Washington Youth Academy
Update Briefing

For the Joint Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs

Director Larry Pierce
Sep 17, 2014
WASHINGTON’S NEEDS

• Up to 17,000+ Washington State high school students dropout every year (OSPI/DOE)
• High School Students At-Risk?
• Statewide High School Graduation Rates traditionally ~75%
• Increasing number of 5th year seniors
• Increasing applicant pool at Academy, selective process
• WYA has limited capacity to serve additional dropouts w/o additional capital investment
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

• More than 120 cadets complete the program per session; graduated our 1,000th student last winter.
• Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) gains average 2.5 grade levels.
• 85% of graduating cadets earn all 8 credits possible.
• Average GPA of 2013-2 completers was 3.46 (WYA classes); average incoming GPA was 1.20 (high school). This represents an average increase of 52.4%.
• Service to community averages ~40 hours per cadet (valued at nearly $200k to the community per session)
• Rand Study (2012) of the National ChalleNGe program indicates there is a 166% return on investment ($2.66 for every $1 spent on the program)

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<th>NGB CORE Evaluation Results for WYA (2012):</th>
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<td>Functional Area</td>
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<td>Overall Average</td>
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<td>Operations</td>
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CLASS 2014-02 COMPOSITION

151 Cadets currently:
- 44.5% -- 16 years old
- 41% -- 17 years old
- 14.4% -- 18 years old

Ethnic diversity of the class:
- Hispanic 39%
- Caucasian 34%
- Multicultural 10%
- African-American 6%
- Asian 5%
- API 4%
- Native American 2%

- 49% live with a single parent, 46% live with both parents, 4% live with a friend or other family member, and 1% live on their own

20 Washington counties represented in the cadet population, including King, Pierce, Yakima, Kitsap, Clark, and Snohomish Counties.

Family income:
- ≥$45k = 30%
- $35-45k = 14%
- $25-35k = 13%
- $15-25k = 16%
- ≤$15k = 27%

77% have smoked pot, 3% used crack, 4% abused medications, and 3% used Ecstasy (all down from previous classes). Other drugs reported: Meth, Spice, Mushrooms, Heroin/Opiates, Oxy, and LSD.
EXPANSION CONSIDERATIONS

Program Options/Construction Requirements/Expansion

• Design Future MILCON (Military Construction) NG Readiness Centers with Academy Expansion (Tri-Cities, 2025+-)

• New Construction vs Cost of Remodeling Existing Facilities

• Single Site Expansion

• Expansion into Multiple Sites

• Western and Eastern Washington Site Considerations
“JOB CHALLENGE”

POTENTIAL FEDERAL PILOT PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY

Joint Departments of Labor/Defense Pilot program

• 3 State Pilot Programs – 100% Federally-funded – 3.5 yrs (6 months for start up)

• Non-violent convicted juvenile cadets

• Must complete Youth Challenge Program (22 weeks)

• Followed by Job Challenge (20 weeks)

• May team with “Year Up” or other partners
QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS?