



# PLA in Washington: Workgroup Update

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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.

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

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

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**Develop articulation agreements.**

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

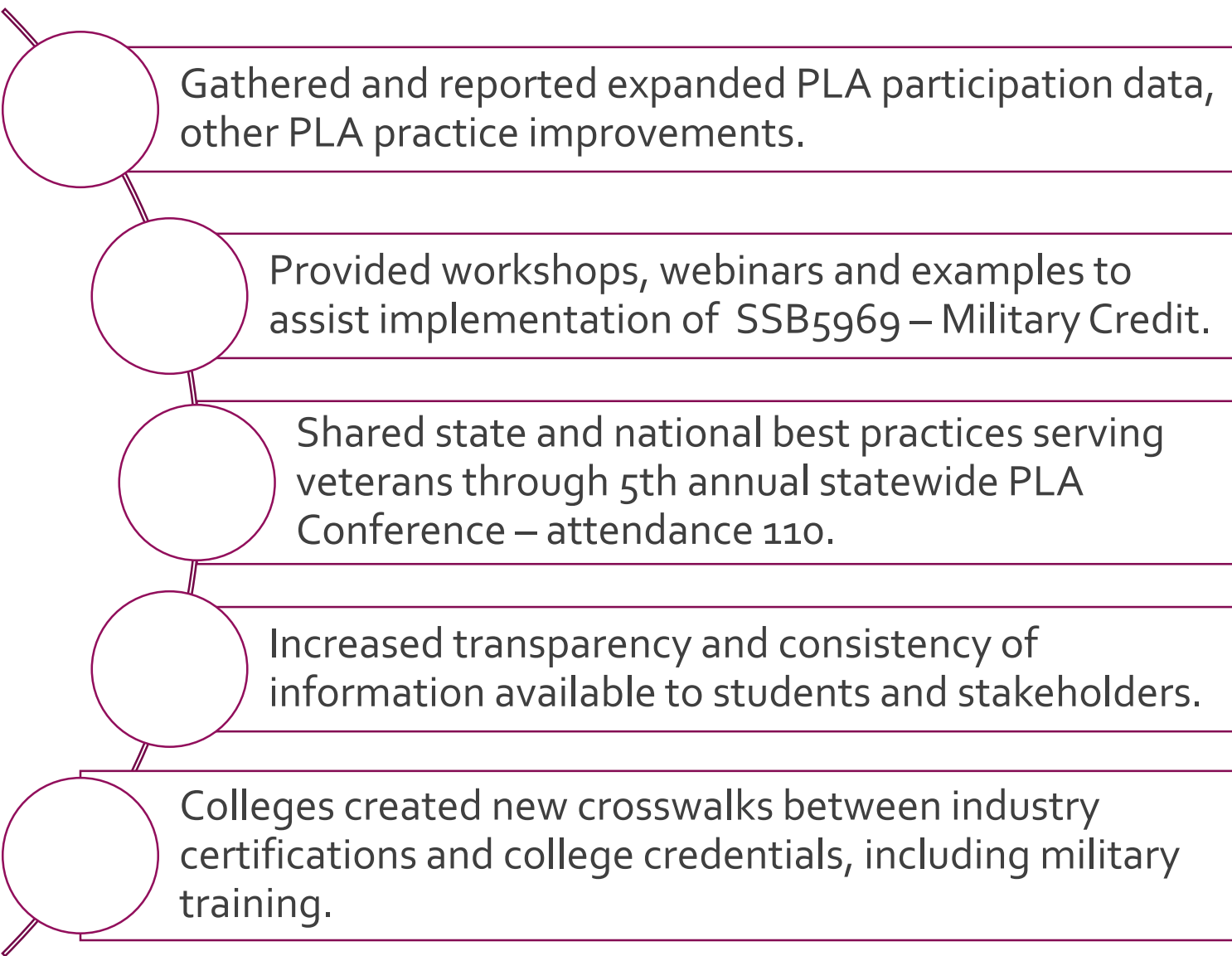
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## PLA Work Group Purpose:

- 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                   |
| <b>Total number of students and credits (all sources)</b> |   | <b>17,759</b>              | <b>363,126.2</b>          |

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

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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.

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Training must be included on the military transcript.

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

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This information must be made available to veterans.

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# 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.

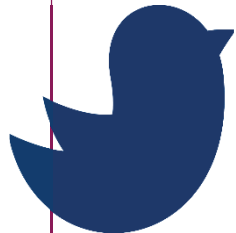
# Continue the Conversation



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