A QUALITATIVE EXPLORATION OF THE BUSINESS OF PRIOR LEARNING AT PUBLIC FOUR-YEAR REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES

This study collected and examined the beliefs, opinions, and perceptions of Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) at three public universities in Washington and Oregon. This study used a qualitative multiple case study design and provided the opportunity to compare data collected on each campus and also across the three campuses collectively. Through semi-structured interviews, non-academic and academic leaders were asked to share their beliefs, opinions, and perceptions of PLA. Academic capitalism was a conceptual framework used to critically examine and evaluate PLA practices of each campus. The findings of this study provided useful insight for other public four-year colleges and universities that are or considering implementing some form of PLA as a tactic to recruit adult learners.