



# LEADERSHIP SKILLS FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER

*CUNY Central Office*

Amy Prince and Clorinda Andrade, curriculum writers

*Reviewer: Nellie Perera, Brooklyn College Advisor and CUNY Research Foundation Curriculum Developer*

**9/21/2015**

The City University of New York was awarded \$19.86 million through the United States Department of Labor’s Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant program to offer CUNY CareerPATH, a three-year program aimed at supporting adult students in career advancement and successful college transition, responding to local industry needs, and building CUNY’s capacity to serve adult workers. CareerPATH provides academic and English language skills instruction “contextualized” to five industry sectors – health care, education, manufacturing, culinary arts and hospitality, and business – with the goal of engaging adult learners and accelerating their progress once they enroll in college. Strengthened connections between English language pre-college programs, occupational training, and degree programs — bolstered by strong advisement and enhanced student services — help students progress on each step of their education and career pathway. In the short term, participants earn industry-recognized credentials and find jobs. In the longer term, they translate their training into college credit and enter degree programs.

**The program director/product liaison should enter the following information below:**

- Intended audience: adult students in continuing education, occupational training, or bridge programs
- Product name and description: Leadership Skills for College and Career: a Workshop Series
- Intent of CareerPATH product: to provide a workshop series that supports and increases students’ knowledge about higher education and workforce education opportunities, and that strengthens their habits and skills in areas that are crucial for success in these endeavors

**The reviewer should complete the information below:**

Based on your expertise, how would you rate the product’s ability to meet standards within your field?			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outstanding	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory	<input type="checkbox"/> Needs Improvement	<input type="checkbox"/> Incomplete

*Reviewer: Nellie Perera, Brooklyn  
College Advisor and CUNY Research  
Foundation Curriculum Developer*

## **SUMMARY**

Based on knowledge of the product, please summarize your review of the product below in 2-3 paragraphs.

The Leadership Skills for College and Career curriculum is an excellent, sequential ten workshop series that fosters adult students' personal, academic and professional development within a supportive and reflective learning community. I am most impressed by the depth and focus of student exploration during the workshop sessions: the adult learners are asked to reflect on their personal skills and backgrounds, their academic and work experiences, and to articulate their career interests in order to create concrete goals for their academic success and professional advancement. These workshop sessions are reflective, aspirational, and also very concrete and applicable to the daily success of college students. Geared towards adult students with responsibilities that extend outside the classroom, the workshops are designed to encourage in the students critical reflection, goal setting and accountability related to school/work/life balance, professional networking, career opportunities, self-advocacy, among other key skills that will serve them both in college and in the workplace.

Each workshop is comprised of interactive and dynamic group activities that encourage students to collaborate, actively listen to each other, reflect critically on their own experience, and incorporate new ideas and perspectives from their fellow students. Cumulatively, the workshops promote community, personal accountability, and a supportive laboratory to practice many skills so necessary for college and career success such as: self-reflection, critical thinking, small group or partner collaboration, public speaking, research, utilizing resources, and demonstrating leadership.

There is a deep level of self awareness that this curriculum engenders in students, as workshop sessions challenge participants to define their career aspirations and identify the steps they will need to make those dreams a reality, including taking a hard look at the habits, behaviors, and relationships in their lives that may not support their college and career success. Through activities such as researching a career pathway and reflecting on the barriers—both internal and external—that may hinder their success as college students, participants are guided through a focused process of identifying and honing their personal strengths and career interests while gaining an awareness of aspects of their mindset and actions that they need to shift in order to establish and achieve meaningful academic and career goals. Such growth can be hard in isolation, and the community aspect of the curriculum is designed to provide support and accountability to students as they implement new and productive behaviors into their daily lives. The workshop design is scaffolded in a thoughtful, intentional way: in the first session students assess their own skills and habits of mind, establishing SMART goals for themselves at the beginning of the program, and, by workshop 10, after students have reflected deeply and acquired new knowledge related to academic and career success, they undergo this same assessment process, measuring their growth by the changes in skills, habits, and goals noted in their final reflection.

I strongly endorse the Leadership Skills for College and Career curriculum plan as a meaningful and powerful experiential tool for developing and supporting college students' personal, academic, and career success.

**Reviewer: Nellie Perera, Brooklyn  
College Advisor and CUNY Research  
Foundation Curriculum Developer**

Type Name Helen T Perera

September 22, 2015  
Click here to enter a date.

Signature



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