theory and concepts
- Earn a degree

New Structure

- Non-term (start anytime)
- Adjunct practitioner faculty
- Anytime, any day classes
- College comes to student
- Emphasis on practical application
- Certify competence

Preferences for Adults

Which of the following best describes the type of institution you would be most interested in attending?



Benchmarking from the CCCU Center for Research in Adult Learning

- Adult Student Learning Outcomes
  - 3rd year of project
  - About 10 schools participating
  - Common writing prompt
  - Beginning and graduating students
  - 3 faculty from each school as scorers
  - Critical Thinking, Written Communication, Christian Worldview
  - How does your school compare to other adult programs?

Writing Prompt

- Earlier this year, a successful and popular administrator at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) lost her job after twenty-eight years when it was discovered that she had falsified her academic credentials on her resume thirty years before.
- **ISSUE: What is the appropriate response to this or other similar situations?**

Scoring Rubric	Critical Thinking	Christian World View	Communication
5	Identifies issues Challenges assumptions Thorough analysis	Clearly demonstrates an understanding of a Christian perspective. (Frequent references to biblical principles)	Free from distracting spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors. Very well organized Meaning is clear
4	General connections, analysis and identification of issues	Frequently refers to a Christian perspective. Student has a reasonable understanding of Christian perspective. (Some references to biblical principles.)	Few spelling, punctuation and grammatical errors. Fairly well organized A few places where meaning is a little unclear.
3	Some analysis Vague identification of issue	Makes some mention of a Christian perspective. Student indicates some understanding of a Christian perspective. (Biblical principles referred to somewhat.)	Most spelling, punctuation, and grammar are correct, though some errors remain. Organization may detract from meaning. Some places unclear.
2	Incomplete analysis Fragmented understanding of issue	Demonstrates little understanding of a Christian perspective. (Biblical principles hardly or not mentioned.)	Spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors are distracting. Organization and meaning unclear.
1	Vague analysis Basic lack of understanding	Makes no reference to a Christian perspective. Student does not appear to have an understanding of a Christian perspective. (Biblical principles not mentioned.)	Many spelling, punctuation and grammatical errors, making reader unable to follow ideas. Lacks organization. Meaning is very unclear.
Score:			

2008 Results: 6 Colleges

		N	Mean	Std. Dev
Critical Thinking	Pre	109	*3.27	0.80
	Post	127	*3.49	0.72
Written Communication	Pre	109	*3.06	0.83
	Post	126	*3.36	0.70
Christian Worldview	Pre	109	1.92	0.97
	Post	126	1.83	0.92

2009 Results: 5 Colleges

		N	Mean	Std. Dev
Critical Thinking	Pre	107	*3.10	0.61
	Post	84	*3.34	0.73
Written Communication	Pre	107	1.77	0.80
	Post	84	1.97	0.82
Christian Worldview	Pre	107	*2.82	0.77
	Post	84	*3.49	0.75

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We invite Wisconsin Lutheran to be part of our projects.

Questions?