

April 22, 2020

**Northwest Iowa Community College’s Impact**

Northwest Iowa Community College’s Adult Education and Literacy department quickly transitioned to teaching online classes via Zoom, as well as moving students to learning software approved as distance education curriculum by the state adult education and literacy team. This quick hybrid approach meant that ESL and HSED students did not lose any instruction time; teachers immediately started learning how to use Zoom to host classes and have continued to learn how to teach online, attending webinars and multiple professional development opportunities offered by the state and national AEL organizations. Instructors have used Zoom classes to help students, many who are immigrants and may not speak English to a high level of proficiency, understand the coronavirus and the census, both immediate events they had questions about and wanted to understand. Instructors also helped students better understand the expectations and homework that their K-12 children were receiving.

Instructors have continued to meet online with students who have internet access, but many don’t have reliable internet access to connect with instructors virtually. When OCTAE and the State approved academic packets, NCC’s AEL instructors immediately created six hours (a week's instruction) of worksheets and mailed those to students without internet access. Students will receive new worksheets each week and work through them; they will take a picture of their work and text it to their teacher, which allows the teacher to see how the students are progressing, what they are struggling with, and provides them with the opportunity to continue teaching. Teachers then text back and forth with the student, correcting and explaining the work the student did. Teachers can then text a picture of the correct answers back to the students, so they can correct their own work and analyze what they missed. These innovations allow instructors to continue teaching and communicating with students, despite the challenges of not being able to meet face to face.