

PLAR STRATEGIC PLAN RENEWAL AND IMPLEMENTATION

Building on the Past!

Building FOR the Future!

Recognizing Learning: Recognizing Skills

6th International PLAR/QR Forum

CAPLA

October 15 – 18, 2006



RED RIVER COLLEGE
OF APPLIED ARTS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Presentation Overview


1. Introduction
2. Building on the Past
3. Building for the Future – A Plan of Action
4. PLAR Strategic Plan Self Assessment and Action Planning
5. Highlights of achievements
6. Moving forward ~ the future





Why a PLAR Strategic Plan?

- an operational framework for the future
- a foundation for continuing action
- a direction for accomplishing goals and outcomes
- benefits of the planning process
- a critical link to other RRC initiatives and Strategic Plans
- the guide for PLAR development, integration, implementation and expansion
- a tool for evaluation of outcomes and process



What do we mean by PLAR at Red River College?

- recognition of prior learning that is equivalent to College course/program outcomes
 - formal learning
 - assessment of educational documents
 - informal learning from work and life experience
 - a variety of flexible assessment practices including portfolio/evidence collection
 - non formal learning
 - assessment of external courses/programs from workplace, community organizations etc.



Ensuring good PLAR practice

- 14 National PLAR Guidelines (CLFDB 1997)
- Ten Quality Standards (CAEL 1989)
- National Benchmarks for PLAR Practitioners (CAPLA 2000)
- PLAR Practitioner DACUM (Manitoba) 2001
- PLAR Policies, Procedures, System, Processes, Training, Professional Development.



PLAR System Design ↔ PLAR Strategic Plan

- early PLAR in College programs ~ 1980
- PLAR office ~ 1995
- PLAR Strategic Plan (1999-2004)
- PLAR Progress Report (Jan 2005)
- Strategic Plan Review and Renewal Process (2005)
- PLAR Strategic and Operational Plan (2005-2010)



PLAR Strategic Plan Review and Renewal Process

- PLAR Strategic Plan (1999-2004) Progress Report
- External scan – 16 colleges
- Challenges and Opportunities sessions
- Learner focus group
- PLAR Vision session
- Link to RRC Strategic Plan, Research, reports



PLAR Strategic Plan Review and Renewal Process

Assessing our Progress – Challenges and Opportunities Sessions

- conducted 3 sessions
- Challenges identified and options to address the challenges
- Opportunities identified and options to capitalize on the opportunities
- Results compiled for each session and distributed
- Similar categories identified in all 3 groups



PLAR Strategic Plan Review and Renewal Process

Assessing our Progress ~ Listening to Learners

- Feedback from Learners:

A Second Cross Canada Study on PLAR (2003)

- Learner Focus Group
- Other research reports



PLAR Strategic Plan Review and Renewal Process

Developing a new PLAR Vision

- development of a new vision for integration, implementation and expansion of PLAR at RRC
- the Vision process
- creation and approval of the PLAR Strategic and Operational Plan 2005 - 2010

PLAR Strategic and Operational Plan (2005 -2010)

Vision

PLAR is an integral part of RRC services and programs for learners, College faculty and staff and the external community. The College is recognized in Manitoba and beyond as a leader in quality and excellence in PLAR practice.



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PLAR Strategic and Operational Plan (2005 -2010)

Key Stakeholders

- Learners
- College Staff, Faculty and Administration
- External – Business, Industry and Community

6 Goals

- outcomes, actions, timelines and leadership



PLAR Strategic and Operational Plan (2005 -2010)

Goal 1 Communication

The College will clearly and consistently communicate about PLAR to ensure access to PLAR practices, policies and processes for all stakeholders.

- 3 Outcomes with specific actions



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PLAR Strategic and Operational Plan (2005 -2010)

Goal 2 Quality in PLAR

The College will ensure that programs include PLAR as an integral part of curriculum development, assessment and delivery and apply best practice guidelines to ensure quality PLAR standards, processes and practices.

- **5 Outcomes with specific actions**





PLAR Strategic and Operational Plan (2005 – 2010)

Goal 3 Staff Development

The College will ensure that staff will be knowledgeable and skilled in PLAR standards, processes and practices through access to training and resources to ensure quality practice.

- 4 Outcomes with specific actions

PLAR Strategic and Operational Plan (2005 -2010)

Goal 4 Systems Coordination

The College will ensure system coordination for PLAR standards, processes and practices across programs and services using the College information systems to record, track, access and disseminate internal and external PLAR information and transactions.

- 2 Outcomes with specific actions



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PLAR Strategic and Operational Plan (2005 -2010)

Goal 5 Resources and Cost to Access PLAR

The College will dedicate resources to ensure PLAR is an integral part of the way we “do business” for the benefit of all stakeholders, in order to provide PLAR standards, processes and practices that are cost effective and efficient.

- 2 Outcomes with specific actions



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PLAR Strategic and Operational Plan (2005 -2010)

Goal 6 Partnerships

The College will pursue partnerships and collaborate with regulatory and accrediting bodies, other educational institutions, business, industry and PLAR organizations at the local, provincial, national and international level to advance quality PLAR practice. The College will advance its leadership role in PLAR practice.

- **6 Outcomes with specific actions**



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The background of the slide features a close-up photograph of a thin, dark brown branch with several dried, pressed leaves. The leaves are a mix of brown and tan colors, showing natural textures and veins. The overall background has a warm, yellowish-tan hue with subtle, organic patterns.

PLAR Strategic Plan Self-Assessment and Action Planning

- Discussion groups

RRC PLAR Strategic Plan 2005-2010 Implementation

How are we doing? What have we accomplished?
Some highlights for each goal.

1. Communication
2. Quality in PLAR
3. Staff Development
4. System Coordination
5. Resources and Cost to Access PLAR
6. Partnerships

1.Communication

Examples:

- PLAR Advising – one stop Student Service Centre
- RRC website – PLAR- increased visibility
- PLAR Program Designates



2. Quality in PLAR

Examples:

- PLAR Learner Resource Guides
- generic PLAR guide for customization in all Co-op Work Experience Programs
- PLAR on “AIR” – one stop online shop for PLAR

PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT AND RECOGNITION (PLAR)

TEACHER EDUCATION

CERTIFICATE IN ADULT EDUCATION

PLAR RESOURCE GUIDE

Course Name:

COURSE DEVELOPMENT

Course Hours: 35

Course Number: B24-T044



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**2055 Notre Dame Ave.
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June 2005



Anytime/Anywhere Instructor Resource

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Featured...

Instructor Resources

Academic Integrity

How can an instructor attempt to control dishonesty?



Assessment Resources

Assessment is made easier when you use the proper tools!

PLAR @ RRC

What do faculty need to know about PLAR? It is all here

the website for...

Red River College Instructors

[Site Maps](#) | [Feedback](#)

Faculty Academic Advising

Recently, the RRC College Council has recognized the significant benefit of Academic Advising to student retention and success. Learn more about Academic advising and your role as an

3. Staff Development

Examples:

- PLAR resources on Anytime/Anywhere Instructor Resource (AIR)
- PLAR Professional development and training – PLAR Foundation, PLAR Practitioner (advanced) Courses, Professional Portfolio Courses
- PLAR in the RRC Certificate and Adult Education



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Anytime/Anywhere Instructor Resource



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**Prior Learning
Assessment and
Recognition**

**PLAR Process for
Learners**

[PLAR FAQ](#)

[PLAR Process](#)

[PLAR Process Flow
Diagram](#)

[PLAR Brochure](#)

[PLAR Orientation for
Learners](#)

[PLAR Information
Package for Learners](#)

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Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition

At RRC, Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition (PLAR) is a process in which individuals have the opportunity to obtain credit for college-level knowledge and skills gained through work and life and/or through other educational programs.

PLAR@RRC
Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition

This AIR Web Resource is divided into three main sections:

What do your Learners need to know about PLAR?

Resources include PLAR FAQ, Process, Flow Diagram, Brochure, Orientation for Learners, Information package for Learners, Application Forms, Fees, Portfolio Development and Contact List. [Go now!](#)

What do Faculty and Staff need to know about PLAR?

PLAR Professional Development

PLAR Professional Development, Training and Courses

Portfolio Development

PLAR Practitioner Skills Inventory

PLAR Faculty Resources

PLAR Manuals

PLAR Research

PLAR Reports

PLAR Contacts

PLAR Links

PLAR in CAE

PLAR in CAE

- [How will PLAR credit be awarded on a transcript?](#)
- [Where can students access information about PLAR?](#)
- [Is there a PLAR Appeal Process?](#)
- [What standards and policies has the College set for PLAR?](#)

Do you need assistance with PLAR?

If you or your learners need assistance and advising in PLAR please contact the RRC PLAR Advisor, Lauren Waples at 632 8044 or lwaples@rrc.mb.ca. Lauren's office is in the Student Service Centre in Building 3101 at the Notre Dame campus.

If you need assistance with PLAR resources, professional development and training in PLAR, development of PLAR systems and resources in College Programs etc, please contact Deb Blower, PLAR Facilitator at 632 2065 or dblower@rrc.mb.ca. Deb's office is in Building C-519 at the Notre Dame campus.

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What is Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)?

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR), is a process in which individuals have the opportunity to obtain credit for college-level knowledge and skills gained outside the classroom and/or through other educational programs. It is a process which compares an individual's prior learning gained from prior education, work and life experiences and personal study to the learning





4. Systems Coordination

Examples:

- PLAR on AIR – SCORE
- PLAR statistics and reporting
- New integrated College system for Human Resources, Student Services and Financial Services



5.Resources and Cost to Access PLAR

Examples:

- PLAR Fee Range Guidelines review
- development \$\$\$ for PLAR resources in Programs

6. Partnerships


Examples:

- Research - ALFI
 - RPL for Immigrants
- National delivery of PLAR training courses
- Credit recognition process for workplace training



Building FOR the future ~ Tips for Moving Forward

- Communicate, communicate, communicate
- Start where there is the greatest potential for success
Produce results and communicate
- There must be a recognized reason for PLAR practices
- Make a commitment with some dedicated resources
- Have a vision and planned strategy (and stick to it)
- Build champions - faculty, staff, administrators – you will need them!

- 
- Build on what faculty/staff already know/do re: PLAR
 - Be proactive/get ready for PLAR ~ develop resources for learners! (and staff !)
 - Integrate PLAR based on need/demand into all areas, programs and activities
 - Include PLAR beginning with curriculum design and development through to program implementation
 - Ensure quality practice through PLAR training, professional development and resources for staff
 - Involve faculty/staff in their own PLAR for life long learning
 - Share successes across the organization and have fun !



Questions?

Thank You!

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