

**WASHINGTON STATE  
WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD  
MEETING NO. 157  
SEPTEMBER 22, 2011**

**I-BEST  
Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training**

At the meeting, Jon Kerr, the new Director of Adult Basic Education (ABE) at the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, and Kathy Cooper, ABE Policy Associate, will update the Board on the status of I-BEST programs currently underway throughout the state.

The Board will also learn about the next generation of I-BEST innovations that build on the success of the current model. Expanded models include on-ramp pilots that shorten and focus preparation of lower-skilled adults for existing I-BEST programs; developmental education pilots that compress levels of English and math preparation; and workplace programs that serve the needs of low-skilled, working adults who struggle to access campus-based courses. All of these innovations maintain key I-BEST components of contextualization, team teaching, and focus on preparation for the workforce. A panel of I-BEST leaders, faculty, students, and partners will join in this discussion.

The attached slide presentation provides background information.

**Board Action Required:** For discussion only.



# I-BEST Continues to Raise Educational Attainment

Workforce Training and Education  
Coordinating Board Meeting

September 22, 2011



# Before I-BEST, Few ABE Students Went Beyond Basic Skills

- Only 13% of ESL and less than one third of ABE students continued on to college-level work.
- Only 4 to 6% of students reached the Tipping Point or earned a certificate or degree within five years of completing ABE.

# What is I-BEST ?



I-BEST pairs a basic skills instructor with a professional-technical instructor in the same classroom at the same time

It simultaneously provides academic and workforce skills and a credential that leads to a living wage job on a viable career path

# I-BEST Student Success

The Columbia University's Community College Research Center's evaluation of I-BEST further validated SBCTC's earlier findings.

- I-BEST moves low skilled students further and faster in college-level work.
- I-BEST students were more likely than others to:
  - continue into credit-bearing coursework
  - earn occupational certificates
  - make point gains on basic skills tests
  - persist into their second year



# I-BEST Students Do Better and Go Further, Faster

Columbia University's Community College Research Center found that I-BEST students in comparison with other basic skills students in workforce programs were:

- 3 times more likely to earn college credit
- 9 times more likely to earn an award



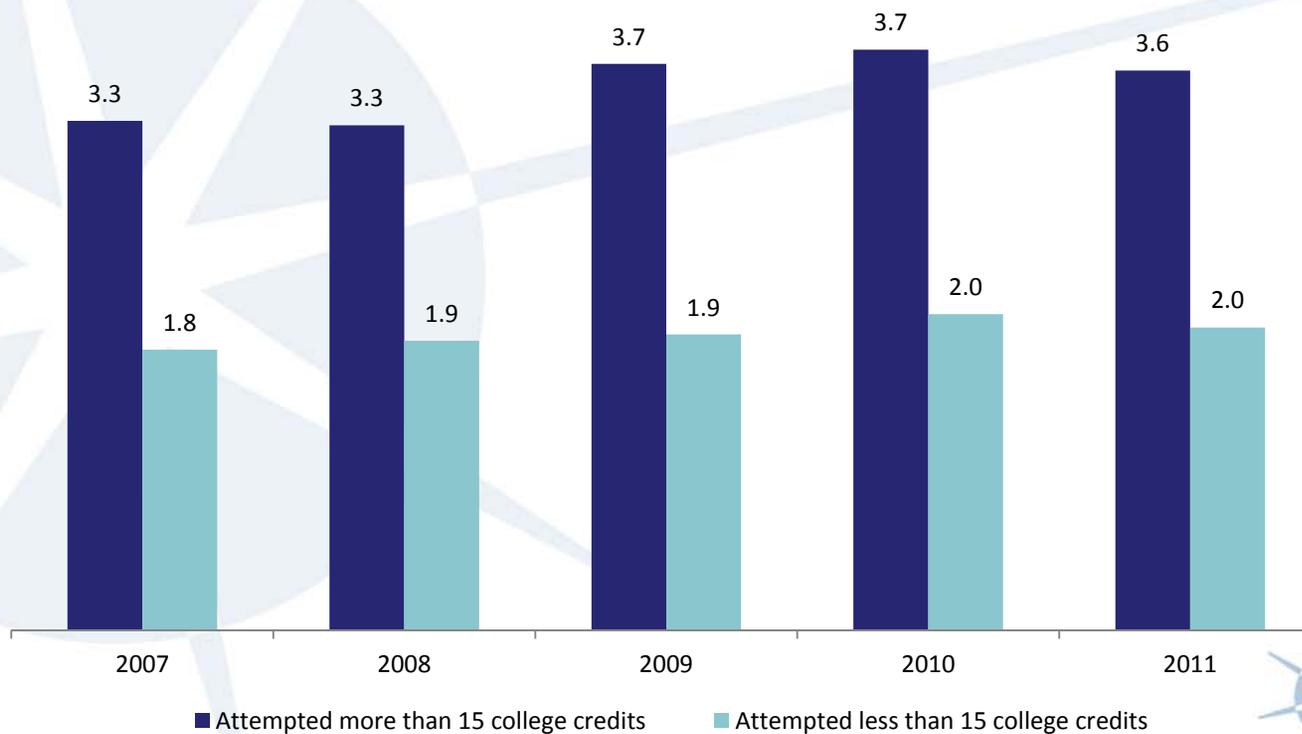
# I-BEST Is the Driving Force Behind Increased Student Achievement Beyond Basic Skills

	Pre-College	College Level Student Achievement Points			
	Points for Basic Skills & Dev. Ed. Gains	Points for completing 15 College Credits	Points for completing 30 College Credits	Points for completing College-level math	Points for Reaching the Tipping Point
Increase in All Basic Skills Points (ABE/ESL/ I-BEST) in 2008-2009	1,072	801	477	74	281
Increased I-BEST Points Earned in 2008-2009	381	536	348	68	246
Increased % Change Due to I-BEST in 2008-2009	36%	67%	73%	92%	88%

# Increased Credits . . . Increase Student Success

I-BEST students who attempt at least 15 college credits advance nearly twice as fast as students who attempt less

Total Achievement Points Per I-BEST Student Based Upon College Credits Attempted During I-BEST Year



# I-BEST Programs Continue to Expand

- Washington currently has 155 approved I-BEST programs
- I-BEST FTES have grown substantially overtime.
- This past year state enrollments were basically flat due to system budget cuts.

• 2006-07	691 FTES	
• 2007-08	881 FTES	27%
• 2008-09	1141 FTES	30%
• 2009-10	1730 FTES	52%
• 2010-11	1742 FTES	1% (3,342 Students)



# Expansion Initiatives Promise More Access to I-BEST

I-BEST pilot programs increase pathway options for all basic skills students.

- Academic I-BEST
- I-BEST for Developmental Education pilot project
- On-ramp to I-BEST pilot project
- Corrections I-BEST pilot project
- Workplace I-BEST pilot project



# Academic I-BEST



Academic I-BEST programs provide educational access and support for adult ABE and ESL English and math students to progress further and faster along an academic or vocational transfer pathway to a four-year college or university.

- Modeled after traditional I-BEST, students develop academic skills while earning college credit on the direct transfer degree pathway
- Academic I-BEST is approved for enhanced FTES, but the students are not eligible for Opportunity Grant funding.

# I-BEST for Developmental Education

I-BEST for Developmental Education pilots move students further and faster toward the highest credential in an I-BEST pathway.

- I-BEST for Developmental Education models extend the pathways developed in currently approved I-BEST programs to the next higher level of a career pathway with a clear articulation.
- Both basic education and developmental education students are eligible to participate in these pilot programs.
- I-BEST for Dev. Ed. is approved for enhanced FTES, and are eligible for Opportunity Grant funding.
- I-BEST for Dev. Ed. is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation as a part of the Student Completion Initiative to SBCTC.



# SkillUp On-ramp to I-BEST

- On-ramp to I-BEST's 4 pilot programs target young adults aged 18-24 years old who are interested in attending college but test at a basic skills level too low to enter and succeed in I-BEST-level courses.
- On-ramp program goals are increased basic skills achievement and increased enrollment and persistence in I-BEST or other career pathway college programs within one year.
- Pilots are managed by SkillUp Washington in partnership with the State Workforce Board, community-based organizations, and the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.
- On-ramp to I-BEST is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation through a grant to SkillUp Washington.



# I-BEST for Corrections

I-BEST for Corrections pilots provide adult ABE students in corrections facilities access to traditional I-BEST programs in order to move students further and faster toward a vocational credential along a career pathway.

- Two programs will be piloted in 2011-2012
- I-BEST for Corrections Programs are approved for enhanced funding but not enhanced FTES



# Workplace I-BEST



I-BEST in the workplace will increase access and skills for working adults

- SBCTC pilot projects will focus on workers who need English language and other basic skills to retain their jobs and move ahead.
- Employers will invest in match including time of a supervisor/manager who acts as the “content” instructor.
- The pilot includes a Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board pilot that includes an eLearning option

# I-BEST Across the Nation

**I-BEST is also being considered for replication in 11 other states under the *Accelerating Opportunity* initiative.**

- *Accelerating Opportunity (AE)* is managed by Jobs for the Future (JFF), in partnership with the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, the National Council for Workforce Education, and the National College Transition Network.
- An unprecedented philanthropic investment in ABE, *AE* is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, The Joyce Foundation, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Kresge Foundation, and the Open Society Foundations.
- This multi-state initiative seeks to:
  - Fundamentally change the way Adult Basic Education (ABE) is structured and delivered at state and institutional levels; and
  - Promote state and institution policies to dramatically increase the number of individuals who complete credentials of value in the labor market.
- During the three-year implementation phase, these states will:
  - Develop and scale-up integrated college and career pathway designs that result in more ABE students completing credentials valued in the labor market; and
  - Promote state and institution policies that support the implementation and scale-up of these designs.



## Student Chris Clayton I-BEST Manufacturing Occupations Certificate



Chris Completed His AAS in Welding with Honors

Lower Columbia College June 2011

