



# Project Finish Line: Tools to Strengthen Community College Completion

## Green River College

Sonia Ramirez  
Allison Warner  
Leander Yazzie

## North Seattle College

Aimee Brown  
Juan Gallegos  
Alice Melling

## Seattle Central College

Bo Leong  
Meghan Mayo-Adam

## South Seattle College

Erin Barzen  
Megan Nord

## Puget Sound Educational Service District

Hilary Loeb

## Private Consultant

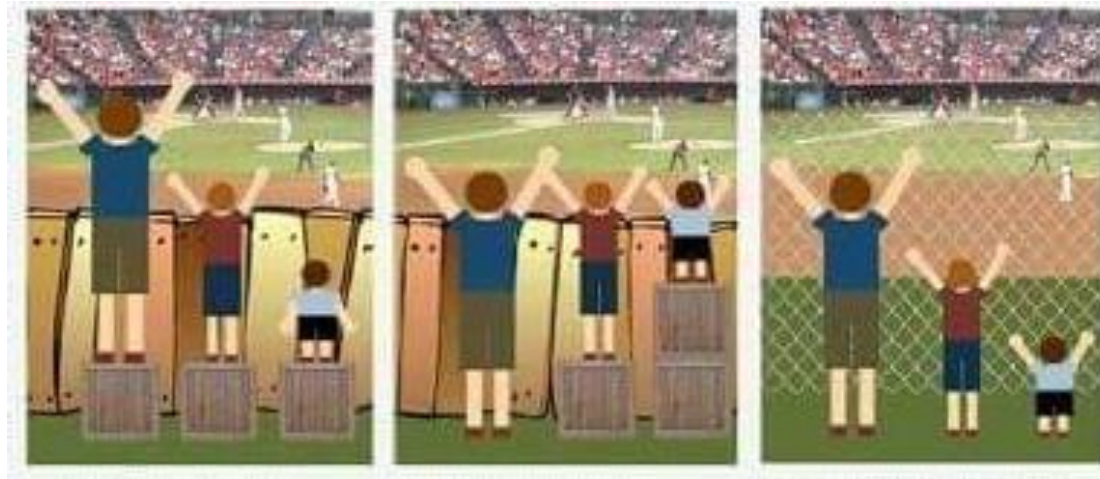
Maureen Pettitt

*Pave the Way Conference  
November 1, 2016*

# Presentation Overview

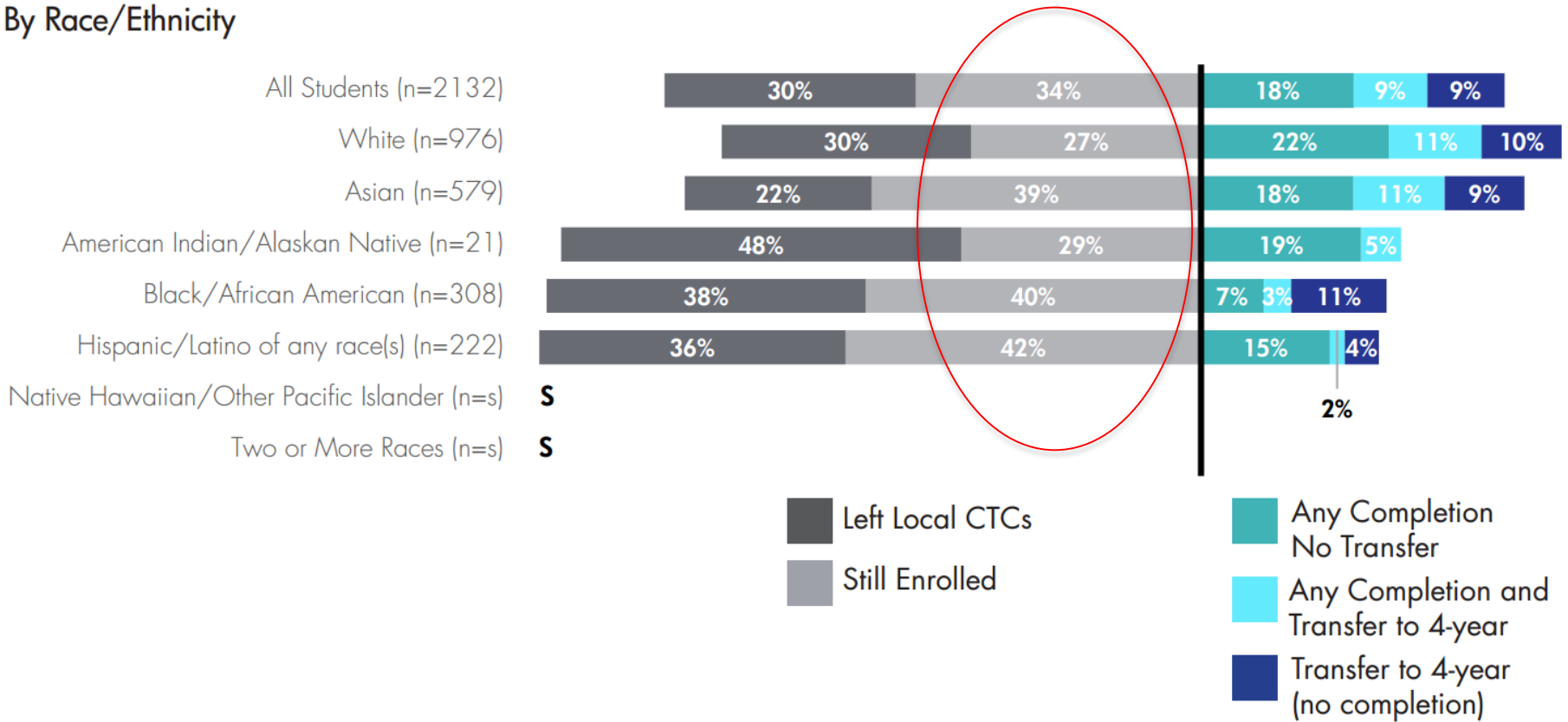
- Introductions
- Rationale for creating a completion culture on our campuses
- Project Finish Line overview
- Rotating small group discussions and debrief
- Closing thoughts

# Rationale for creating a completion culture on our campuses



# Completing a Degree or Transferring to a 4-Year College within Three Years

## By Race/Ethnicity

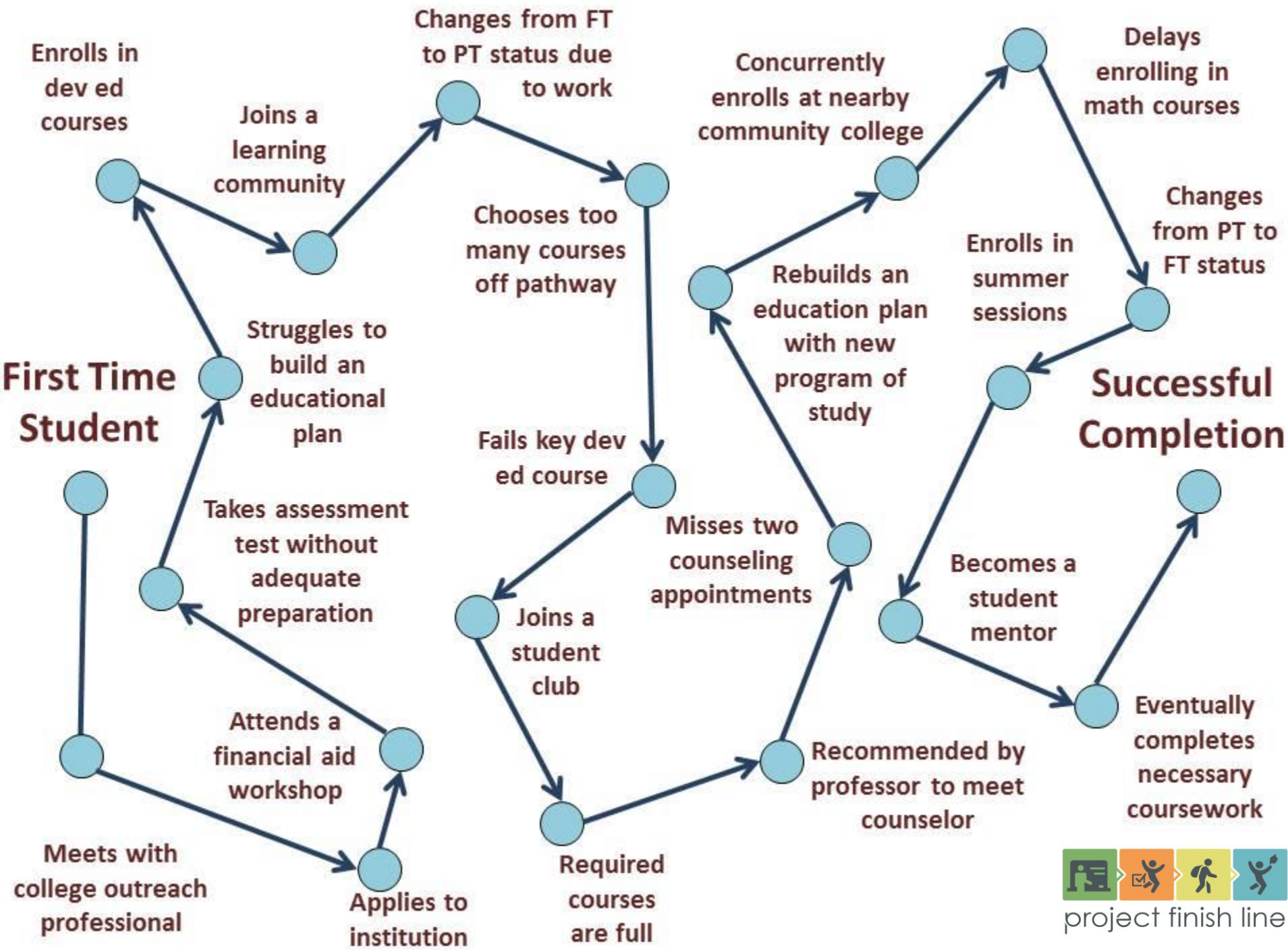


**First Time  
Student**

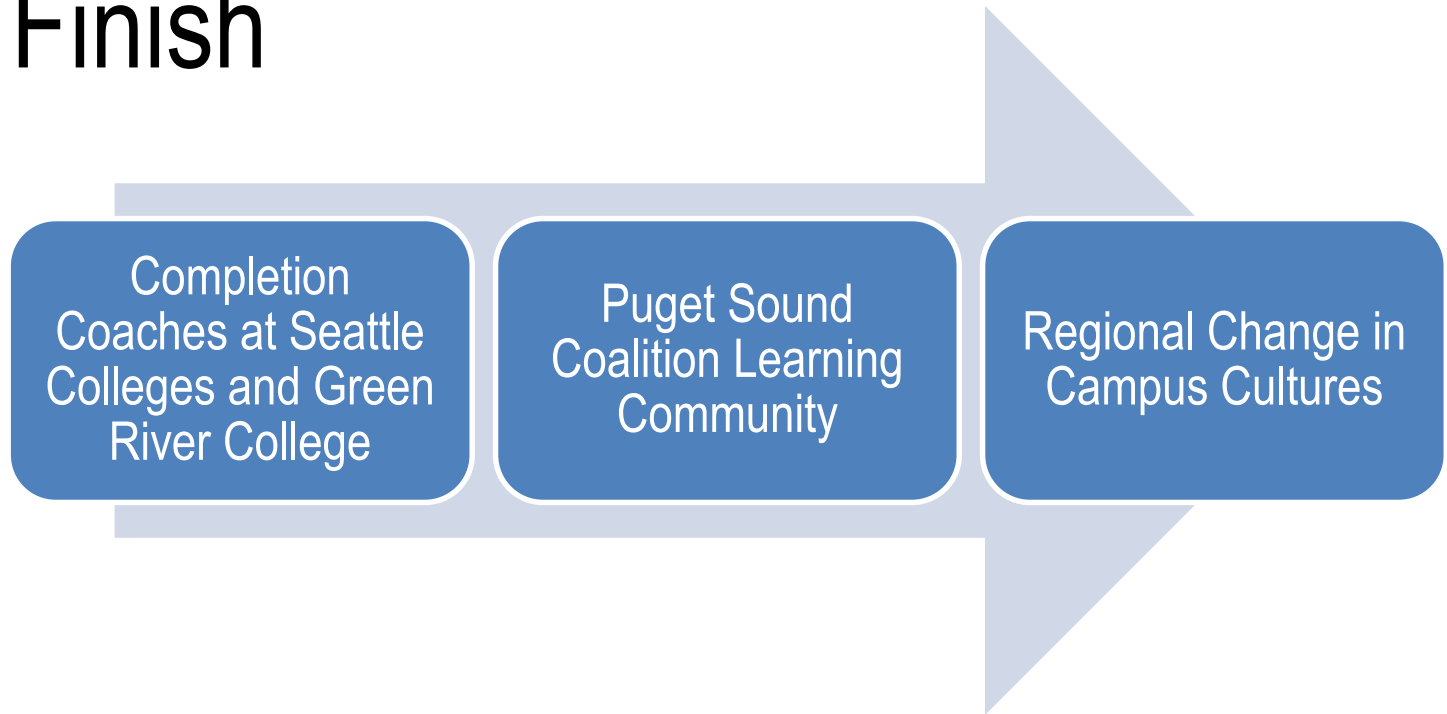
**Successful  
Completion**



project finish line



# What is Project Finish Line?





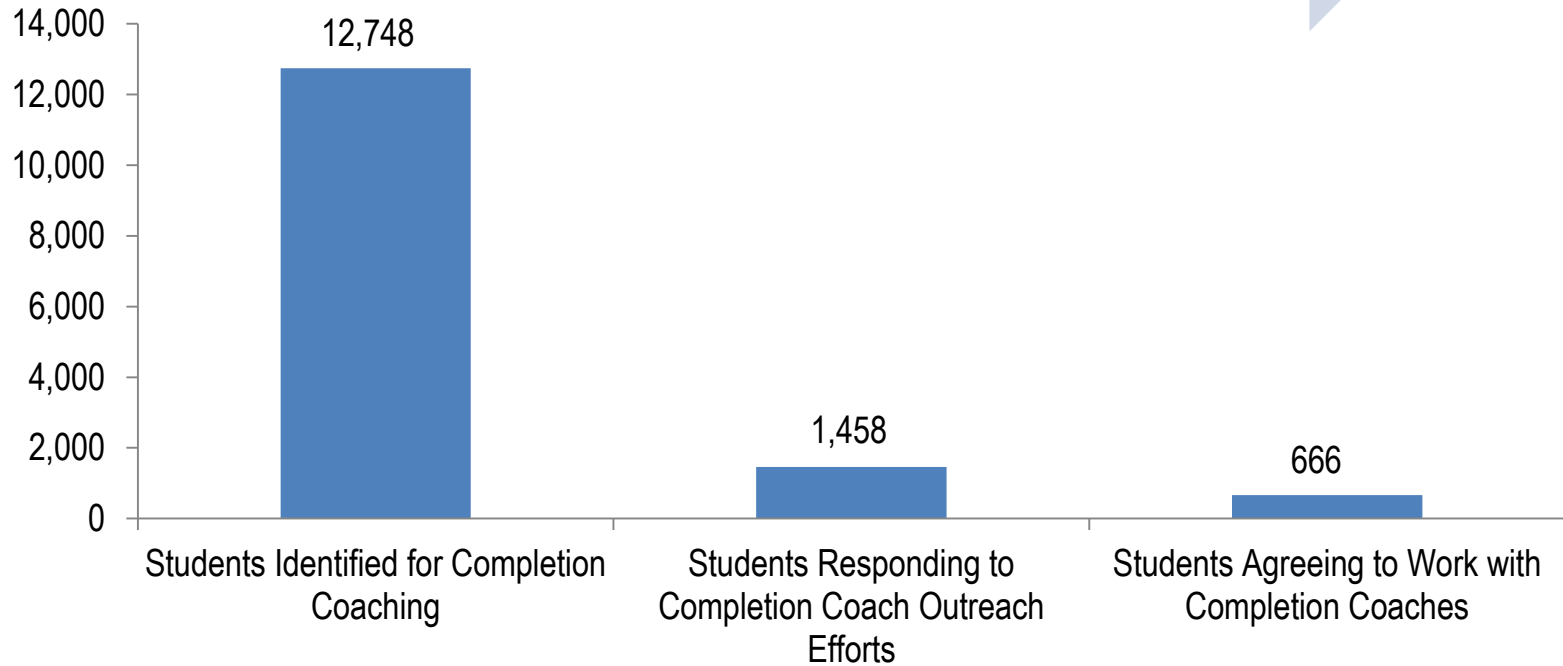
Completion Coaches at Seattle  
Colleges and Green River  
Community College

- Walla Walla Community College award winning model
  - Reengagement of “potential completers”
  - Changes to infrastructure, policies and practices
- Gates Foundation funding for one coach/campus with college match
- Goal of return on investment=69 FTE students/Completion Coach



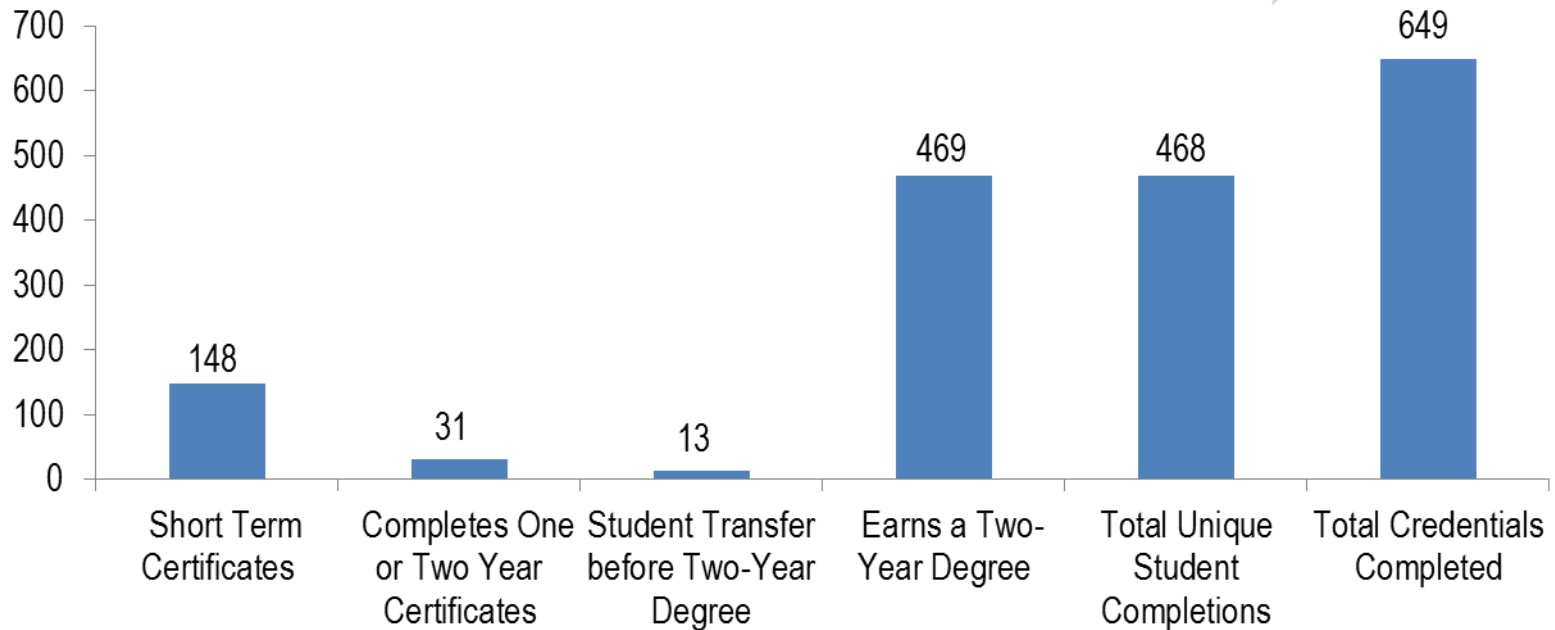
Completion Coaches at  
Seattle Colleges and Green  
River College

# Results Year One



Completion Coaches at  
Seattle Colleges and Green  
River College

# Results Year One





Puget Sound  
Coalition Learning  
Community

- Open to Coalition and PSCCN members
- Expert counsel in adult learning design
- Co-designed by college representatives
- Stipends for groups of represented personnel at all Coalition Colleges

## Regional Change in Campus Cultures

- Collaboration with Dr. Rob Johnstone of National Center for Inquiry & Improvement
- External evaluation led by Professor Bob Hughes
- Changes in infrastructure, policies, practices aimed at supporting completion

# Small Group Discussions



Getting started in  
building a  
completion culture



Supporting students  
encountering  
financial barriers



Engaging with  
campus and  
community partners

# Small Group Discussion



Getting started in building a completion culture: Erin Barzen, South Seattle College, Alice Melling, North Seattle College, Maureen Pettitt, Independent Consultant, Allison Warner, Green River College



Supporting students encountering financial barriers: Juan Gallegos, North Seattle College, Bo Leong, Seattle Central College, Leander Yazzie, Green River College



Engaging with campus and community partners: Aimee Brown, North Seattle College, Meghan Mayo-Adam, Seattle Central College, Megan Nord, South Seattle College, Sonia Ramirez, Green River College

# Small Group Discussion: Logistics

- Discussions are 15 minutes each
- Begin with introductions
- Group facilitators will move
- Questions to keep in mind for debrief
  - What have you learned that you can implement on your campus or organization?
  - What are some concrete steps that you can take to support postsecondary completion efforts?
  - How can we apply learning today to K-12 and community-based organizational contexts?

# Small Group Discussion: Debrief

- What have you learned that you can implement on your campus or organization?
- What are some concrete steps that you can take to support postsecondary completion efforts?
- How can we apply learning today to K-12 and community-based organizational contexts?



# Closing Thoughts

- Completion is a system-level endeavor
  - Student services
  - Institutional research
  - Financial aid
  - Technology
- Key Project Finish Line supports
  - Executive sponsorship
  - Communication and celebration of early easy wins
  - Collaboration across teams on five campuses

**A shared commitment to exploring and addressing issues of equity helped us support students' individual needs.**

# Resources

- Presentation and Materials:  
<https://coalition.psesd.org/resource-repository/>
- Road Map Project Community and Technical College Report  
<http://www.roadmapproject.org/data-center/reports/>
- Project Finish Line Website  
<https://coalition.psesd.org/project-finish-line/>
- AACC Completion College Fact Sheet  
[http://www.aacc.nche.edu/About/completionchallenge/Documents/Completion-Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](http://www.aacc.nche.edu/About/completionchallenge/Documents/Completion-Fact_Sheet.pdf)
- Bailey, Thomas R., Shanna Smith Jaggars, and Davis Jenkins.  
*Redesigning America's Community Colleges: A Clearer Path to Student Success.* Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2015.
- Please contact Cassandra Dempsey to be added to our Newsletter mailing list:  
[cdempsey@psed.org](mailto:cdempsey@psed.org)



## Newsletter

### News & Information

Welcome to the Project Finish Line July Newsletter. The Newsletter will provide updates and resources to support campus student completion efforts across the Puget Sound Coalition for College and Career Readiness institutions, including completion coaching, policy changes and Learning Community events.

#### 2016-17 Learning Community Series

The first convening of the [Project Finish Line](#) Learning Community's Completion series took place on June 21, 2016. Addressing equity and cultural competence, the event featured Ariana Cantu and Tina Young who shared Seattle Central College's Collaborative Learning Inquiry and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Survey. Deborah Northern from the Puget Sound Educational Service District provided introductory training on the PSESD's Race Equity Tool. Both recent and future convening presentations and resources will be archived [here](#).

Topic Interest Groups are currently meeting to develop three additional convenings. Upcoming trainings are below, and will be held from 11:30-4:30 at South Seattle College and the PSESD:

- Student Self-Efficacy: August 4, 2016
- Measuring Effectiveness: October 10, 2016
- Scaling up Effective Practices: January 23, 2017

### Resources

#### [Landscape Analysis of Emergency Aid Programs](#)

This report provides a comprehensive look at colleges' use of emergency aid to address a variety of student needs. The publication presents 10 components of robust programs; challenges and opportunities for increasing the number of students served; and considerations for colleges that intend to more closely examine the influence of emergency aid on students' persistence toward a degree.

#### [Achieving the Dream Open Educational Resource Initiative](#)

