

Washington TRiO Expansion Program (WaTEP)

Academic Support Center
Eastern Washington University

Annual Report 2007-2008 07/31/08

Verlinda Washburn, Assistant Director WaTEP/PLUS

Submitted to: Dr. Rudolfo Arévalo, Dr. John Mason,
Dr. Nick Jackson, Dr. Linda Kiefer,
Ruth Galm, Aaron Brown, and the
WaTEP Colloquium

Executive Summary
Washington TRiO Expansion Program (WaTEP)
07/31/08

Substitute House Bill 1128 – Education Legacy Trust Funding

The Education Legacy Trust Funding called for EWU to expand the number of TRiO eligible students served in the TRiO Student Support Services Project (SSS). This funding which EWU, CWU, and WSU are calling WaTEP is being used to expand the highly effective educational best-practices in place in the SSS project.

WaTEP Objectives

Objective 1: At least 250 eligible participants will be selected for the program as required by the state legislation. Eligibility is based on a status of low-income, first generation, or having a registered disability as defined by the Higher Education Act.

Objective 2: 85% (212) of the participants will be retained as required by the state legislation. Retention is defined here as persistence measured by continuing enrollment or graduation of participants from one academic year to the next.

Objective 3: 250 participants will receive a minimum of 5-10 contact hours per academic year through the activities identified.

Objective 4: A tracking system will be used to distinguish the state funded students and the services they receive from the SSS students and the services they receive.

EWU WaTEP Goals

To further support the mission of EWU by providing a student-centered learning environment to prepare broadly educated, technologically proficient, and productive citizens.

As of June 30, 2008 (end of the fiscal year for the WaTEP program), the total number of uniquely WaTEP students who received 5 or more hours of service was 251. As of July 31, 2008, 198 WaTEP participants registered in courses for Fall 08, 5 students transferred to other institutions of higher education, and 20 participants graduated, which gives WaTEP a retention rate of 88.8%. During the month of July, WaTEP staff attempted to contact all participants who had not yet registered for Fall 08 in order to expedite their registration process, gather information on those who were transferring to another university, or identify those who would not be returning to school next year.

Two hundred and thirty-six students were in good standing at the end of the 2007-2008 school year, which is 94% of total WaTEP participants. The average overall GPA for WaTEP participants at the end of Spring quarter was 3.077. Participants received 3,294.25 total hours of service, which averages out to 13.12 contact hours per participant.

The WaTEP Education 150 course served 14 students during winter quarter and 19 during spring quarter, providing an average of 28.1 hours of assistance per student. WaTEP employed 34 student tutors who tutored 63 WaTEP students during the 2007-2008 school year. The WaTEP staff served as academic

advisors for 48 WaTEP participants during the year. Besides these services, WaTEP has provided assistance to participants through staff tutoring; peer and staff facilitated collaborative study groups; professional mentoring; disability support services; the Financial Management and Scholarship Writing Seminar; major, career, and grad school counseling; leadership/tutor training; ASC computer and printing lab access; and laptop checkout.

The WaTEP program at EWU started the year envisioning working with a somewhat different population than the Student Support Services (SSS) project serves. SSS's focus is on serving freshmen, and although WaTEP does serve freshmen (73 served), we saw ourselves working more with sophomores (51 served), juniors (80 served), and seniors (47 served). Sophomores were aided in choosing a major through personal mentoring and advising, as well as workshops. Sophomores are asked to declare a major at the end of their sophomore year, but many are unsure about how to do this. WaTEP provided information, counseling, and skills that allowed many of them to pick a major with confidence. We helped the upperclassmen to envision themselves as leaders, graduate school students, and career professionals through professional mentoring and training seminars focused on leadership, graduate school, and career exploration.

WaTEP is dedicated to serving a diverse population of students. Eleven WaTEP participants did not identify their ethnicity, but of the 240 WaTEP students who did, 32.5% were students of color, which is well above the institution wide average.

Conclusion

The WaTEP staff has worked hard this year to establish the program, assist students, and reach program goals. We look forward to this next year, especially to refining our processes and having more time to spend with students instead of developing systems. The members of our WaTEP team are:

<u>Name and WaTEP Position</u>	<u>% WaTEP</u>
Aaron Brown, ASC Director	20%
Verlinda Washburn, Assistant Director	70%
Gail Forsgreen, Retention Specialist/Tutoring	100%
Denise Smith, Retention Specialist/DSS	100%
Joe Novo, Technology Manager	40%
Crystal Quiroz, Administrative Assistant	50%

The WaTEP program would like to thank the state of Washington, our EWU supervisors, and EWU staff and faculty for the encouragement and assistance we have received this past year in developing this new program that greatly affects the academic success of many at risk students. We look forward to another great year of serving the students of Eastern Washington University.

Sincerely,

Verlinda Washburn, Assistant Director WaTEP/PLUS

**Washington TRiO Expansion Program (WaTEP)
Statistics for the 2007-2008 School Year**

STUDENT SERVICE STATISTICS	Totals
Students Served	251
Students Registered for Fall 08	198
Students Who Transferred	5
Students Who Graduated	20
Retention Rate	88.8%
Students in Good Academic Standing	236
Good Academic Standing Rate	94%

ELIGIBILITY	Totals
Low Income & First Generation	76
Low Income	18
First Generation	142
Disabled	15
Low Income and Disabled	0

ETHNICITY	Totals
American Indian	10
Asian	14
Black	17
Hispanic	29
Native Hawaiian	3
White	162
More Than One Race	5
Not Declared	11

CLASS STANDING	Totals
Freshmen	73
Sophomore	51
Junior	80
Senior	47