

# Capital Area VESL Project: *Concurrent Training Equals Success*

Presented by:

Tamara Atkinson, Deputy Director  
WorkSource – Greater Austin Area  
Workforce Board

[Tamara.atkinson@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:Tamara.atkinson@twc.state.tx.us)

# Snapshot of Our Project

Partners: Rural Capital Area Workforce Development Board, Austin Community College (ACC), Health Industry Steering Council

Business Partners: Seton Family of Hospitals, St. David's Healthcare, Austin Capital Area Dental Society

Training Focus: Administrative Assistants (AA) and Dental Assistants (DA)

# Student Recruitment



- Basic WIA eligible
- Best Plus Level 4
- College ready
- Motivated to go to work and learn

115 partially screened;  
50 pre-assessed;  
40 enrolled

***Over 22 different languages spoken!***

# Project Approach

- Understand employers' needs for bilingual and diverse workforce.
- Recruit and assess participants from community ESL student population.
- Refine curriculum through coordinated lesson plans, pre-teaching concepts, and co-teaching.

# Project Approach, continued

1. Incorporate technology throughout training. AA meets in computer lab. DA use radiology equip, state of the art technology, and office management procedures.
2. Emphasize and support workforce readiness.



## What We've Learned So Far

**Challenge: The Admin Assistant class was large and some students needed extra help.**

Remedy: Provided a tutor to keep those from falling behind with coursework.

**Challenge: We needed to convince students that they could handle college coursework.**

Remedy: Concurrent instruction = incremental confidence building.

## Outcomes to date

- **Administrative Assistants** – 20 enrolled; 20 retained and expected to complete class
- **Dental Assistants** – 20 enrolled; 18 retained and passed mid-term exam
- Employer partners connected to students
- Job readiness preparation is strong
- Two new courses that outlive grant time period