

KPU and the Mature Learner

KPU Teaching & Learning
Symposium: June 8, 2017

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A Mature Learner is...

19 years of age, or older who:

- May not have completed high school
- Delayed transition to PSE

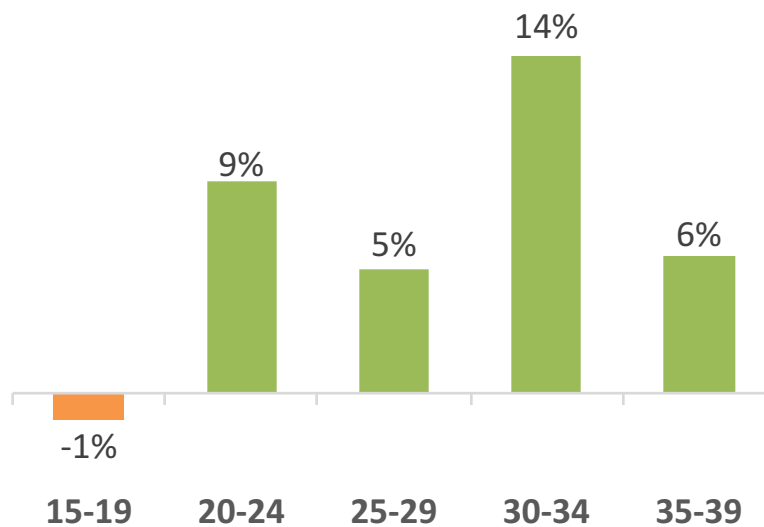
OR Those returning to PSE to either:

- Complete a credential; or
- Upgrade their education for advancement; or
- Retrain to change careers

Why Mature Learners?

- Relevance Goal: expand access to meet the needs of all learners
- Skill shortages: employers can't find the skills they need
- Demographics:
 - In 2016, almost a million people in KPU region
 - Over half were 40+

Growth by Age in KPU Region: 2011 to 2016



Research on the Needs of Mature Learners

Research on Mature Learners

- Focus on needs of:
 - Adults who delay entry to PSE
 - Adults wanting to upgrade their skills
 - Adults wanting to change careers
 - Immigrants needing to upgrade to work in Canada

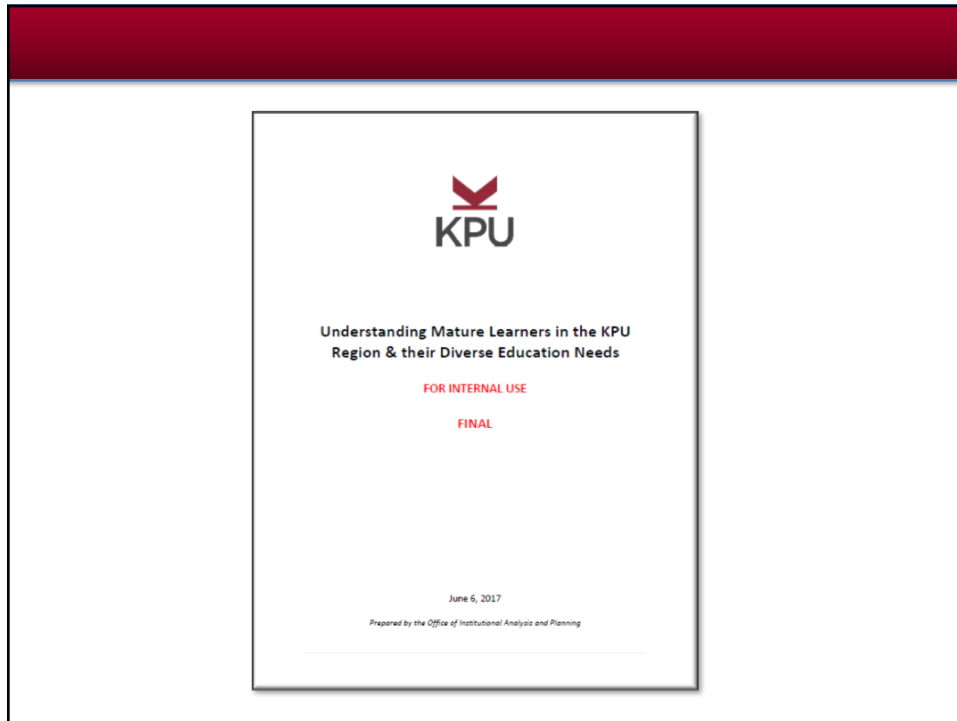
Research on Mature Learners

- Examined:
 - Labour market demand
 - Characteristics of various types of mature learners
 - Factors that influence entry into PSE and their PSE choices
 - Teaching/Learning approaches to meet the needs of adult learners

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Research on Mature Learners

- Sources:
 - Statistics Canada, BC Stats and BC government data on:
 - Labour market projections
 - Population
 - Literature on labour market demand and needs of adult learners
 - Interviews with representatives of business and community organizations



Research on Mature Learners

➤ Report:

- What we learned from literature and interviews
- Appendices with detail labour market demand by occupation
- Summary of suggestions on considerations when addressing the needs of mature learners

Considerations on Mature Learners

- Develop new programs to address labour market demand
 - For high demand and fast-growing occupations
 - With opportunities for work experience

Considerations on Mature Learners

- Create curriculum to develop the skills employers want
 - Managerial skills
 - Essential skills
 - Hybrid skills
 - Competencies such as creativity, emotional intelligence, critical thinking, cognitive flexibility

Considerations on Mature Learners

- Flexible Delivery
 - Online and blended learning
 - Weekends and Evenings
 - Multiple entry and exist points
 - Flexible registration
 - Continuing studies

Considerations on Mature Learners

- Provide supports tailored to mature students
 - Confidence about being students
 - Financial need
 - Orientation for mature learners
 - Computer workshops

Considerations on Mature Learners

- Market specifically to mature learners
 - How to reach the various mature learner audiences
 - Raise awareness of what we offer for them:
 - Programs
 - Delivery options
 - Supports

**And now for some
specifics**

KPU and Open Education Practices

Alan Davis

“Open” means being...

- receptive, honest, transparent
- innovative, progressive, creative, revealed
- unconstrained, unrestricted, unsuppressed, unfettered, unlimited, unprejudiced, unchained
- accessible, reachable, available, helpful, generous, inclusive, flexible, public, tolerant
- an agent of freedom and democracy

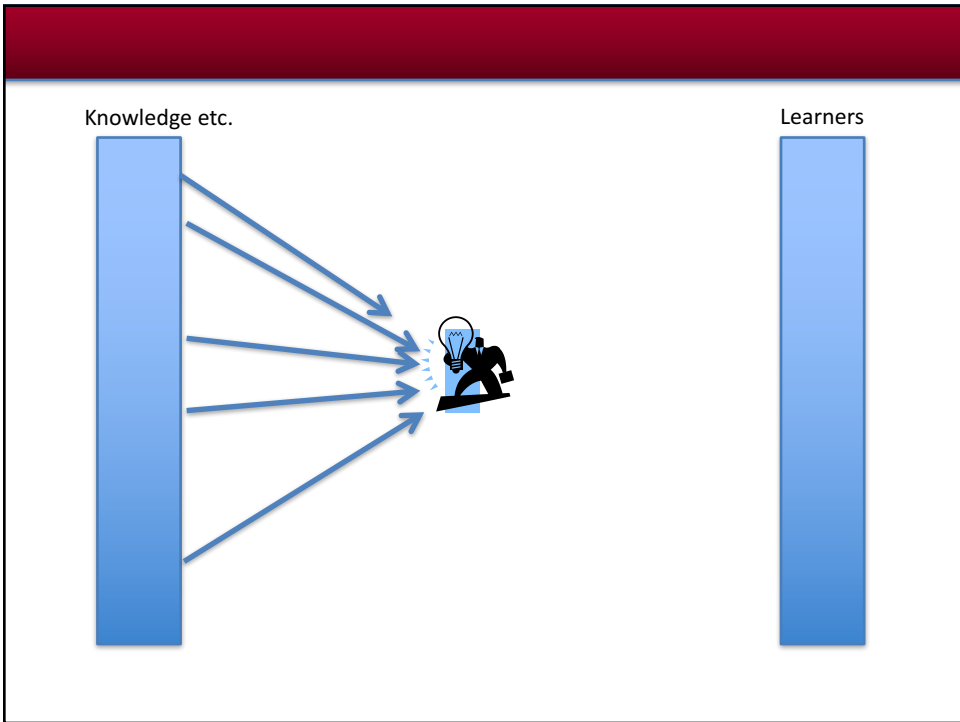
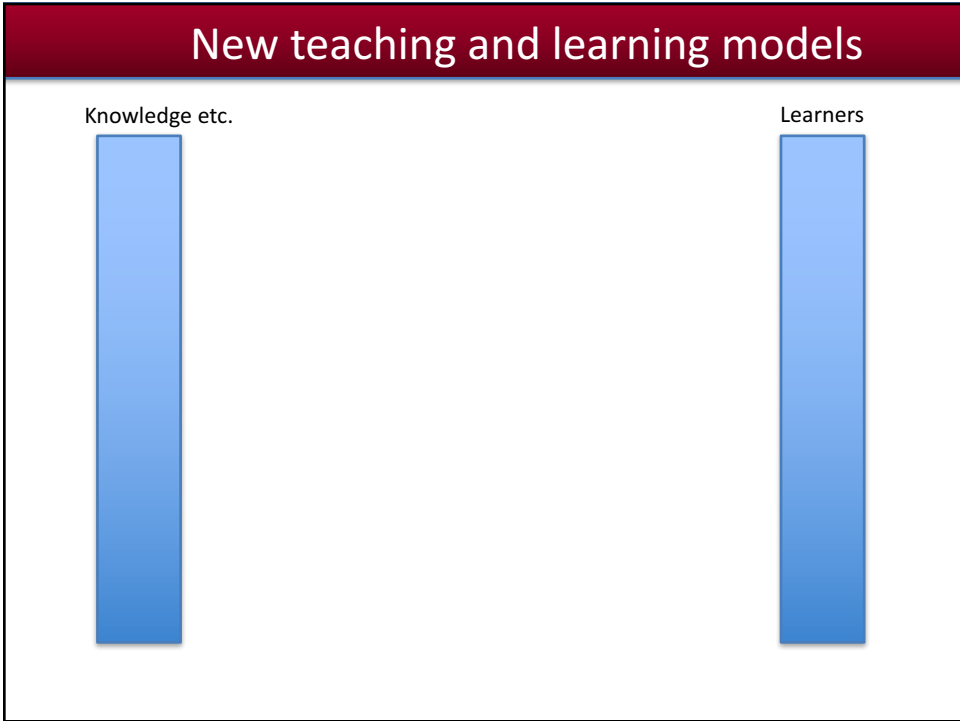
Open learning occurs when we

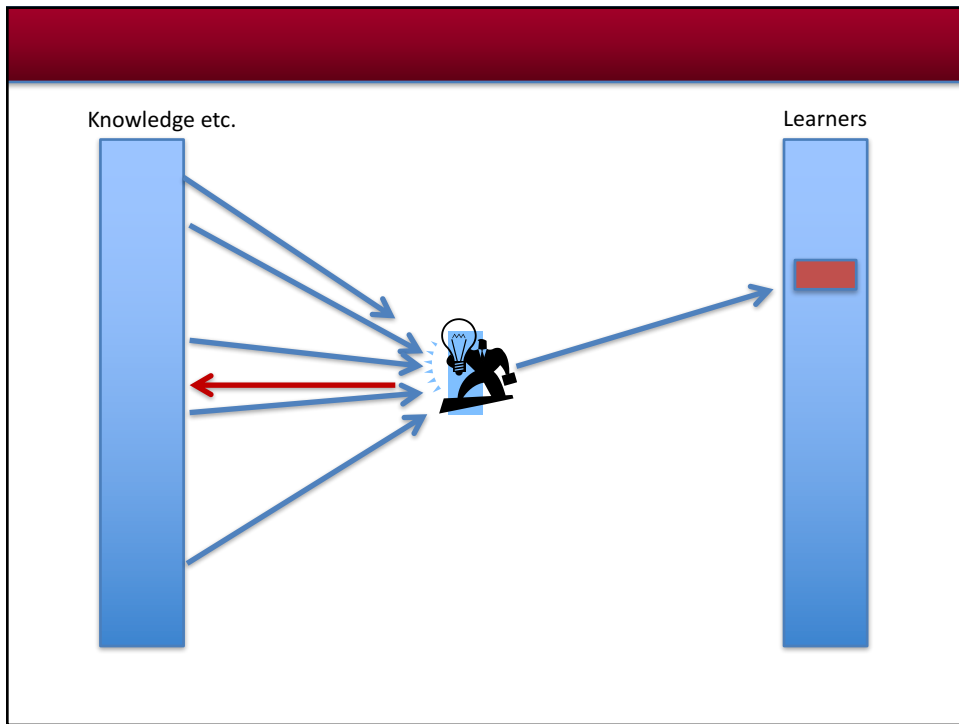
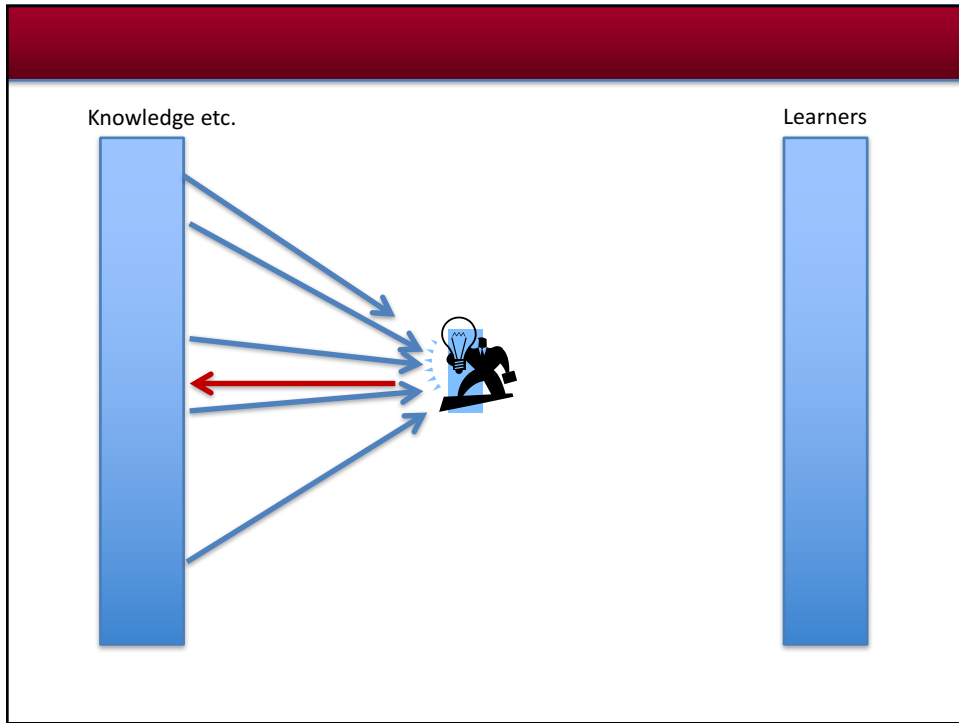
- engage learners as full partners in the formulation of their education;
- create policies that respect learners' previous educational experiences as well as their busy lives;
- develop approaches and technologies that bridge time and distance and which foster deep engagement;
- provide support services and accommodations for individual students' circumstances.
- i.e. **good adult education**

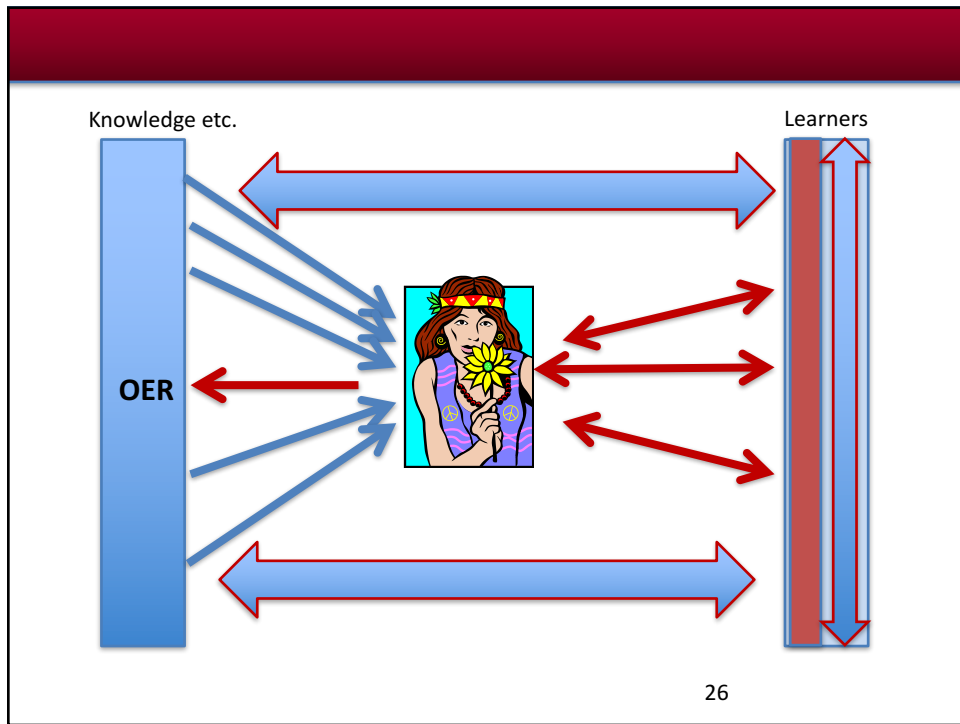
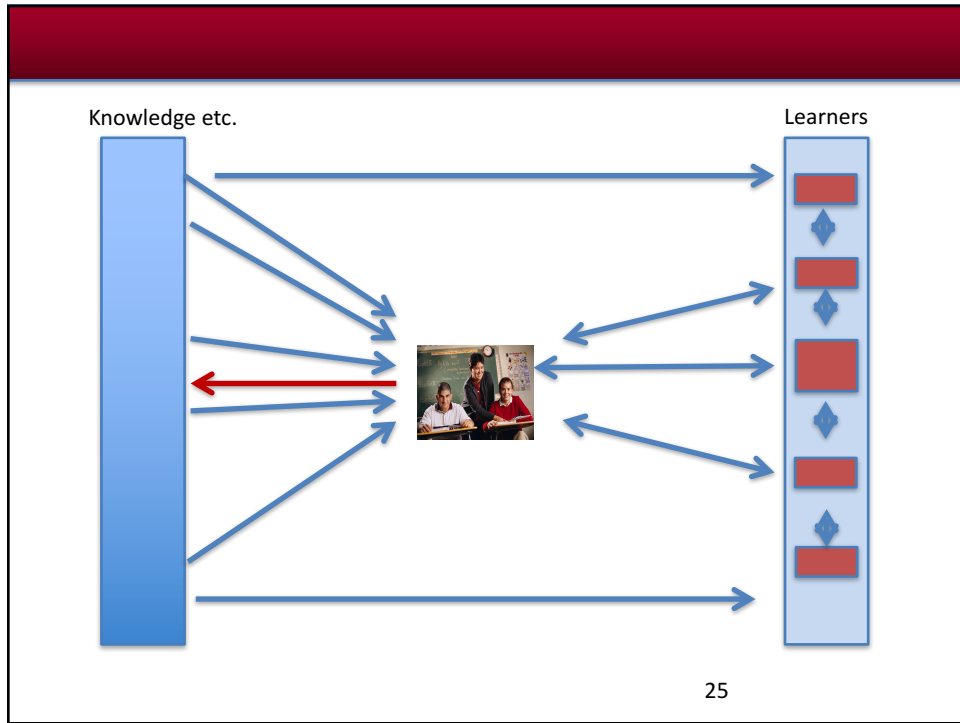
Open learning in a digital age

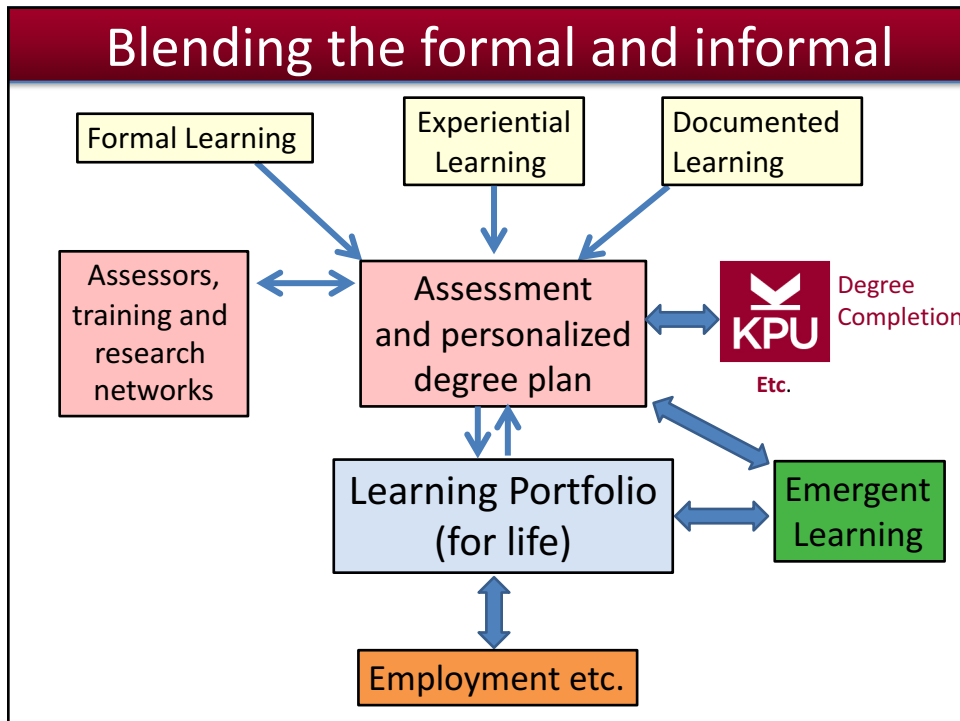
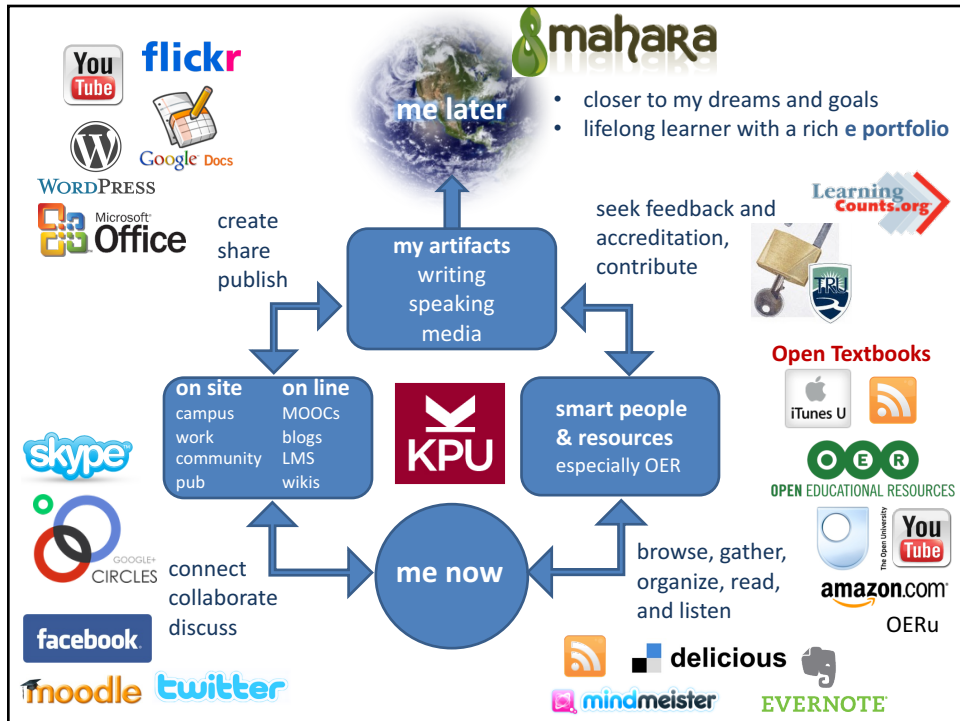
The concept of open learning has expanded with the ubiquity of the Web to include:

- open content and resources and texts;
- open software;
- open networks and seminars for professional development and training; and
- open access journals









North Arizona University

Personalized Learning

<http://pl.nau.edu/>

NORTHERN
ARIZONA
UNIVERSITY



*Extended
Campuses*

“With Personalized Learning, we are opening a new era in academic instruction at NAU. This program is a huge step toward transforming our institution through technology.”

–John Haeger, President

KPU Complete

Diane Purvey



- Geared toward working adults struggling to balance jobs, families, and education
- Develop flexible pathways for degree completion
- Recognize formal, informal, and experiential learning

KPU Complete

- PLAR: MOU with TRU
- BA degree advisor
- Bachelor of General Studies
- Reduce residency requirements (to 10%?); change 10 year rule
- Blended and online learning opportunities
- Weekend and evening studies
- OERs

KPU Complete

- Your thoughts?
- What else do we need to do?

Get the Report

<https://our.kpu.ca/sites/sem/SitePages/Home.aspx>






Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) Planning

The purpose of this site is to share information on the development of KPU's first SEM plan.

SEM planning is a systematic, collaborative, evidence-based, cyclical process that is tied to strategic, academic and budget plans. It covers both recruitment and retention, with the focus on student success. The resulting plan serves as a roadmap for the achievement of the institution's priorities and strategic goals. For more information about the SEM planning process at KPU, see the 'SEM Planning at KPU' folder below. For more information about SEM in general, see the 'SEM Articles' folder below.

Information about SEM

[+ new document](#) or drag files here

| ✓ |  Name | Modified | Modified By |
|---|---|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| |  KPU SEM Plans | ... June 11, 2015 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lori McElroy |
| |  Research Reports | ... About a minute ago | <input type="checkbox"/> Lori McElroy |
| |  SEM Articles | ... March 20, 2015 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lori McElroy |
| |  SEM Planning at KPU | ... March 20, 2015 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lori McElroy |

Get the Report

<https://our.kpu.ca/sites/sem/SitePages/Home.aspx>

1. Click on “Research Reports” and you will find:



2017_Needs of Mature Learners FINAL June 6 2017 ✱

2. Double-click and the PDF will open