



Washington's Community and Technical Colleges Integrated Digital English Acceleration (I-DEA)

A better idea for adult English language learners

The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC), in collaboration with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, began a three and a half year project on January 1, 2013. Project I-DEA builds on the success of the Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST) initiative with the goal of transforming instruction for adult English language learners.

I-DEA will:

- Engage cohorts of adult English language learners at all 34 Washington colleges
- Directly improve instruction for 1,600 low level ESL learners
- Prepare these students for entry into I-BEST programs

To meet these objectives, teams of college instructors and community-based partners will utilize the proven best practices of I-BEST instruction and the best of existing curricula in conjunction with newly created open source materials. These newly developed materials will include 30 contextualized, online instructional strands. Project I-DEA will utilize a blended learning approach to instruction in which at least 50% of the instruction will be via digital learning resources.

Project I-DEA will incorporate scalable instructional innovations that can be replicated across Washington State and beyond. At the completion of the pilot project, I-DEA learners will show advances in their English language, technical, and career and college readiness skills with fewer hours of instruction than learners in traditional programs. College and community partners will have identified a set of instructional strategies that can be successfully employed with a smaller investment of face-to-face instructional time. The result will be an instructional model easily accessible to others, a platform on which a greater number of adult ESL students will be able to attain college and career readiness on an accelerated schedule.

If you have questions, please contact Kathy Cooper, kcooper@sbctc.edu

Phase I Colleges

Big Bend Community College

IEL/Community Colleges of Spokane

Lake Washington Institute of Technology

North Seattle Community College

Pierce Ft. Steilacoom Community College

Renton Technical College

Seattle Central Community College

Shoreline Community College

Tacoma Community College

Walla Walla Community College

Instructional Strands

First Quarter:

- Introduction to I-DEA
- Technology Literacy
- Social Media and Learning
- Personal Inventory and Working in a Team
- Education and Career Planning
- Time Management
- Health and Wellness
- Community Engagement/Navigating Community
- Information Literacy
- Financial Literacy/Money Management
- College Pathways/American Education System
- End of Quarter Assessment Presentations

Second Quarter:

- Communicating Online and Peer Mentoring Study Skills
- Work Readiness/Career Exploration
- Contemporary World Problems and the Individual
- Writing for the 21st Century
- Creating Powerful Presentations
- Math Basics – Self-tutoring Using Online Resources
- Budgeting and Consumer Economics
- Team Collaboration in Project Development
- End of Quarter Assessment Presentation

Third Quarter:

- Effective Online Presentations
- Professional and Social Interpersonal Communication Skills
- Washington State History
- Diversity/Cross Cultural Communication
- Stress Management/Balancing Life and Work
- Occupational Education
- Environmental Issues
- Social Studies and Pathways to Citizenship
- Job Search and Online Interviewing
- End of Quarter Assessment Presentation