Supplemental Report: 1.3: Increase annual attainment of certificates, apprenticeships and degrees from 72,000 to 149,000 by 2023

Reported: Nov. 7, 2016

1.3 INCREASE ANNUAL ATTAINMENT OF CERTIFICATES, APPRENTICESHIPS, AND DEGREES

Washington Student Achievement Council

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November 7, 2016
Background:

- 2/3 of job openings require a year or more of postsecondary education

- Education is critical to individual success and a vibrant and innovative economy

- Increasing educational opportunity ensures Washingtonians are able to compete for the best jobs

Current State: Needs Improvement

- Progress Goal

Degree awards are not on pace to meet the target.

- Total awards increased by less than 1% in the past three years.
- Decline of over 800 long-term certificate awards over past three years (-7.3%).
- Bachelor’s and Associate Awards have increased only slightly in the past three years (+2.2% combined rate).

### Postsecondary Completion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postsecondary Completion All Institutions, All Award Types</th>
<th>2013-14 Awards</th>
<th>% Change 2012-2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>73,469</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificates (at least a year)</td>
<td>10,162</td>
<td>-7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Degrees</td>
<td>29,998</td>
<td>+2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s Degrees</td>
<td>33,309</td>
<td>+1.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Problem: Gaps in Attainment Persist

Attainment gaps persist for certain populations.
- Hispanic population is overrepresented among those with less than a high school diploma and underrepresented at all other levels of educational attainment.
- Black, American Indian, and Pacific Islander populations are also underrepresented among college graduates.

Opportunity: Adults with some college will benefit from further education

- Nearly 800,000 adults in Washington ages 25-44 have a high school diploma but have not completed a college degree and are not enrolled.
- One-third of these adults have attended at least a year of college.
- Finishing their college credential would improve career earnings and employment outcomes.

1.2 million Washingtonians ages 25-44 are not enrolled and do not have a degree.

400,000 have some college credit, but no degree.

Close to 300,000 have over a year of college credit, but no degree.
Strategies:

- **Affordability**
  - Make higher education more affordable
  - Expand state financial aid programs, including fully funding the State Need Grant program.
  - Maintain full funding for the College Bound Scholarship.
  - Provide ample funding for higher education.
  - Maintain a stable and predictable tuition policy.

- **Readiness**
  - Improve college and career readiness
  - Increase dual-credit opportunities.
  - Invest in guidance, and proven high school completion efforts.

- **Completion**
  - Increase college completion
  - Fund successful student support programs.
  - Provide opportunity gap innovation grants.
  - Create a plan to recruit and retain adult students.

- **Employment**
  - Ensure graduates can meet workforce demands
  - Expand investments in fields with anticipated workforce shortages.
  - Expand work-based learning through State Work Study.

**Detailed Action Plan**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Task Lead</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Expected Outcome</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop plan to reengage adults with some college</td>
<td>WSAC</td>
<td>SBCTC, COP, ICW, WGU</td>
<td>A statewide framework and plan to reengage adults with some college and no credential.</td>
<td>In Progress</td>
<td>Fall 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement guided pathways design principles at community and technical colleges to increase student retention and completion rates and eliminate equity gaps for underrepresented and low income students.</td>
<td>SBCTC</td>
<td>WACTC, College Spark Washington, Jobs for the Future, University of Texas Austin Dana Center</td>
<td>Successful implementation of guided pathways principles at ten colleges in two phases, five colleges in 2016-21 and five colleges in 2018-23, with professional development and dissemination of practices and evidence for all 34 colleges at least twice a year.</td>
<td>In Progress</td>
<td>Quarterly activity benchmarks through 2023.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assistance Needed:

Support the state's ten-year Roadmap to increase educational attainment:

- Provide ample funding to public institutions to maintain tuition policy and restore student support services
- Expand state financial aid programs
- Target individualized services to close the opportunity gap