

Detailed, monthly updates from around the Road Map Project
May 2014

CONTENTS

Page 1 - Birth to 3rd Grade	Page 6 - Community Engagement
Page 2 - College & Career Success	Page 6 - Advocacy
Page 4 - English Language Learners	Page 7 - Project Sponsors
Page 5 - STEM	Page 8 - Data
Page 5 - Youth Development for Education Results	Page 9 - Communications
Page 5 - Opportunity Youth	Page 10 - Aligned Funders

NOTE TO READERS: Thank you for reading the May issue of the Road Map Project Traffic Report! These updates build upon information shared in the previous Traffic Report. Please visit the Traffic Report web page on www.roadmapproject.org to view earlier Traffic Reports.

Also, for updates on the region's \$40 million Race to the Top grant, visit roadmapracetothetop.org and sign up for the e-newsletter.

Lastly, the first Road Map Project 101 meeting is coming up in July! This will be a great way to learn more about the work. Please see the Communications section (page 10) for more information.

BIRTH TO 3RD GRADE WORK GROUP CONTACT

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BIRTH TO 3RD GRADE

■ The [Birth to 3rd Grade Work Group](#) is meeting from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, June 5, at the Puget Sound Educational Service District (PSESD). The group will continue to discuss the mutual priorities between this group and the English Language Learner (ELL) Work Group, specifically in the area of parent engagement. If you are interested in learning more about this work, please connect with Lynda (contact info at left).

■ With the help of the PSESD, Highline Public Schools and the King County Library System, the [Let's Read!](#) team filmed a [short video](#) to be used as a tool for school and community partners. The video is designed to help communicate both the purpose of [Let's Read!](#) summer reading materials and library summer learning logs, in addition to underscoring the importance of reading in the summer. Please share broadly!

In June, the [Let's Read!](#) team will begin distributing weekly literacy and learning tips that community-based organizations and partners can easily distribute to the families they serve. Please contact May (contact info at left) if you would like to be added to the recipient list.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the community planning meetings this spring and committed to using [Let's Read!](#) campaign materials this summer! Over 100 people attended the planning meetings, and within the past month, 10,000+ materials have been distributed to providers throughout the region.

LET'S READ! WEBSITE

letsreadkingcounty.org

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Let's Read! has a [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter account](#) in addition to the website, letsreadkingcounty.org. Partner organizations are encouraged to engage with these accounts, especially by sharing pictures and/or videos! As always, feedback is welcome regarding the social media presence or website.

COLLEGE & CAREER SUCCESS

■ [College Bound Scholarship](#) sign-up rates continue to climb! As of May 29, 87% of eligible low-income students in the region have signed up for the scholarship, which is 7 percentage points ahead of where we were last year at this time. Auburn School District leads the way with a sign-up rate of 95%. Currently the Washington Student Achievement Council is processing paper applications received by May 16, and many more applications have been submitted since then. Many schools are doing final pushes at 8th grade graduation ceremonies and implementing other final sign-up efforts. Let's work together to reach our goal of 95%!

■ On May 22, CCER staff members presented a draft of the high school data reports to counselors attending a Race to the Top Advising Leadership Series workshop. These reports will provide early warning and college enrollment data at the school-building level. Counselors provided excellent feedback, which will be used to revise the reports.

■ Recruitment for the 2014 High School and Beyond Leadership Institute has begun. The institute is organized by the Puget Sound Educational Service District (PSESD) as part of [Race to the Top - Project 6 \(Create an Integrated System of Middle and High School Advising\)](#) in partnership with CCER. Over 20 counselors have registered already and additional efforts are being made to recruit principals. The institute will take place Aug. 5-7 and provide an opportunity for school leaders to give input on current work taking place in the region and learn about professional and technical pathways at area colleges. If you have any questions, please contact Jennie Flaming at the PSESD (jflaming@psed.org).

■ Save the date! [DiscoverU](#) will be back for a second year on Oct. 13-17, 2014. Initial communications will go out to schools the first week of June and additional communication materials about volunteer opportunities are currently being created. Please visit www.roadmaptocollege.org for the latest.

■ Road Map Project school districts are implementing Early Warning Indicator Systems (EWIS) to identify and intervene effectively with students who are at risk of dropping out of high school. These systems include data displays of the most highly predictive ABC indicators (attendance, behavior and course performance), training staff to interpret the data and assign appropriate interventions, and monitoring effectiveness of intervention strategies over time. Most districts are starting this work at the middle school and high school levels, but are also building in indicators for the

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elementary school level.

EWIS are a key strategy for increasing the graduation and post-secondary success rates for all students. Early adopters show promising results, including significantly reduced levels of unexcused absences in Tukwila, increased course completion rates for 9th graders in Highline and innovative transitional support for 8th graders in Auburn. Dr. Robert Balfanz from Johns Hopkins University was the keynote speaker at the Early Warning Indicator Convening in March at PSESD. The Spokane School District also described how they utilized EWIS to increase graduation rates from 61% to 80.4% between 2007 and 2010.

Collaboration with many local, regional and state initiatives is essential to this work. Supported by the Gates Foundation, PSESD leads the EWIS work in partnership with CCER and the Road Map Project.

■ Launched in 2010, the purpose of the Puget Sound Coalition for College and Career Readiness is to build a seamless transition from high school to college to career across the Puget Sound area. The Coalition's shared vision is to increase both the number and percentage of students that graduate from high school, enroll and persist in college, and graduate from higher education able to secure a family-wage job and/or career path. PSESD Superintendent John Welch and South Seattle College President Gary Oertli co-chair the group of superintendents, college presidents and community partners.

The Puget Sound Coalition has finalized a proposed new set of institutional agreements called the Compact, which articulates a commitment to implement a range of practices that strengthen student experiences through the high school to postsecondary transition. These include evidence-based practices underway in the Road Map Project region, such as:

Districts

- Improving systems to broaden access to rigorous course taking opportunities, specifically in honors and dual credit courses for students regardless of their race, ethnicity, income, language and special needs.
- Implementing EWIS to provide interventions when students are at risk of not completing high school.

Colleges

- Implementing policies and practices allowing for multiple measures for course placement in college math and English, including Smarter Balanced Assessment, transcript use, SAT and ACT.
- Implementing developmental education enhancements that increase the

proportions of students completing the developmental education sequence and going on to complete college.

- Instructional and programmatic supports for students who are eligible for the College Bound Scholarship.

The Compact was informed by feedback from numerous stakeholders in K-12, postsecondary education and community-based organizations. Next steps include signing the document at the Coalition meeting in late June, educating school boards and college boards of trustees about the Compact agreement and defining an agenda for learning in 2014-15 to support implementation.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL)

■ The [English Language Learners \(ELL\) Work Group](#) had a successful retreat in early May. Significant progress was made on the group's four 2014 projects: para-educator to teacher pipeline, regional network of ELL coaches, parent engagement in early learning and stronger pathways for older ELLs.

■ On Monday, June 9, the ELL Work Group will be co-hosting an event, "Bilingual and Biliterate in Washington State: Celebrating Success and Looking Forward," with State Sen. Joe Fain, State Rep. Pat Sullivan, OneAmerica and Education Northwest. Presentations from leading researchers at Education Northwest and local innovative models from the Highline and Kent school districts as well as a tour of a dual-language school will demonstrate how bilingual education can close the opportunity gap. The focus of this event is to help elected officials gain an understanding of policies that support bilingual education and dual-language programs. Interested in attending? Please contact Emily Murphy, OneAmerica Policy Manager, at emily@weareoneamerica.org. Space is limited.

■ The ELL Work Group created a one-page brief based on the ELL Action Plan to provide feedback on the [Race to the Top - Project 8 \(College & Career Readiness Investment Fund\)](#) proposals and also gave feedback on the Puget Sound Coalition for College and Career Readiness Compact (more on the compact on page 3), which was incorporated into the document. The ELL Work Group continues to be focused on accountability and strengthening integration of efforts across the Road Map Project.

The ELL Work Group will have a presentation and work session with the equity leads of the PSESD in early June to identify common ground and leverage this collaboration to push pieces of the ELL Action Plan and equity focus in the Road Map Project region forward!

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SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATH (STEM)

For updates on Race to the Top STEM work in the region, please visit roadmapracetothetop.org and sign up for the Race to the Top newsletter.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FOR EDUCATION RESULTS

■ In late April, Seattle Public Schools presented an introduction to the Common Core (English and language Arts) for youth-serving program staff. You can find the [slide deck here](#). A math-focused workshop will be held in the fall.

■ SOAR, the Road Map Project, South King County College Access Network, the Suburban King County Coordinating Council on Gangs, Puget SoundOff and others are working to build a comprehensive county-wide youth program directory. This new website will draw from the 211 database to populate a user-friendly, searchable site for parents, youth, youth workers, counselors and others who need to find programs for young people. [An RFP has been issued](#) to find a web designer/developer. Stay tuned to give feedback over the summer as this new (and much needed) resource is built out!

OPPORTUNITY YOUTH

■ As of May 2014, there were 30 dropout retrieval programs operating statewide under the new Open Doors/HB 1418 law. In the Road Map Project region, there are currently two: iGrad school in Kent (a partnership between the Kent School District and Green River Community College) and YouthSource Renton (a partnership between King County, Renton Technical College, Renton School District and Tukwila School District). Several proposals are in the works across other districts, community-based organizations and community colleges in our region, and a significant expansion of capacity is expected in the next year.

■ CCER and members of the Opportunity Youth Work Group have been compiling information on education and employment re-engagement programs that target opportunity youth (16-24 year olds who are not in school and not working) in order to understand the current landscape and inform the development of a regional re-engagement system. [This draft program directory](#) may be a useful resource to individuals working as mentors, counselors, case workers or education advocates.

■ CCER is partnering with SOAR, the League of Education Voters and Guiden U for Life on "Reconnecting Our Youth: A Youth Panel & Community Forum." A panel of young men currently incarcerated at Green Hill will discuss the barriers that lead youth away from schools and communities and into the criminal justice system. They will then help facilitate discussions on various topics including dropout re-engagement. The

event will inform the emerging Opportunity Youth Action Plan and offers a unique opportunity to listen to young people whose voices are rarely heard.

Reconnecting Our Youth: A Youth Panel & Community Forum
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Saturday, June 14
Highline Community College Student Union
2400 S. 240th St.
Des Moines, WA 98198
[Click here to RSVP](#)

For additional Opportunity Youth system building updates, please see the update from the Data section of this Traffic Report (page 8).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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■ You are invited to a luncheon celebration on Tuesday, June 17, to honor the legacy of Juneteenth and examine the current state of education of Black children in our region and its implications for their success in school and life.

According to Juneteenth.com, Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. It is a time for reflection and rejoicing. In cities across the country, people of all races, nationalities and religions are joining hands to truthfully acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today.

Juneteenth Celebration
Noon to 2 p.m.
Tuesday, June 17
Bethaday Community Learning Space
605 SW 108th St.
Seattle, WA 98146
[Click here to RSVP](#)

For more information, please contact Carlina (contact info at left).

ADVOCACY

■ The [Road Map Project Advocates Caucus](#) met May 14 at the 2100 Building. Agenda items included updates on the short-term priorities for the caucus and an update on the No Child Left Behind waiver.

The group spent a lot of time discussing the function of advocacy within the Road Map Project and the role the caucus can play. A proposal was made to the Advocates

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Caucus recommending a new structure that puts advocacy at the center of the project. The new structure will create a process to distill and align the many priorities from the work groups so that top priorities can be presented to the Project Sponsors for consideration. The proposal also discusses ways the caucus can support carrying out advocacy work. The biggest focus for implementing a new structure is to ensure the [Community Network's](#) priorities remain at the center of the project's advocacy agenda.

This proposal was also presented to the Community Network on May 15 and prompted a great discussion about the role of the group in advocacy agenda development. The members voted to accept the new structure and process, emphasizing the need to further discuss the relationship between the Community Network and the Advocates Caucus regarding accountability and significant community input in developing the advocacy agenda. A final proposal on a new advocacy structure will be made to the Project Sponsors at the June meeting.

Implementing this new structure for regional advocacy work will require clear and consistent communication with work groups and significant input from the Community Network.

Two priorities that the Advocates Caucus has been focusing on are protecting the College Bound Scholarship at the state level, and the progress of the Expanded Learning Opportunity Council. Two key appointments were recently made to both work groups:

- Frank Ordway from League of Education Voters has been appointed by Governor Inslee to the College Bound work group to "make recommendations for the continued viability of the College Bound Scholarship Program" as outlined in Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6436 (ESSB 6436) in the last legislative session.
- Mary Fertakis, Tukwila School Board member, was confirmed as the Washington State School Director representative to the new Expanded Learning Opportunities Council as outlined in Second Substitute Senate Bill 6163 (2SSB 6163) from last session. School's Out Washington was also appointed to the same council as the non-profit organization with statewide experience in expanded learning.

PROJECT SPONSORS

As mentioned in the April Traffic Report, the composition of the Project Sponsors has changed to include more representation from the work groups. Members and alternates added since the [last Traffic Report](#) are listed in bold:

- **Candace Gratama, Executive Vice President, The BERC Group (Data Advisors Group representative)**
- Chris Korsmo, Executive Director, League of Education Voters

- David Bley, Director, Pacific NW Initiative, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Alternate: Ken Thompson, Senior Program Officer, Pacific NW Initiative, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- **Deborah Wilds, Washington State School Board (High School to College Completion Advisory Group representative)**
- Dr. Edward Vargas, Superintendent, Kent School District
- Ed Taylor, Vice Provost and Dean, Undergraduate Academic Affairs, University of Washington
Alternate: Tom Stritikus, Dean, College of Education, University of Washington
- Holly Miller, Executive Director, City of Seattle Office for Education
- **Israel Mendoza, ID Mendoza Consulting (Opportunity Youth Work Group representative)**
- Jessica de Barros, Director, Race to the Top project, Puget Sound Educational Service District (ex officio member)
- **Jill Sells, Executive Director, Reach Out and Read Washington State (Birth to 3rd Grade Work Group representative)**
- Jill Wakefield, Chancellor, Seattle Community Colleges
- John Welch, Superintendent, Puget Sound Educational Service District
- Michael Brown, Vice President, Community Leadership, The Seattle Foundation
Alternate: Caroline Maillard, Senior Officer, Community Leadership, The Seattle Foundation
- **Minty LongEarth, Executive Director, South King Council of Human Services (Community Network representative)**
- Rich Stolz, Executive Director, OneAmerica
Alternate: Roxana Norouzi, Education Policy Manager, OneAmerica
- Sara Levin, Senior Vice President, Community Services, United Way of King County
Alternate: Karen Howell-Clark, Director, Early Learning, United Way of King County
- **Sharonne Navas, Co-Founder & Executive Director, Equity in Education Coalition (Advocates Caucus representative)**
Alternate: Anne Lee, Executive Director, TeamChild
- Sili Savusa, Executive Director, White Center Community Development Association
- Trish Millines Dziko, Executive Director, Technology Access Foundation

The next Project Sponsors meeting is 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, June 12, at the 2100 Building (2100 24th Ave. S. Seattle, WA 98114).

DATA

- Andrew Sahalie presented at the Education Research and Data Center ARRA State-wide Longitudinal Data System Conference in Olympia on May 21. The presentation was titled Leveraging Multi-Sector Data to Support Collaborative Decision Making.
- The data team helped prepare the High School to College Completion Advisory Group's high school-specific reports. The reports allow high schools to identify their

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unique assets and opportunities for growth. The team performed analyses specific to College Bound scholars that enable stakeholders to tailor support to these students. Additionally, CCER's data system now supports cross-sector analysis that will be essential in our High School to College Completion work. The data team is currently testing the data, and CCER is on track for preparing college-specific data in the coming months.

■ CCER has kicked off a conversation with several collaborators about a certification process for community-based organizations and collective impact initiatives to certify their data privacy and security practices. Certification would promote best practices for education data and demonstrate that certified projects employ these practices.

■ CCER's data team recently began a project to help build analytic capacity at our region's largest opportunity youth re-engagement school. iGrad, in the Kent School District, serves nearly 500 formerly out-of-school youth, assisting them in earning a high school credential and connecting to post-secondary education. CCER is collaborating with iGrad to identify key performance management practices and tools that they and other programs can use to build quality pathways for re-engagement. This will support shared measurement and analysis across re-engagement programs in the region.

COMMUNICATIONS

■ Work is underway to develop a strategic communications plan for the Road Map Project! This plan will help take communications to the next level by developing clear communication priorities, informed strategies and specific goals to enhance all Road Map Project work. The plan will eventually be implemented collectively across the region. Road Map Project partners are invited to join a small team that will co-own this work and support the planning process. The responsibilities of this group might include four to six meetings between June and September, in addition to sharing insight/feedback via email. Stipends may be available to support participation. Please contact Kristin (contact info at left) if you are interested in learning more about this group. Please keep an eye on future Traffic Reports for additional details on the strategic communications plan.

■ Would you like to know more about the Road Map Project? CCER is holding a Road Map Project 101 meeting to help interested people learn about the Road Map Project, ask questions and make connections. This small, informal gathering will be held in July, with potential for additional meetings in the future. Lunch will be provided. Please email info@ccedresults.org with questions or to RSVP.

Road Map Project 101
Tuesday, July 10
Noon to 1:00 p.m.
2100 Building – Conference Room 3B

2100 24th Ave. S.
Seattle, WA 98144

■ Overcoming barriers to get into college was the theme of a unique community event held May 20 at Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute. “Storytellers: How I Got Into College” was a collaboration between The Seattle Times’ Education Lab and the Road Map Project. The show featured five current students and recent graduates who spoke about the obstacles they overcame to pursue postsecondary education – including medical crises to financial challenges to language barriers. The storytellers were available after the show to answer questions, as were college-access experts from College Access Now and Summer Search Seattle. Education Lab is a yearlong initiative to highlight innovative approaches that address education’s biggest challenges. To read more about the event and see pictures, please visit this web page: <http://blogs.seattletimes.com/educationlab/topic/storytellers/>

ALIGNED FUNDERS

■ The first proposal has been submitted to the Road Map Rapid Resource Fund and was approved. The proposal was submitted by Anthony Shoecraft on behalf of the Community Network, for support to pay for local community-based organizations and parents to attend a family engagement institute at Harvard University on Aug. 6-8, 2014. Not an end goal itself, this project is part of a continuum of strategies in service to the overall parent and family engagement work and is directly aligned with the Community Network work plan and family engagement framework. The objectives are:

- Align family engagement programs
- Understand what systemic, integrated and effective family engagement looks like
- Develop effective family engagement strategies that are employed by school staff, parents and community members
- Understand effective family engagement infrastructure and the skills required to sustain it
- Define and measure family engagement outcomes and evaluating practice.

Leslie Silverman, with Philanthropy NW, is helping to staff the fund and facilitated the conversation with the funders where they decided to fund this proposal. The next deadline to submit a proposal for the Rapid Resource Fund is July 15. For more information regarding this fund, please see the April Traffic Report. If you have questions, please contact your Road Map Project work group staffer and/or Lynda Petersen at lpetersen@ccedresults.org.