WASHINGTON STATE TECH PREP

a few successful things we are doing ...

Summer Impact Institute —

This program offered by Wenatchee Valley College provides credit-deficient minority students an opportunity to make up academic credits toward their high school programs. A separate session is offered with the Tech Prep partnership. The curriculum is intensive career exploration, career assessment and discovery, college discovery skills, workplace skills, school survival skills and life skills. Students receive motivational instruction, and community members participate by speaking about career paths and holding mock job interviews. The high school participants visit college classrooms, and have the opportunity to hear instructors and college students speak about their career and college experiences.

Job Shadow Project —

The eight-year-old Job Shadow Project is one of the best opportunities for local high school students and teachers to go into local businesses to see firsthand the world of work. The program was recognized by the 2002 Legislature in a House Resolution that touted the partnerships and all who are involved in this program. More than 2,000 students and teachers from 14 school districts have taken the opportunity to work directly with 825 businesses in the Yakima area during the course of this program.

"The Tech Prep program saved me tons of time and money!"

— Aaron Potter, Clark College student

Summer Institute for K-12 Teachers —

Each summer, 30 K-12 teachers and counselors in the Puget Sound Careers Consortium spend three days learning about Tech Prep, community college opportunities, and professional-technical programs of study. The program is customized, based on the outcomes of a pre-test of the participants' knowledge of Tech Prep and community colleges. Information covered during the Institute includes: all Tech Prep programs of study, apprenticeships, transfer opportunities, financial aid, registration and placement testing.

G.I.R.L.S. Non-Trad Summer Camp —

Gifted Individuals Realizing Leadership Skills Non-traditional career exploration camp is a four-day camp attended by 20 girls ages 13-14. The girls meet with local and regional professionals to explore non-traditional career paths and interests - fields like science, information technology, law enforcement, operating engineers, surveying, geomatics and much more. Other activities include career exploration and how to match abilities, talents and traits to careers. The girls take personality tests and self-awareness tests, examine their learning styles and participate in the challenge course. The camp was sponsored by the North Olympic Tech Prep Consortium and is free to all participants.

Try-a-Trade —

The Try-a-Trade program was designed to introduce high school teachers, counselors and students to trades-related professions and associated training programs available in the county. The Whatcom County Consortium sponsors this event where high school educators spend a day in the college classroom learning about the curriculum, participating in training activities alongside college students. Following the classroom experience, the teachers spend a day job-shadowing in a business related to the training program they visit. High school students are then given the same opportunity as the teachers: spend a day in the classroom and a day in the workplace.

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In today's job market, most careers require education beyond high school. These jobs demand more knowledge and higher levels of skill. They require people who have solid academics, technical skills, productive work habits, problem-solving skills, communication skills, and the ability to think logically and work in teams. The future workforce needs to learn these skills in college courses, technical schools, internships or other worksite experiences.

Tech Prep gives high school students – the future workforce – a solid foundation for college or other postsecondary education. It gives students access to education, skills and careers that may not have been available otherwise. Through Tech Prep, Washington public schools open the doors of opportunity for students and help prepare them for a successful transition from high school to future education, career opportunities and lifelong learning.

For more information:
Washington State Tech Prep
State Board for Community and Technical Colleges
360-704-4332
www.sbctc.ctc.edu/workforce/techprep.asp or www.techprepwa.org

WASHINGTON TECH PREP

![Washington Tech Prep logo]

Vision

All Tech Prep students are prepared to succeed in a dynamic and technological world.

Mission

Tech Prep provides an articulated, coordinated sequence of learning experiences involving partnerships with secondary and postsecondary education, business, labor, government and communities. Tech Prep enables students to successfully transition among different levels of education and careers.

Five goals have been identified as central to advancing Washington State Tech Prep.

Goal 1 – Accountability

State policy and local consortia planning should reflect an increased emphasis on the use of data and accountability while reducing administrative burden. A uniform data collection and reporting strategy is needed to demonstrate results, initiate improvements and help ensure long-term sustainability.

Goal 2 – Sustainability

Increasing the capacity for Tech Prep programs to be self-sustaining is an important goal for the state and individual consortia. It is increasingly important to educate and prepare all stakeholders to support and participate in Tech Prep.

Goal 3 – Public Awareness

Increasing public awareness about Tech Prep is an important goal for the state and individual consortia. Strategic public awareness initiatives should result in increased participation rates and broader support for the program.

Goal 4 – Articulation

Articulation is essential to ensuring portability of programs, courses and credits; for linking Tech Prep programs and students with two-year and four-year colleges; and for connecting with K-12 education reforms.

Goal 5 – Standards in the Curriculum

Standards provide a framework for the educational system to incorporate new goals and expectations, and to integrate them into program curricula and assessments. Skill standards provide a method for integrating academic and applied learning across educational systems, increasing connections with business and labor, and establishing benchmarks for program quality.

"Throughout my years of teaching I have seen many of my students become invested in their education through the Tech Prep program. The Tech Prep program starts them on the next phase of their education and shows them that they can succeed in a college setting."
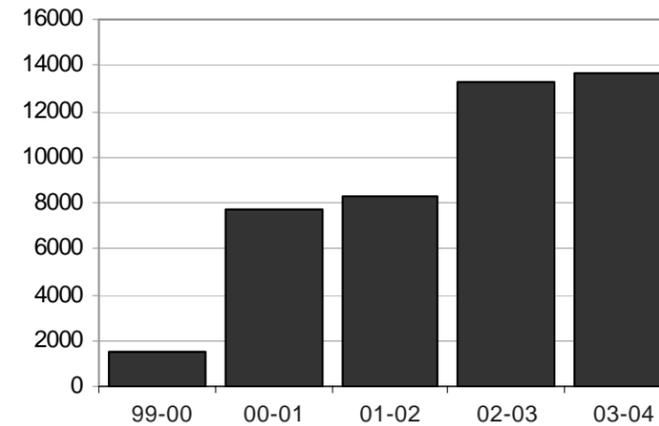
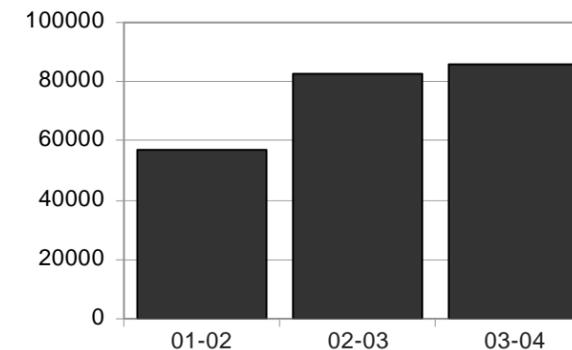**— Shana Scott, Digital Media Technology Instructor, North Olympic Peninsula Skills Center**

WASHINGTON STATE TECH PREP *at-a-glance...*

Number of students earning college credit through Tech Prep

Number of college credits earned through Tech Prep

Building partnerships for success

- Washington Tech Prep is a 2+2 and a 2+2+2 sequence of study, transitioning high school students to postsecondary education.

- There are partnerships with numerous 4-year colleges and universities including public, private and out-of-state institutions.

- All 22 Consortia work with business, education, labor and professional associations. Industry partners discuss needs, workplace competencies, set skill standards and provide work-based learning experiences for students.

- Tech Prep focuses on building partnerships in High Wage-High Demand career fields to narrow the skills gap, benefiting students, employers and communities.

Did you know?

- 13,690 Washington state students earned 86,189 credits through Tech Prep in 2003-04.

- Tech Prep credits contributed a direct savings of $4.6 million to students and their families in 2003-04.

- Since the state bears almost two-thirds of the cost of postsecondary education for students in Washington state, Tech Prep contributed over $12.3 million in savings to taxpayers in 2003-04.

- The average Tech Prep student in 2003-04 earned 6.29 credits, a savings equal to $416.08 in tuition.

- Tech Prep is offered in 334 public high schools through 204 K-12 school districts in Washington.

- There are 22 local consortia of public high schools, postsecondary education institutions and employers.

- Partnerships include all 34 of Washington's public, community and technical colleges.

- More than 5,000 articulation agreements are currently active throughout the state.

- 16 of the 22 consortia use an online registration system. This system has made the registration process far more efficient and accurate. The on-line system simplifies enrollment procedures for students, streamlines the paper process for teachers by allowing them to use an electronic grading system, and makes it possible for local consortia members to access on-line data.

- All 22 consortia offer some level of the Direct/Dual credit process. This process allows students the opportunity to earn both high school AND college credits for course work completed at their high school.

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