### Timeline: Thirty-Five Years of Prior Learning Assessment: 1973 to 2008

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| 1973 (and earlier) | ◆ Commission on Non-Traditional Study  
◆ Office of External Degree Programs (ETS)  
◆ Preliminary meeting of Carnegie Corporation/ETS to discuss need for standardized process to assess non-classroom learning |
| 1974 | ◆ Ten task force institutions° and ETS launch CAEL Project (CAEL I) with Carnegie funding  
◆ Field research begins—54 institutions  
◆ 182 Institutions join CAEL in the first year  
◆ First CAEL National Conference to disseminate early research findings (214 attendees) |
| 1974 to 1977 | ◆ ETS-based CAEL Project (CAEL I)  
◆ Produced 27 publications (handbooks and guides for students and faculty; annotated bibliographies, *Principles of Good Practice in Experiential Learning* (Willingham) and 50+ working papers, institutional reports, and special project reports  
◆ Conducted 6 national conferences to disseminate research findings among the members  
◆ Conducted operational (implementation) models research (12 institutions)  
◆ Conducted Faculty Development Program (12 institutions)  
◆ 270 institutional members at end of CAEL I |
| 1977 | ◆ CAEL II operates independently of ETS  
◆ Incorporates as 501(c)(3) and relocates to Maryland with Morris Keeton as Executive Director |
| 1979 | ◆ American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), American Council on Education (ACE), and Council for Higher Education Accreditation endorse PLA and CAEL principles |
| 1978 | ◆ Kellogg-funded Institutional Development Program (IDP) launched by CAEL |
| 1981 | ◆ National PLA Survey conducted by CAEL resulting in the publication of *Wherever You Learned It: A Directory of Opportunities for Educational Credit* (McIntyre)—five regional volumes containing data from 530 institutions that had portfolio programs |
| 1982 | ◆ A collection of institutional models of student portfolios—*Creditable Portfolios: Dimensions in Diversity* (Rydell) published by CAEL |
| 1984 | ◆ National PLA Survey conducted by CAEL; 1,493 institutions responded—552 (37 percent) indicated use of portfolio assessment method |
| 1985 | ◆ First edition of *Earn College Credit for What You Know* (Simosko) published by CAEL |

(continues)
**Timeline: Thirty-Five Years of Prior Learning Assessment: 1973 to 2008 (continued)**

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| 1990 | ♦ Pamela Tate assumes presidency of CAEL; CAEL headquarters relocate to Chicago, Illinois  
♦ PLA remains at the core of CAEL's agenda while the organization expands outreach to, and services for, adult learners through workforce development programs |
| 1991 | ♦ National PLA survey conducted by CAEL resulting in the publication of *Prior Learning Assessment: Results of a Nationwide Institutional Survey* (Fugate and Chapman); 1,736 institutions responded  
♦ Second edition of *Earn College Credit for What You Know* (Lamdin) published by CAEL |
| 1996 | ♦ National PLA survey conducted by CAEL resulting in the publication of *Prior Learning Assessment: A Guidebook to American Institutional Practices* (Zucker, Johnson, and Flint); 1,181 institutions responded and indicated some PLA practices were in place at their institutions  
♦ Third edition of *Earn College Credit for What You Know* (Lamdin) published by CAEL |
| 2000 | ♦ CAEL launched on-line PLA verification program in collaboration with DePaul University |
| 2001 | ♦ The American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, American Council on Education, and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation reissued endorsement of PLA and CAEL standards |
| 2006 | ♦ Fourth edition of *Earn College Credit for What You Know* (Colvin) published by CAEL  
♦ Second edition of *Assessing Learning: Standards, Principles and Procedures* (Fiddler, Marienau, and Whitaker) published by CAEL  
♦ National survey of PLA policies and practices conducted by CAEL |

*The following ten task forces institutions together with ETS formed the first CAEL project. (Those shown in italics have portfolio samples in this book.)*

- Antioch College (now University)
- **Community College of Vermont**
- El Paso Community College
- **Empire State College**
- Florida International University
- Framingham State College
- Minnesota Metropolitan State College
- **New College, University of Alabama**
- San Francisco State College
- Thomas A. Edison College