

Report from Brandy Eddings and Melissa Bergstrom

Met with ABE staff/faculty/students on Coon Rapids Campus – January 30, 2014

Major Themes/Priorities:

- 1) We can do better at facilitating the transition of ABE students into college by connecting them with existing personnel and resources.
- 2) We could make their ABE experience better and more efficient by partnering and providing resources to make them more successful, more quickly.

Specific needs that could be/should be addressed immediately:

- 1) Students were unaware of the existence of readily-available services like:
 - a. Financial aid counseling
 - b. Academic advisors
 - c. Career counseling
 - d. Aptitude/Interest testing (to determine direction/career/skill set)

Brandy Eddings is working to connect ABE with those services ASAP.

- 2) Students/Staff were hoping we could have “conversation circles” to practice English speaking and comprehension skills, have these open to the community.

Brandy Eddings knew of this program happening on our campus and was going to connect them with that person.

- 3) ABE students do not have textbooks to take home. With canceled classes (due to weather, holidays, etc), their progress is stalled with nothing to review on their own time. Could we partner with our library to offer those resources for checking-out?
- 4) Students have some anxiety about the GED being on a computer because they don't use or have access to one in their daily lives. Could we give ABE students some time in our computer labs to familiarize themselves with basic computer navigation?

What words do you hear used to describe ARCC/ATC?

Great campus
Convenient locations
Good tutors
Diverse
Accommodating

How can the college better integrate with the community?

Keep ABE
Host events on campus – guest speakers, concerts, etc
ESL
Conversation partners (like library) for community
Marketing better – people don't know who you are or what you have (specific programs)

What could the colleges do to better meet the needs of the future?

Offer more languages for global community
Low tuition – keep it that way
Integrate ABE and college – advisors, admissions, financial aid, etc
Work with business community to provide graduates that meet needs
Better access to computers/technology

What could the colleges do to make ABE better?

More computers/workstations to practice for GED
Textbooks to take home
Classes on Saturdays
More staff
More scheduling options
Integration of ABE & college advisors