

Capital Area Vocational ESL Project: *A Model for Training Bi-lingual Workers*

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Language Skills in Travis County

- 32% of Travis County residents speak a language other than English at home
- 42% speak English “less than very well”
- The trend of residents speaking a language other than English has increased from 29% in 2000 to 32% in 2006

Opportunity to build on success

- In 2007, ACC created a concurrent ESL / Certified Nursing Assistant training program
- The first “VESL” project trained 6 students; the second 8; the third 12; all entered employment or further medical training at ACC
- *WorkSource* and ACC saw an opportunity to expand training to other occupational areas
- Texas Workforce Commission grant, \$143,014.

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: Integrated ESL model with Administrative Assistants (AA) and Dental Assistants (DA)

Project Approach

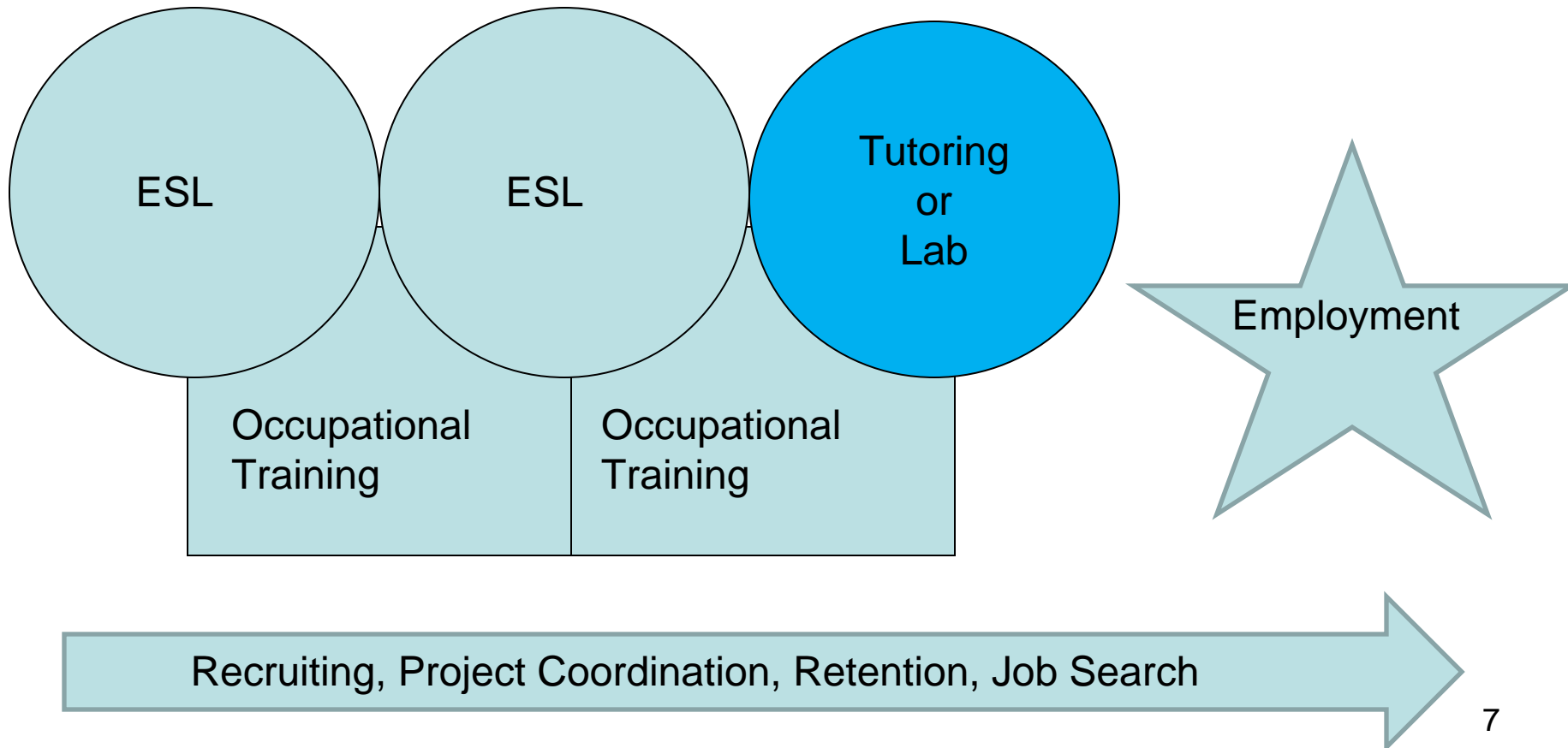
1. Understand employers' needs for bilingual and diverse workforce.
2. Recruit and assess participants from community ESL student population.
3. Refine curriculum through coordinated lesson plans, pre-teaching concepts, and co-teaching.

Success through Smart Partnering

(Each partner focused on what they do best)

- *WorkSource*: Grant writing, fiscal and program administration, workforce connection
- ACC
 - Adult Education: ESL instruction, project coordination
 - Continuing Education: Content Area Instructional programs

Coordinated Teaching Model



Project Approach, continued

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



Outcomes to date

- **Administrative Assistants** – 20 enrolled; 20 completed class and received certificate
- **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

Benefits of this Model

Students: Access to training in high-demand occupational areas with wrap-around support

Employers: Access to pool of bi-lingual talent who are job ready

ACC: Closing the educational gap

WorkSource: Raising the skills of multi-lingual workers to meet employers' current and future needs

