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| <b>Title</b>                     | Adult Re-Engagement Through Innovative Program Delivery  |
| <b>Staff lead</b>                | Maddy Thompson   |
| <b>Position</b>                  | Director of Policy and Government Relations  |
| <b>Email</b>                     | <a href="mailto:maddyt@wsac.wa.gov">maddyt@wsac.wa.gov</a>   |
| <b>Phone</b>                     | 360-753-7635   |
| <b>Synopsis</b>                  | Re-engaging adults who have not completed or never accessed postsecondary education is critical for meeting the state’s education attainment goals. The Council will hear three presentations on strategies to re-engage adults in postsecondary education. The presentation will include representatives from the University of Washington, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, and Western Governor’s University - Washington. |
| <b>Guiding questions</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do these programs or initiatives address the needs of working adults?</li> <li>• What are the opportunities for collaboration among the sectors and the Council as we pursue a statewide strategy to increase the number of adults who obtain a postsecondary credential?</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Possible council action</b>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Adopt <input type="checkbox"/> Other   |
| <b>Documents and attachments</b> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brief/Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Third-party materials <input type="checkbox"/> Other   |

## Adult Re-engagement through Innovative Program Delivery

### Council Action

None required. For discussion purposes only.

### Brief Description

At the August meeting, Council members reiterated the importance of pursuing strategies in the Roadmap aimed at increasing the attainment of adults who do not have and who are not pursuing a postsecondary credential. During this agenda item, Council members will hear from representatives of three of the state's postsecondary education sectors about specific programs and initiatives aimed at increasing attainment of this population.

### Overview

Meeting the state's Roadmap goals will require innovative strategies and programs. Postsecondary institutions and leaders will need to draw from all possible populations and initiate a variety of strategies to improve recruitment, access, and completion. One segment of the population we need to attract to postsecondary education is adults without a postsecondary credential.

About 50 percent of Washington's adult population, age 25-44, has a postsecondary credential. Successful recruitment and retention strategies for this population can dramatically increase individual career prospects and the economic prosperity of our state.

*Adults returning to postsecondary education have needs that differ from the needs of younger, more traditional students. Yet at the same time, they are not a uniform group. They come from varied life experiences and face a range of barriers that may include unemployment, underemployment, family obligations, health issues, and prior negative experiences in the educational system. Adults are also more likely to attend postsecondary institutions part-time while working full-time, a challenging circumstance that has shown to be a risk factor for success.*

The 2013 Roadmap Report

The community and technical college system, the Western Governors Association, regional four-year institutions and research institutions, are all educating adults and developing new and better ways of delivering programs to meet their needs and improve completions. Some of the strategies include e-learning and hybrid offerings, providing credit for prior learning, delivering education through a competency-based model, providing online support services, and mentoring, among others.

See over.

**Potential Questions for Council Members**

1. How do these programs or initiatives address the needs of working adults?
  - a. How do these programs or initiatives overcome barriers of cost, time, and place?
  - b. What elements of the program are designed to meet the needs of these students?
2. What are the opportunities for collaboration among the sectors and the Council as we pursue a statewide strategy to increase the number of adults who obtain a postsecondary credential?



# Integrated Social Sciences at UW

Presentation to WSAC, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015

by Matt Sparke, Director of ISS

# What we offer

- BA degree completion for students with AAs or 75 credits from CCs and other Unis
- \$199 per credit = \$7,164 a year for full-time
- Part-time, variable credits, & break options
- Totally online, thus flexible and mobile for adult students with families and work

**A UW EDUCATION  
WITHIN REACH**

AFFORDABLE, VALUABLE, ACHIEVABLE



# Key features

- Access to regular UW faculty & UW quality
- Large range of fully online courses
- Customizable pathways to completion
- High-touch mentoring with dedicated advising team & learning analytics
- Integration of student competency with eportfolio development

**A UW EDUCATION  
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# Key numbers

- 265 students now at the start of our 2<sup>nd</sup> year
- 82% retention rate of first year cohort
- 15 students will graduate this Fall
- 37% former Huskies, 63% new transfers
- 70% from WA state
- 3 admission periods per year

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# Student stories



Chris has served for the past 6 years in Special Operations in the U.S. Army. He finished his associates degree while on active duty. Chris writes: "Professionally, this degree will help me get promoted within the Army and help set me apart from my peers; and intellectually, the knowledge I will gain will satisfy my need to learn and better myself. One of my major personal goals is to earn a 4 year degree. Not just because that's what everyone does, but because in my immediate family, no one has completed any college. I will be the first one, and I want to set the example for my younger siblings. Something that I really would like to do in my life is earn a Ph.D. in psychology, and this degree would give me a solid foundation to build upon." Simultaneous with his entry into ISS, Chris is deploying to South Korea.



Anna first entered with a transfer GPA of 2.3, dating back to 2000. Her new UW GPA is now 3.86. Anna has emerged as the go-getter in ISS, the student who has always done the additional research, who contributes more to discussions, and pursues everything with gusto. In her learning plan, Anna wrote: "I hope to further my career in New Media by getting an MBA with a focus on Information Sciences, the first step of which is to complete my B.A. through UW's Integrated Social Sciences program. From what I can tell, having a strong interdisciplinary foundation will set me up for success in whatever graduate program I end up pursuing."

# Key opportunities

- Reaching out to WA students with some college, no degree
- Collaborating with community colleges to expand BA completion options across state
- Collaborating with employers

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WITHIN REACH**

AFFORDABLE, VALUABLE, ACHIEVABLE





# WSAC: Reaching Adult Learners

October 15, 2015

JEAN FLOTEN, CHANCELLOR

# Created for Working Adults



A photograph of three people in a formal setting. A woman with blonde hair, wearing a blue and black patterned blazer, is seated at a desk and signing a document with a pen. To her left stands a man in a dark suit, white shirt, and red tie. To her right stands another man in a dark suit and glasses, with his hand resting on the back of the chair. A woman with short white hair, wearing a red blazer over a black top, stands next to the man in glasses. An American flag is visible in the background. A semi-transparent black box with white text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

WGU WASHINGTON  
SIGNED INTO LAW  
APRIL 2011 BY  
GOVERNOR GREGOIRE

**"WGU WASHINGTON'S MODEL  
IS FOUNDED ON FLEXIBILITY,  
AFFORDABILITY AND QUALITY.  
NONE OF THE THREE ARE  
SACRIFICED. IN FACT, THEY  
ALL WORK TOGETHER."**

**PHYLLIS CAMPBELL,  
JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.  
CHAIRMAN, PACIFIC NORTHWEST**





**"WGU WASHINGTON  
CONTRIBUTES TO THE STATE'S  
CULTURE OF INNOVATION BY  
PROVIDING THE QUALITY,  
AFFORDABLE EDUCATION OUR  
WORKFORCE NEEDS TO  
REMAIN COMPETITIVE IN THE  
GLOBAL MARKETPLACE."**

**BRAD SMITH,  
MICROSOFT CORPORATION  
GENERAL COUNSEL &  
EXECUTIVE VP,  
LEGAL & CORP AFFAIRS**

# ABOUT WGU

- IN 50 STATES
  - 60,000 FTES
  - 8,000 IN WA
  - BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S
- BUSINESS  
EDUCATION  
HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



# WGU WA STUDENT AGE FY15

| BY COLLEGE                             |    |
|--|----|
| Business                               | 37 |
| Teachers College                       | 35 |
| Information Technology                 | 38 |
| Health Professions (including Nursing) | 40 |
| TOTAL AVERAGE                          | 37 |

| ALL STUDENTS |     |
|--------------|-----|
| 18-26        | 14% |
| 27+          | 82% |
| UNREPORTED   | 4%  |

# WGU WA ENROLLMENT

## ENROLLMENT BY COLLEGE

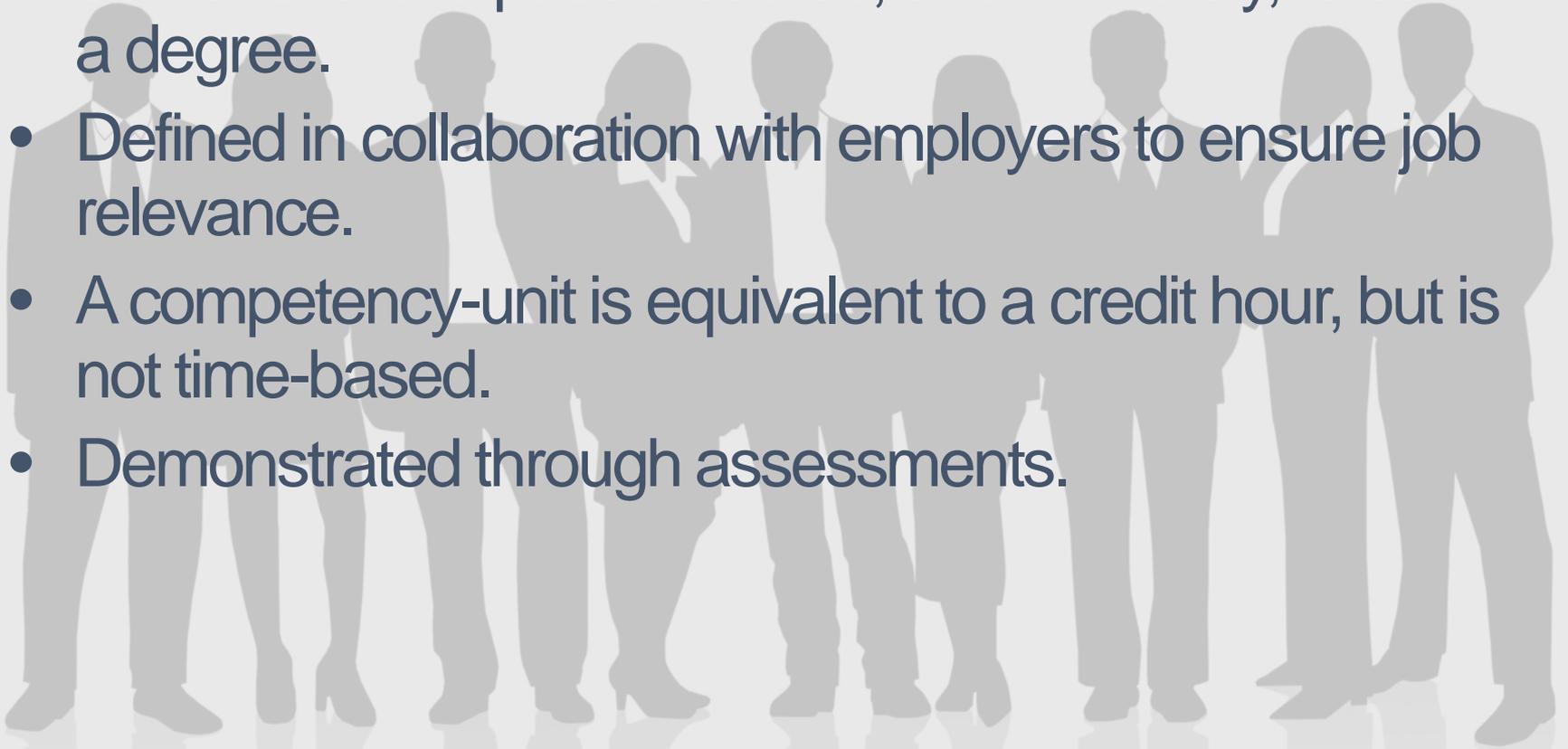
|            |     |
|------------|-----|
| BUSINESS   | 46% |
| EDUCATION  | 25% |
| IT         | 15% |
| HEALTHCARE | 14% |

A man with short dark hair, wearing a light-colored t-shirt, is sitting at a desk and smiling while looking at a laptop. The background is a blurred office setting. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

# ONLINE COMPETENCY BASED LEARNING

# WHAT ARE COMPETENCIES?

- The knowledge and skills a student must demonstrate to pass a course, and ultimately, to earn a degree.
- Defined in collaboration with employers to ensure job relevance.
- A competency-unit is equivalent to a credit hour, but is not time-based.
- Demonstrated through assessments.



# ACCREDITED



Council for the  
Accreditation of  
Educator Preparation





# ONE-ON-ONE SUPPORT

# AFFORDABLE

tuition

Tuition = **\$6000**/year **\$6500** for nursing

**No fees**, books included

**No limit** on number of courses

Hasn't changed in **8 years**

Average time to degree = **2 years**

**ROI = 2 to 3 years**

Little or no **debt**.



**"I'M A WORKING MOM AND A WIFE, BUT I WAS ABLE TO EARN BOTH MY BACHELOR'S AND MBA FROM WGU WASHINGTON - AND STILL BE THERE FOR MY FAMILY."**

**MISTY DIEFFENBACH,  
WGU WASHINGTON GRADUATE**



## WHAT STUDENTS LIKE

- Flexibility/self-paced -study and learn on their schedules
- Portable
- Opportunity to accelerate - save time and money
- Personalized learning experience
- Individualized faculty support
- Job-relevant learning, applicable immediately

# DOES IT WORK?



## From Employers

- WGU graduates meet or exceed expectations.
- “Soft skills” equal to or better than other graduates.

## From Students

- Satisfied with their WGU experience.
- Would recommend WGU.
- Most are employed in degree field and 25% are pursuing additional education.



**WGU WASHINGTON®**  
**PREPARING TOMORROW'S**  
**WORKFORCE**