

**College Spark Washington awards \$300,000 to the Community Center for Education Results and Enlearn for projects that target student success**

SEATTLE – College Spark announced \$300,000 in grant funding to two local organizations. The Community Center for Education Results and Enlearn each received \$150,000 for projects that aim to improve student outcomes.

The Outcomes Acceleration Fund focuses on building the effectiveness of grantees working with low-income students in high school and college by funding new and promising practices that help students become college-ready and transition successfully to college.

Each year, thousands of students intending to go to college fail to actually enroll. College-going plans for as many as 40 percent of students dissolve in a typical summer. To address this, the Community Center for Education Results (CCER) will lead a project with three strands of system-building work to reduce summer melt, increase direct enrollment rates, and to reduce equity gaps in those rates. CCER will focus on building a system to collect and track data about key steps towards postsecondary enrollment. This data, including intent after high school, financial aid completion, applications submitted and admissions and enrollment decisions will be used to inform a case-management approach to promoting direct enrollment in postsecondary education after high school. The second strand of project work is to improve and formalize partnerships between high schools and the two-year colleges in the area. To reduce summer melt, CCER will pilot strategies including follow-up phone calls, text “nudge” campaigns, virtual meetings and possible on-campus events to test how to most efficiently scale summer transition supports for students least likely to enroll without them.

“Washington has one of the worst direct enrollment rates in the nation, in part because we have not yet taken a systemic approach to this critical transition period,” said Dr. Warren Brown, Executive Director at College Spark Washington. “With this project, we hope to learn more about what the most effective strategies are for reducing summer melt for students furthest from educational justice.”

Enlearn will initiate a research and evaluation project to improve the effectiveness of corequisite math courses. In states that have scaled corequisite math remediation, it is typical for about two-thirds of students to earn college-level math credit within one year of enrollment – a success rate four to five times higher compared to students who begin a developmental sequence.

Enlearn is an assessment platform that gives instructors comprehensive student learning data that documents immediate student needs. The platform shows instructors not just what a student is getting wrong, but also very detailed reasons why they are getting it wrong so that the specific skill deficit can be targeted. The platform then offers recommendations for next steps that are most likely to help each student overcome their specific struggles.

While it is important for all educators to assess gaps in student understanding, it is even more crucial in a corequisite course. Colleges aim to target only the specific concepts and skills needed in order to learn the college-level content. This tool will allow colleges working on their corequisite design to make real time adjustment to immediate need – to know precisely the Algebra skill that needs to be covered today for the Statistics content that will be taught tomorrow. “Once colleges know more about what works best and for which students,” said Rachel Clements, Program Officer at College Spark, “they can refine corequisite courses to maximize equity gains.”

Visit the 2020 Outcomes Acceleration Fund webpage for a full list of grantees and project descriptions.

###

*[College Spark Washington](#) funds programs across Washington state that help low-income students become college-ready and earn their degrees. Grantees include community-based organizations, K-12 schools and districts, community and technical colleges, four-year colleges and universities, educational nonprofits, and public agencies. College Spark began supporting access to higher education in 1978 and, since 2005, has awarded nearly \$70 million to college readiness and degree completion programs throughout the state.*