

WASHINGTON'S COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES

Applied Baccalaureate Degrees: Policy and Outcomes Evaluation at Washington's Community and Technical Colleges

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BETTER JOBS, BRIGHTER FUTURES, A STRONGER WASHINGTON



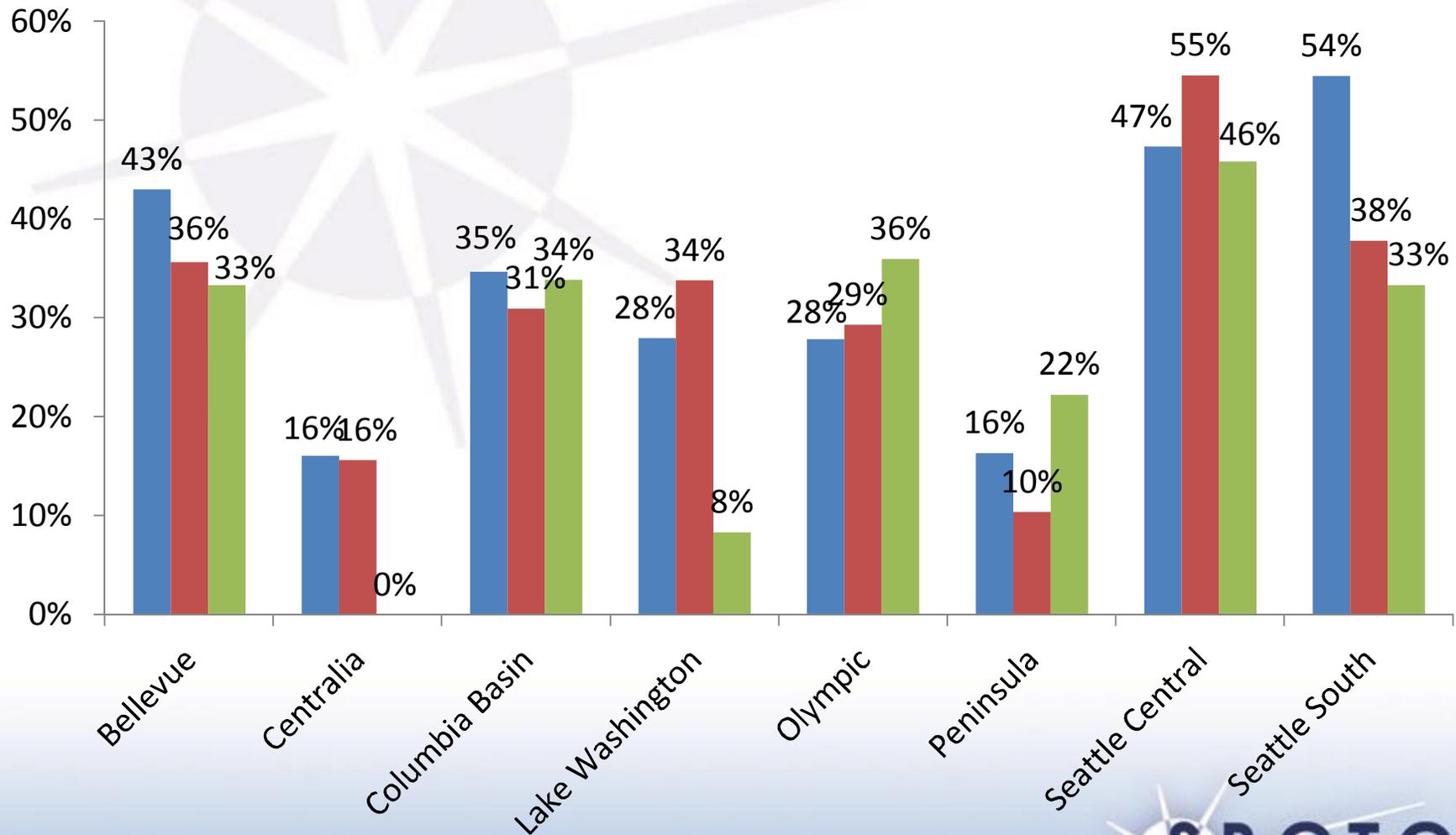
Policy Goals for Washington's CTC AB Programs

- “ Increase educational pathways for professional-technical associate graduates who have been limited in their ability to apply credits toward a bachelor degree.
- “ Meet state goals for increasing the total number of baccalaureate degrees awarded by public two-year and four-year institutions to 42,400 per year.
- “ Expand the workforce mission of CTCs further to better serve the needs of local and state employers.

Guiding Evaluation Questions for Policy Goals

- “ What types of AB programs are colleges offering?
- “ What is the system-level growth in programs and enrollment?
- “ What are the demographics of students enrolling in AB programs?
- “ What are the retention and completion rates of students in AB programs?
- “ ***Do students of color participate in and complete AB programs at comparable rates?***
- “ ***Does having an AB degree result in higher earnings than the associate degree alone?***
- “ ***Does the return to investment in earnings differ by field of study?***

Students of Color: Enrollment and Outcomes



- % Students of Color in Workforce Student Body
- % Students of Color in BAS Programs
- % Students of Color in BAS Completions



Employment Outcomes Methodology

- “ Method of using unemployment insurance wage data evolved over time
- “ Question to be answered in 2015 analysis: what economic return to the student does the AB degree provide above and beyond the associate degree?
- “ Propensity score matching techniques to create comparable groups of AAS and AB graduates for analysis

Findings

- “ AB graduates differed from AAS graduates: AB graduates are older, graduate from AAS program with higher GPA, more likely to be parents, working, female, not a student of color, and less likely to have already earned a bachelor's degree
- “ Six of the eight programs evaluated demonstrated higher earnings for AB graduates
- “ Four programs had significant predictors other than AB degree

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Average Earnings for Associate and Baccalaureate Degree Graduates by Field of Study

	Associate Degree Earnings	Baccalaureate Degree Earnings	Difference	Additional significant predictors
Bellevue: Interior Design	\$24,429	\$29,631	\$5,202	None
Bellevue: Radiology	\$49,326	\$76,113	\$26,787*	Gender
Lake Washington: Applied Design	\$29,964	\$40,239	\$10,275*	Parent, prior work experience, gender, and prior bachelor's degree
Peninsula: Management	\$20,448	\$29,171	\$8,723*	None
Columbia Basin: Management	\$29,503	\$33,185	\$3,682	None
Olympic: Nursing	\$45,621	\$58,296	\$12,675*	Parent
Seattle Central: Behavioral Science	\$23,968	\$30,886	\$6,918*	Prior work experience
South Seattle: Hospitality	\$20,909	\$31,930	\$11,021*	None

* significant, p-value < 0.05; tolerance > .5

Implications and Questions for Further Study

- “ For those programs whose AB graduates do not appear to have higher earnings than AAS graduates, is the AB program serving its role and function?
- “ For those programs where factors other than just the AB program were significant, what is the impact of occupation (vs industry)?
- “ For colleges thinking about new AB programs, what do you know about the earnings potential above and beyond that of the AAS degree? What is communicated to students?