



PLA in Washington: Workgroup Update

Jim West, Washington Student Achievement Council
John Neace, Eastern Washington University
Craig Rickett, Spokane Falls Community College

RCW
28B.77.230

“The council shall convene the Academic Credit for Prior Learning Work Group to:”

Increase the number of students who receive academic credit for prior learning and the number and type of academic credits accepted for prior learning.

Develop transparent policies and practices in awarding PLA credit and improve prior learning assessment practices.

Create tools to develop faculty and staff knowledge and expertise in awarding credit for prior learning.

Develop articulation agreements.

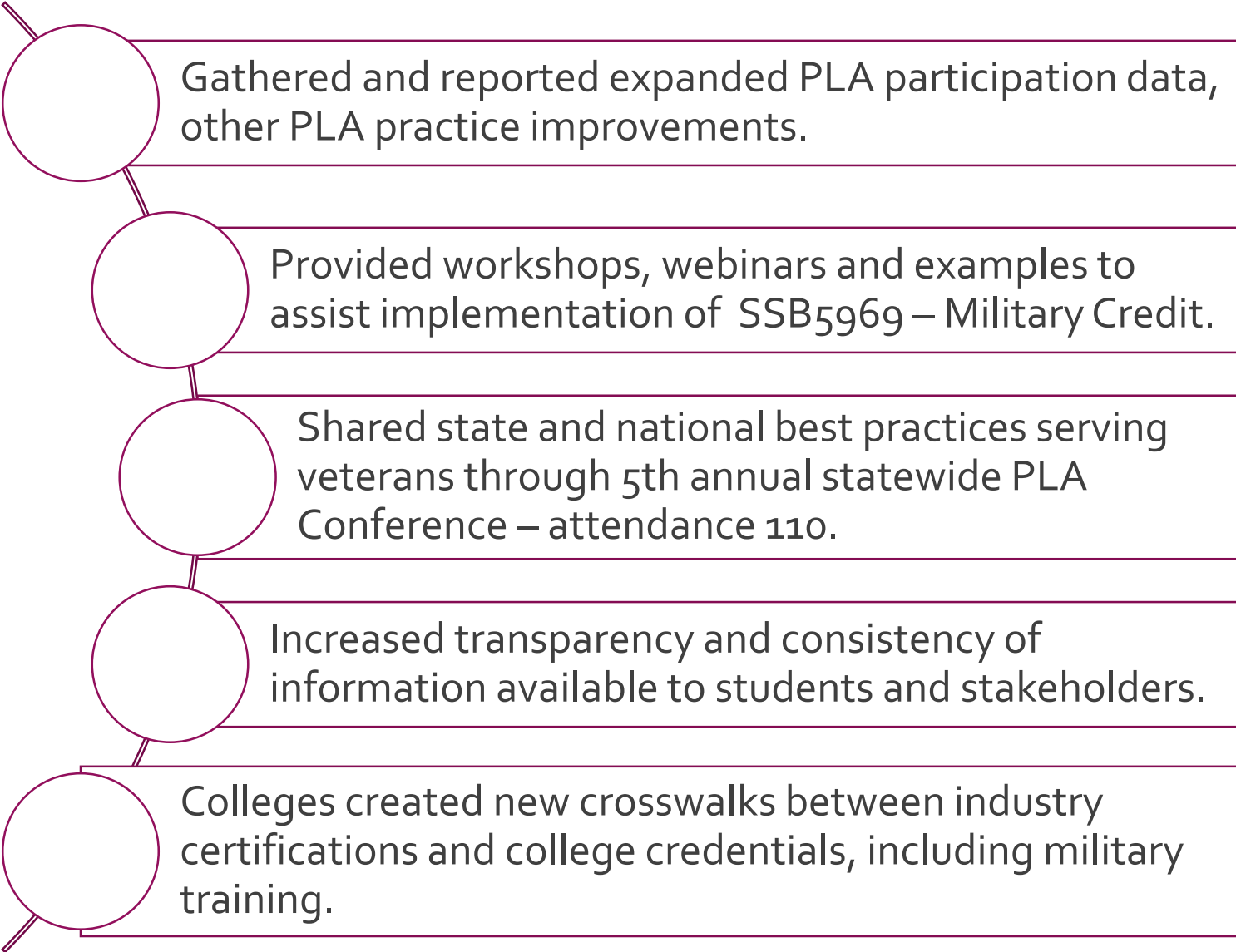
Develop outcome measures to track progress on the goals outlined in this section.

PLA Work Group Purpose:

- To assist students, colleges, and universities, the workgroup facilitates collaboration and communication across the system to implement goals established by the Legislature.

The work group does not set policy – this is the responsibility of colleges and universities.

WSAC submits an annual report to the Legislature on work group progress in carrying out goals set by the Legislature.



Gathered and reported expanded PLA participation data, other PLA practice improvements.

Provided workshops, webinars and examples to assist implementation of SSB5969 – Military Credit.

Shared state and national best practices serving veterans through 5th annual statewide PLA Conference – attendance 110.

Increased transparency and consistency of information available to students and stakeholders.

Colleges created new crosswalks between industry certifications and college credentials, including military training.

2014-15 Progress

Work Group focus for 2014-15 was awarding credit for returning veterans.

2014-15 PLA Data Summary

17,759 students
receiving PLA credit.



37 percent
over 2013-14.

363,126 academic
PLA credits.



19 percent
over 2013-14
(equivalent to 8,070
annual FTE students).

PLA Students and Credits Awarded 2014-15*

	Type of Credit	Number of Students Awarded	Number of Credits Awarded
Testing	Advanced Placement (AP)	10,949	134,281.5
	International Baccalaureate (IB)	784	13,974
	Cambridge A-Level Examinations	115	4,007.5
	DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSST)	10	41
	College Level Exam Program (CLEP)	277	2,093
Prior Experiential Learning	Portfolio Review (college level credits)	518	2,933
Extra-institutional Learning	American Council of Education (ACE) (military course completions)	666	15,859.7
	Occupational Crosswalks (Military MOS, others)	287	3,543.5
	Individual Industry Cert (e.g. NCLEX-RN)	395	4,864
Course Challenges	Credit by Exam	417	4,004
Other	Other Competency-based	3,341	177,525
Total number of students and credits (all sources)		17,759	363,126.2

Source: PLA Workgroup: 2015 Progress Report

*Summer 2014 through spring 2015.

Highline College

- Basic Law Enforcement Academy training to Criminal Justice coursework.

Pierce College

- Homeland Security Emergency Management Center of Excellence - Criminal Justice, Public Safety, Security, Cybersecurity

Yakima Valley College

- Nine departments building industry crosswalks.

Spokane Community College

- Architecture, Automotive, Business and Business Technology, Computer Application Technology Training, CADD, Computer Information Systems, Fire Science and Fire Officer.

Green River College

- CompTIA A+ Essentials Certificate through the Information Technology program.

Bellevue College

- American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) Advanced Certificate Exam through the Allied Health Imaging program.

Wenatchee Valley College

- Various apprenticeships through the Multi-Occupational Trades program.

CROSSWALKS – COMPARING OUTCOMES

Crosswalks refer to a matrix used to compare industry or military-based learning outcomes with outcomes for specific courses in a college.

SSB 5969: Awarding Academic Credit for Military Training

Passed in 2014. Requires each institution to adopt a policy to award academic credit for military training before December 31, 2015, and submit this policy to the PLA Work Group.

Applies to those who successfully complete a military training course or program as part of their service that is recommended for credit by a national higher education association.

Training must be included on the military transcript.

Colleges must develop and maintain a list of military training courses and programs that have qualified for military credit.

This information must be made available to veterans.

Moving Forward: 2016 and Beyond

- Continue efforts to maximize credits for all returning adults through PLA, especially veterans.
- Convene the sixth annual statewide PLA Conference.
- Continue to assist colleges with implementation of SSB 5969.
- Expand crosswalks through PLA pathways.
- Improve access to PLA information, especially for veterans.
- Clarify PLA credit transfer between institutions.
- Integrate apprenticeship information and data in work group activities and reports.

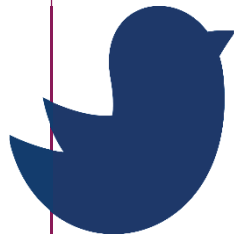
Continue the Conversation



Jim West, Associate Director
Academic Affairs and Policy
jimw@wsac.wa.gov
360-753-7890



Online:
www.wsac.wa.gov
www.readysetgrad.org
www.thewashboard.org
www.get.wa.gov



On Twitter:
[@WSACouncil](https://twitter.com/WSACouncil)
[@Ready_Set_Grad](https://twitter.com/Ready_Set_Grad)



On Facebook:
www.facebook.com/WSACouncil
www.facebook.com/ReadySetGrad