

### Goal 5: Cultivating Partnerships Report: K-16 Partnerships (Part 2)

We will effectively respond to the educational needs of our students and communities through strategic alliances with business, government agencies and educational institutions.

- ❑ Student participation/success in alternative high school completion programs
- ❑ High school student enrollments in dual credit courses
- ❑ Partnerships supporting student transfer to 4-year universities

*Addressed in Cultivating Partnerships Report: Part 1*

- ❑ Grant revenue and funded proposal trends
- ❑ Contract training business partners and revenue trends

### Report Summary

Strategic alliances with area school districts help PCC address a wide range of high school age students' college and pre-college educational needs. The Gateway to College program has helped more than 1,500 students at risk of not graduating from high school improve their academic performance and progress toward and/or beyond high school graduation and subsequent enrollment in higher education. Through Dual Credit, more than 1,600 high school students a year complete college-level credits that also count toward high school graduation. Dual credit students benefit through savings in time (and money) and enroll in post-secondary education with an increased readiness for college-level instruction.

### Supporting Detail

#### Alternative High School Completion Programs

Partnerships with participating area school districts enable PCC to offer a variety of programs which address the educational needs of youth (ages 16-21) who have dropped out of high school and/or may not be "on track" to graduate from high school. Through these programs, students are able to complete their high school credential and pursue college-level learning.

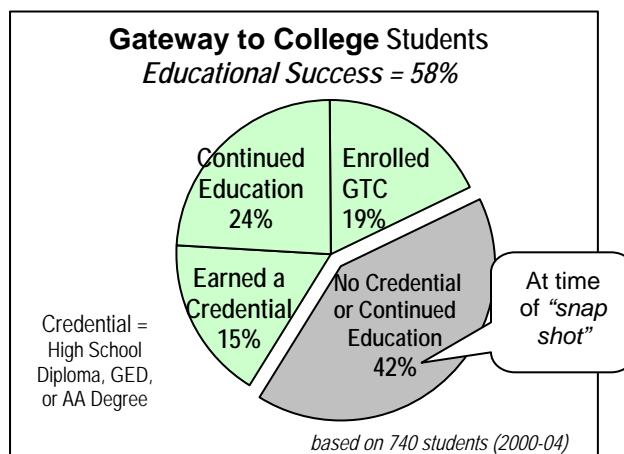
#### Gateway to College

Since Spring 2000, over 1,500 students have participated in the Gateway to College (GTC) program, completed high school credit(s) and/or college-level classes. These are students who had previously dropped out of high school or were not progressing toward graduation due to poor academic performance or lack of attendance.

*Educational Success* for GTC students includes

- continued progress in the GTC program,
- completion of a high school diploma, GED, Associate's Degree (or higher), as well as
- continued education at the secondary or post-secondary level after exiting the GTC program.

A point-in-time look at student progress indicates that 58% of GTC students are classified in one the above educational success groups. However, this rate does not capture the



## Gateway to College (cont.)

subsequent success of those students reported as “no credential or continued education” who stop out of the program and later return to continue their secondary or post-secondary education.

### High School and College Academic Achievement

At entry into the program, Gateway to College students (average high school GPA = 1.7) lagged behind peers in academic achievement. However, by completion or exit from the program

- the GTC high school graduates earned an average of 73 college credits, 88% made academic honor list(s), and 73% continued in higher education,
- the GED completers earned an average of 17 college credits and 63% pursued additional education, and
- students who did not graduate or complete the GED exited the program with an average of 17 college credits and 38% continued their education.

### Other High School Completion Programs

For high school age students interested in continuing their education but who do not yet have the reading, writing or math skills to be successful in the Gateway to College program, the following options are available.

- *Multicultural Academic Program (MAP)* enables individuals who also need to learn and/or improve their English skills, to develop these skills while working toward a GED or high school diploma.
- *Youth Empowered to Succeed (YES!)* helps students prepare for the GED or participation in the Gateway to College program, and/or enrollment in developmental, pre-college or college-level courses.

## Dual Credit Program

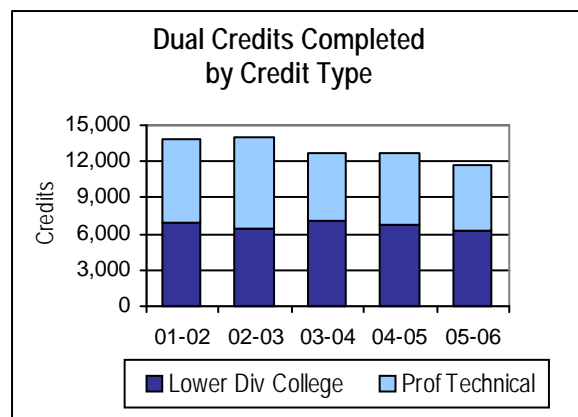
The PCC Dual Credit program enables 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade high school students the opportunity to earn both high school and college credit for advanced coursework completed while in high school. These courses are equivalent in content and learner outcomes to the corresponding PCC course but are taught at the high school by qualified high school instructors. In addition, dual credit students pay \$35 for all credits earned during the academic year compared to \$64 assessed per credit for “typical” PCC credit courses.

During the 2005-06 academic year

- approximately 1,624 high school students participated in PCC Dual Credit,
- earned a total of 11,754 credits (an average of 7.2 credits per students),
- which would have cost each student an average of \$428.21 if enrolled in the PCC courses outside of the dual credit program.

Students may complete Lower Division Collegiate credits in areas such as Biology, English, Math, and Writing which apply toward requirements for a two or four-year degree.

Professional Technical dual credit courses prepare students for work and/or continued education in a variety of areas including



## **Dual Credit (cont.)**

Interior Design, Fire Protection, Computer Application Systems, Medical Professions, Welding and Auto Collision Repair. In recent years, the number of high schools participating in these programs (and thus dual credits awarded) has declined due to lack of funding within school districts and/or available qualified teachers.

### Subsequent Enrollment in Higher Education

Dual credit students not only complete college credit while in high school, but are also likely to continue enrollment in college after graduation. Based on a cohort of 1,343 PCC dual credit high school seniors, approximately 70% attended PCC, another community college or university within three years of high school graduation.

## **Conclusion**

In summary, Gateway to College and Dual Credit programs (both made possible through partnerships with area school districts) help high school age students take positive steps toward achieving a college education. Next year's report will address other options available for high school age students (i.e. the Expanded Options Program) and also focus on PCC partnerships with colleges and universities.

## **Notes and Resources**

Gateway to College: <http://www.pcc.edu/prepare/head-start/prep/gateway/>

To be eligible a student must:

- be between 16 to 20 years old,
- have left high school before graduation or be at risk of dropping out,
- be behind in high school credits for age and grade (with fewer than 17 credits total),
- have a minimum 8th grade reading level,
- meet other writing and math standards at entry level, and
- live in a participating school district: Portland Public, David Douglas, Beaverton, Hillsboro, Tigard/Tualatin, Lake Oswego, Centennial or Sherwood.

*PCC Dual Credit Program 2005-06 Annual Report*, by PAVTEC Education Consortium

PCC Office of Institutional Effectiveness, May 2007, Im: Partnerships2006ReportPart2.doc