

## **Paxen's Accelerated GED Programs Outperform Adult Basic Education**

*Using Paxen's New Programs, 88.9% of Students Earn GED in Just Three Weeks*



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*Melbourne, Florida* – More than 1,200 educators from 40 countries attending the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Hawaii International Conference on Education (HICE) earlier this month learned how revolutionary new programs, developed by a Melbourne-based educational services company, Paxen Learning, are helping students earn their GED (General Education Development) credential at a much higher success rate, and in a fraction of the time, than other established programs.

Kathleen M. Bartlett, MA, an instructor for the Florida Institute of Technology, and Marsha J. Valutis, PhD, a private industrial/organizational psychology consultant, coauthored the research study "GED Success in Three Weeks or Less: A Response to Intervention Model for Adult Learners" for presentation at HICE and subsequent publication in the *Conference Proceedings*. The study details how researchers at Paxen Learning have developed a highly successful hybrid instructional model, based on the pedagogical principal of Response to Intervention, that has proven to identify and remediate missing skills in adult learners, even those who have experienced chronic educational failure, so that they can achieve GED success within three weeks.

The instructional model's success takes aim at a growing national problem – educating adults who failed to obtain a high school diploma. Currently, more than 1.23 million U.S. students fail to graduate annually. That lack of education too often translates into employment instability, poverty, and worse, social deviancy: 75% of state prison inmates and 59% of federal inmates are dropouts.

And even though obtaining a GED can increase income-earning potential by an estimated \$4,000 per year, only one of every 100 adults who lack a high school diploma attempts and passes the GED tests.

Paxen's programs deconstruct the learning into small steps and then incorporate frequent assessments and individually tailored interventions for targeted skill building. Instead of

being content-focused, instruction is student-focused, using team-teaching to identify and overcome individual skill gaps. Curriculum is delivered at a brisk pace, making it a priority for students to amalgamate past knowledge with new knowledge.

Although they rely on the same instructional model, Paxen's programs are currently delivered as separate offerings. *GED Xcelerator* is delivered under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) in community settings at several sites within the state of Georgia, and *GED Plus* is delivered in partnership with the National Guard Bureau at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

In combination, the programs so far have enabled 88.9% of students to pass all GED Tests after just three weeks of instruction, compared to a national success rate of 70% over a minimum preparation time of three months.

Such success is nothing new to Paxen, which has delivered outcome-based educational programs for more than 25 years. The private, for-profit company, headquartered in Melbourne, Florida, with offices in Tallahassee, Florida, and Maui, Hawaii, specializes in accelerated education, training, and curriculum for at-risk youth and adults.

Currently, Paxen operates 25 programs in 10 states. Its clients and partners include the American Hotel and Lodging Association, Blackboard, Department of Defense, Department of Juvenile Justice, Indiana University High School, Home Builders Institute, National Guard Bureau, The Florida and Hawaii National Guards, state Departments of Labor, and local Workforce Investment Boards.

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