



PROMISING PRACTICES EXCHANGE

Please send your completed forms to Joe Holliday: jholliday@sbctc.edu.

1. Which of the five areas of Strategic Enrollment does this practice address? (Check all that apply)

- Alignment with K-12
- Re-engaging Adult Students
- Onboarding New Students
- Retaining Students
- Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic

2. Name of practice: Chehalis School District Student Achievement Initiative

3. Description of practice:

Through the Chehalis School District's Student Achievement Initiative, a partnership between the school district and Centralia College was created to increase the enrollment, student retention, and completion rates of Chehalis High School graduates at Centralia College. Efforts to achieve this goal include: the hiring of a Retention Specialist at Centralia College exclusive to the targeted demographic, early relationship building between the Retention Specialist and incoming high school seniors, and the Summer Bridge Program to ease and guide the transition from high school to college.

Onboarding New Students

The Retention specialist partners with high school counselors to engage graduating high school students to assist with college preparation. This partnership ensures admission applications are submitted, financial aid forms are complete, and test scores are sent to the college for appropriate course placement. The early presence of the Retention Specialist addresses the student's unfamiliarity with the world of higher education and providing a point person in which students can direct their questions and concerns.

Re-engaging Adult Students and Student Retention

Moreover, the Summer Bridge program permits students to gain a snapshot of the college world. With the assistance of the faculty members, the Retention Specialist provides direct support to enrolled students and offers incentives for student engagement. Building meaningful connections with students positions the Retention Specialist as a main contact, which students can engage to get answers to questions and concerns. Furthermore, the Retention Specialist performs re-engagement outreach to students that have discontinued enrollment. Students that have stopped out shared their gratitude for the connection and

additional outreach by the Retention Specialist. This is an example of connection, communication, and collaborative support of the Chehalis School District Student Achievement Initiative.

4. Results: What evidence do you have that this practice is achieving desired results?

As of the end of the 2019 – 2020 academic year, retention rates for WF West High school graduates enrolled at Centralia College are showing early signs of growth since having a consistent Retention Specialist in position to support students. The 2017 cohort of high school grads will serve as a baseline, with a retention rate of 34%, since data for cohorts 2015 and 2016 are not yet available. Though the 2017 cohort is part of the initiative and was supported, that support was limited to their second year and therefore had less of an overall impact as first year support is crucial to retention and completion rates. The 2018 cohort was the first cohort to have a consistent Retention Specialist to support both first- and second-year enrollment and has a retention rate of 68% fall to fall. The 2019 cohort has a current retention rate of 62% fall to fall before even completing a full second year and are on track to meet or exceed 2018 cohort's retention rate.

5. Based on your review of the Excellent Practices Rubric, please indicate whether you believe this practice is emerging, promising, or excellent. (Select only one)

Emerging

Promising

Excellent

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