



HLC Accreditation 2020-2021

## Evidence Document

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Academic Affairs

Office of Adult Learning

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## Annual Report 2019-2020

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**Additional information:** For more information visit the Office of Adult Learning website at: [https://www.wichita.edu/academics/adult\\_learning/](https://www.wichita.edu/academics/adult_learning/) (Accessed May 18, 2021.)



### Statement on 2020 Global Pandemic

In early 2020, a global pandemic known as COVID19 swept the world. In an effort to address the health, safety and well-being of the Shocker Community, Wichita State University moved all classes online and offices worked remotely from March 18—May 26. All classes for summer of 2020 remained fully online.

Although staff remained available for remote meetings and advising, the Joe Stone Lounge, Resource Room, coffee bar and free printing remain closed for the rest of the academic year.

### WHO ARE OUR RETURNING ADULT STUDENTS?

Median Age = 32

70.1% First Generation

60% female

24.8% underrepresented minorities



SEM website – new degree seeking students for 2019 (UG Domestic)

#### GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- \* Dignity of the individual
- \* Caring, inclusive services and assistance
- \* Passion and advocacy for the needs and circumstances of adults in higher education
- \* Focus for skill development within our evolving community

#### PURPOSE:

Our purpose is to serve the returning adult community by providing a sense of belonging through support, advocacy, guidance and encouragement to degree completion and beyond.

### RECRUITING FUTURE SHOCKERS

Added Shocker Pathway stories to show the impact of our partnership with WSU Tech



Bush Vo, Accounting

Continued our Partnership with WSU Tech through the SHOCKER PATHWAY, working to make the transition from technical college to university easier.

Read our SHOCKER STORIES, a sampling of how some of our returning adult students found their way back to college through Wichita State. [Wichita.edu/shockerstories](http://Wichita.edu/shockerstories)

Amanda Brungardt, Social Work



Added 68 new Shocker Stories and the influence Wichita State has on the lives of our students

## CONNECTING AND RETAINING CURRENT SHOCKERS

**"THE SHOCKER FAMILY IS A STRONG ONE, ONCE A SHOCKER, ALWAYS A SHOCKER.  
DON'T HESITATE TO BE PART OF THE COMMUNITY, IT'S A GREAT ONE." - ABBY WERTH—ANTHROPOLOGY**

# 85% connected

*The Office of Adult Learning works with numerous offices at the University to connect our adult learners with resources and opportunities. In the fall of 2019, 85% of our adult learners were connected to at least one resource at Wichita State.*

**OVER 108**

Students have  
**BEEN FUNDED**  
from the Osher  
Scholars  
Program



**84 adult learners are enrolled or have finished their bachelors degrees as Osher scholars.**

**"SEEK OPPORTUNITIES THAT ARE AFFORDED YOU TO INNOVATE AT WSU "**

**LEVI FITZMIER— WORKFORCE, LEADERSHIP & APPLIED LEARNING**

**"AS AN ADULT LEARNER, I HAVE SPENT MOST OF MY LIFE FEELING LIKE I DON'T BELONG. I HAVE NEVER FELT MORE AT HOME THAN I HAVE FELT HERE AT WSU. " - THOMAS WENZEL—APPLIED COMPUTING**

Worked with the Wichita State Foundation to begin the Adult Learner Scholarship Fund

Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society is in our 4th year and now has a sister chapter at WSU Tech

Assistant Director Pamela O'Neal presented at two national conferences

573 returning students enrolled in reactivation orientation

Assisted with the Educational Leadership First Generation Adult Learner focus group

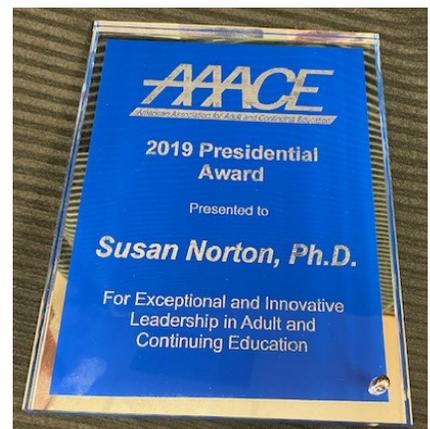
Verified that **23%** of our undergraduate population are returning adult learners.

## ADULT LEARNING SHOCKER SPOTLIGHT—OUR DIRECTOR



**Susan Norton, PhD**

2019 was a year of honors for our Director, Dr. Susan Norton. She was awarded the Light house award by TRIO-Disability Services for collaboration on student programming. She was also awarded the Presidential award by the American Association of Adult and Continuing Education (AAACE) in St. Louis, MO.



**For more information visit our website at [Wichita.edu/adultlearning](http://Wichita.edu/adultlearning)**