

# GATEWAY *to* COLLEGE

NATIONAL NETWORK



*A nationally recognized education  
model serving dropout youth*

# Our Mission

- ◆ Gateway to College empowers youth who have dropped out of high school or are not on track to graduate to earn a diploma and dual credit in a supportive college environment
- ◆ Gateway to College has a social justice agenda to provide a path to post-secondary success for underserved youth—in particular, underperforming students of color and students in poverty



# Creating a Network of Partners

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- ◆ **Portland Community College developed the initial Gateway to College model in 2000**
- ◆ **In 2003, the Gates Foundation invited GtC to become an intermediary of the Early College High School Initiative and the Alternative High School Initiative (now the Association for High School Innovation)**
- ◆ **In 2008 Gateway to College National Network became an independent non-profit organization that serves all of the participating colleges**
- ◆ **The GtC National Network includes 27 colleges in 16 states, partnering with over 100 school districts**



# GATEWAY to COLLEGE

NATIONAL NETWORK

October 2009

- Network Partners
- ★ Gateway to College Main Office

# Who We Serve

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- ◆ Between 16 and 21 years old
- ◆ Out of school or on the verge of dropping out
- ◆ Behind in high school credits (age / grade level)
- ◆ GPA of 2.0 or below

## Our students at enrollment:

**Average Age: 17.1 yrs**

**Average High School GPA: 1.65**

**Average High School Credits: 41%  
of credits toward diploma**

# The Gateway Population

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- ◆ 59% are students of color
- ◆ 74% are first-generation college-goers
- ◆ 26% have at least one parent without a high school diploma
- ◆ 29% don't know the highest level of education of at least one parent
- ◆ 9% state homelessness was a reason for dropping out of high school
- ◆ 25% cite health problems **not** related to drugs and alcohol as a reason for dropping out

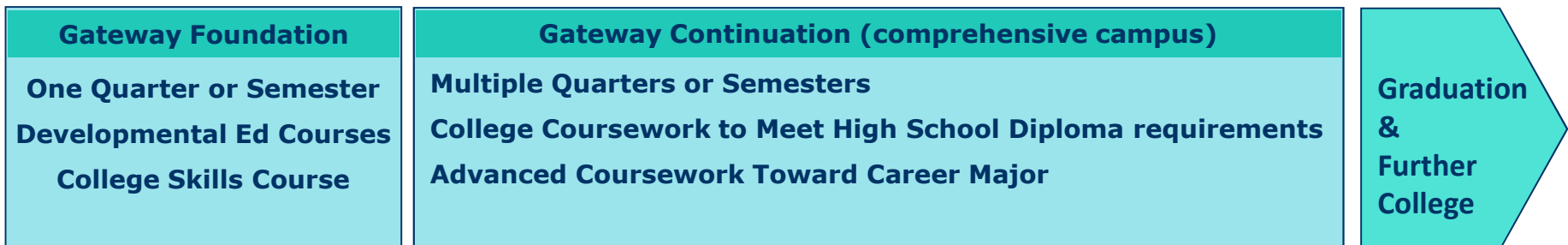
# Students Are Looking for Change

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- ◆ Despite struggling previously, students are hopeful and optimistic about their futures
- ◆ 71% have an academic goal of a BA or higher
- ◆ In adult learning environments, with curriculum that is relevant to their lives and their futures, students become engaged in their education

# Student Progress

## Gateway to College Experience: Up to 3 Years



**Academic and Personal Support  
Continues During the Entire Time Students are Enrolled**

# Why Gateway Works

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- ◆ Supportive Adult Relationships—Young people thrive with small student/staff ratios
- ◆ Power of Place—Being on a college campus is empowering and transformative for students
- ◆ Flexibility of Schedule—Students can take classes in ways that work with their lives
- ◆ Financial Sustainability—Both school districts and colleges can benefit

# Gateway to College Results

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- ◆ ***Improved attendance:*** Despite very poor attendance in high school, Gateway to College students have an overall average attendance rate of 87% in their college courses
- ◆ ***Improved academic success:*** Despite multiple barriers to success, GtC students pass 78% of courses in which they earned a letter grade (DE and transfer level)
- ◆ ***Progress toward college degrees:*** Our graduates have, on average, two-thirds of the credits needed for an AA.
- ◆ ***Changed relationships with adults:*** Our students' relationships with program staff have changed their attitudes toward school and changed their lives

# GATEWAY *to* COLLEGE

*“Focusing on my peers... has always been a big problem for me. I love how college people tend to focus on academics instead of socialization.”*

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*“Gateway to College saved my life.”*

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*“This program is so different than high school. I feel challenged academically, and that is something I haven’t felt in a long time.”*