

Berks Technical Institute

Higher Education

English Language Foundations



Education



Preparing students for technical programs

Challenge

Berks Technical Institute (BTI), established in 1982 and accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS), awards certificates, diplomas, and Associate Degrees to students. BTI needed a technology solution to complement classroom instruction for their English Language Foundations (ELF) classes. BTI wanted a program to support students as they acquired the skills for mainstream programs, externship experiences, and overall workplace success upon graduation. They sought a solution that would focus on the development of reading and writing skills and, most importantly, increase oral communication skills and build speaking confidence inside and outside the classroom.

Implementation

In 2013, BTI implemented a blended solution using Rosetta Stone® Foundations for Higher Education (formerly TOTALe® PRO) and the English Language Foundations (ELF) classes. The Rosetta Stone online solution offered interactive lessons, conversations with native-speaking tutors, and access to engaging activities aligned with the existing curriculum to provide:

- Blended instruction with six hours in the classroom and six hours in the program per week for a nine-credit-hour course
- Live tutoring sessions to practice speaking skills
- Worksheets and tests tied to lessons for reading and writing skill development
- Leveled content for beginner to intermediate learners
- Remedial supplement for intermediate learners with gaps in skills

Benefits

BTI realized several benefits as a result of the Rosetta Stone implementation, including:

- Enhanced development of all language skills
- Increased speaking confidence in and out of the classroom
- Increase in students meeting outcomes for course completion
- Greater engagement after online tutoring sessions



Berks Technical Institute

"BTI is committed to students demonstrating true language acquisition. By using Rosetta Stone in the classroom, students are no longer fearful of having conversations in English."

Isabel Monterrosa,
Program Director

Communication Skills Focus

BTI successfully blended the Rosetta Stone® Foundations solution into classroom instruction. Prior to implementing the Rosetta Stone solution, BTI found that students were passing reading and writing requirements but were unsuccessful in developing the necessary speaking skills. This was evident by students' lack of ability to speak effectively in the workplace, especially when they participated in externships. With the solution in place, students gained the opportunity to build speaking skills by using the program in a lab environment every week for six hours. This was in addition to the six hours per week they spent with direct instruction. Teachers noticed an increase in student confidence to speak the language both inside and outside the classroom. Practicing language in the program, as well as in the classroom, increased speaking skills and allowed students to meet minimum language requirements of the ELF classes. BTI found that course completion rates in the blended environment were higher versus classroom instruction alone.

Creating an Assessment Plan

The ELF classes allowed learners to prepare for mainstream courses at BTI. With the Rosetta Stone solution, BTI created an assessment plan that:

- Prescribed minimum weekly progress in the program
- Required 80% pass rate in a test booklet of lesson content
- Required weekly live tutoring sessions to assess oral skills
- Extended assessment to an end-of-course, oral presentation to peers
- Administered the Combined English Language Skills Assessment

The ELF classes have seen an overall increase in student course completion after implementing blended learning.

Implementing for Success

A key to BTI's successful implementation was providing a prescriptive approach to both the use of the program and classroom instruction. With a focus on differentiation, BTI utilized many learning modalities such as classroom instruction, textbook activities, online program instruction, live tutoring sessions, and interactive games and activities. BTI found learners engaged and motivated to learn English and practice with others to fine-tune their skills. In addition, BTI monitors learner progress and constantly seeks program improvement. Through redefining the "recipe for success" based on experience, BTI continues to enhance program offerings and drive towards greater learner success.

"Berks County's largest city, Reading, is 58% Latino. The key to revitalizing our communities involves a commitment to education. By providing English Language Foundation programs that precede our career education programs, we are able to enhance the success of our non-English-speaking students. We partnered with Rosetta Stone to develop a blended curriculum that allows our classroom instruction to be delivered in a way that provides quantifiable and measurable outcomes for our students."

Joseph Reichard, Senior Campus Director



About Berks Technical Institute

Berks Technical Institute, established in 1982, is located in Wyomissing, Pennsylvania on the outskirts of Reading, PA. BTI is a Career College that helps our students succeed by providing career education training with Associate Degrees and diploma programs in fields such as Healthcare, Business, Information Technology, Criminal Justice, Education, Massage, and Skilled Trades. Our beautiful eight-acre campus features a modern 63,500 square foot building that is well suited for our 1,000 students and staff of 150.

The primary focus of all programs at BTI is to prepare our students for direct entry into the specific field in which they are being trained. We are proud of our staff and faculty for their commitment to our students' success as measured by employment.

 www.berks.edu

About Rosetta Stone

Rosetta Stone is a global leader in technology-driven language and learning solutions for individuals, classrooms, and entire organizations.

Our scalable, interactive solutions have been used by over 12,000 businesses, 9,000 public sector organizations, and 22,000 education institutions worldwide, and by millions of learners in over 150 countries.



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