Credit for Prior Learning is a hot topic across the higher education landscape. With adult students starting to outnumber traditional students, Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) is becoming an important tool for increasing persistence and decreasing time to graduation.

According the American Council on Education, “many nontraditional students can demonstrate college-level knowledge and competencies. Such learning—gained from experiences outside postsecondary education—often merits academic credit.” (ACE 2019)

Lehman College has offered credit for prior learning for more than 30 years. However, the opportunity to earn PLA credit has been limited in scope and, importantly, our method for awarding such credit no longer meets the standards of best practice as defined by national educational organizations.

Through Lumina’s “All Learning Counts” initiative, Lehman has been awarded a $10,000 planning grant to examine how we can both update and expand opportunities for prior learning credit. The planning grant will allow us to develop a proposal for a 3 year, $400,000 implementation grant. Lehman faculty are essential to this process. Awarding credit is an academic activity. We hope representatives from all Lehman academic departments will attend this workshop. Should we receive the implementation grant, we anticipate that practices will be developed to honor the work of faculty who become trained PLA evaluators through monetary compensation or release time.

Dr. Nan Travers, Director for the Center for Leadership in Credentialing Learning (CL2) and Dr. Susan Oaks, Professor, Arts and Humanities, both from SUNY Empire State College will lead this workshop and present current methods of evaluating PLA that are academically rigorous, and reflect the College’s values of integrity, inquiry, creativity, and diversity.

Workshop will take place in the Faculty Dining Room. Breakfast and coffee will be served.