INTEGRATED BASIC EDUCATION AND SKILLS TRAINING (I-BEST)

“Building skills, prosperity

Washington’s Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training Program (I-BEST) quickly teaches students literacy, work, and college-readiness skills so they can move through school and into living wage jobs faster.

Pioneered by Washington’s community and technical colleges, I-BEST uses a team-teaching approach. Students work with two teachers in the classroom: one provides job-training and the other teaches basic skills in reading, math or English language. Students get the help they need while studying in the career field of their choice; they learn by doing.

The I-BEST model is also used in academic transfer classes so students can brush up their skills as they learn college-level content toward a degree.

I-BEST challenges the traditional notion that students must move through a set sequence of basic education or pre-college (remedial) courses before they can start working on certificates or degrees. The combined teaching method allows students to work on college-level studies right away, clearing multiple levels with one leap.

I-BEST was named a Bright Idea by Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government in 2011 and has been designated by the U.S. Department of Education as one of the most significant, national innovations.

Economic strength

By 2023, 77 percent of all job openings in Washington state will require education beyond high school, yet an estimated 685,000 Washingtonians lack the basic math, reading, or English-language skills to succeed in work or college. I-BEST equips students to move ahead in college, land family-wage jobs and grow our economy.

In the 2015-16 school year, 4,518 students enrolled in a wide range of I-BEST programs, including healthcare, early childhood education, automotive, transportation, aeronautics, manufacturing and office technology.

I-BEST students:

- Are three times more likely to earn college credits and nine times more likely to earn a workforce credential than are students in traditional adult basic education programs who must complete basic skills first, before training for a job.

- Earn an average of $2,675 more per year and receive twice the work hours per week (35 hours versus 15 hours) than similar adults who do not receive basic skills training in any form.

According to a December 2012 report by the Community College Research Center, I-BEST programs produce benefits that are worth the cost.

Legislative request: more enrollments

The community and technical college system is requesting $11.3 million in the 2017-19 state operating budget to increase I-BEST enrollments by 900 full-time-equivalent students.

Watch our I-BEST video http://bit.ly/2i9QhsI

“...with students enrolled in I-BEST outperforming students who enrolled in the traditional, consecutive course structure of completing basic skills before enrolling in their career training program.”
Comprehensive I-BEST Pathway

Community and Technical College Degrees and Certificates
Students earn degrees and certificates to help them in the job market, ultimately leading to a vibrant economy.

Professional Technical I-BEST Expansion
Professional Technical I-BEST Expansion combines the math and English instruction needed for students to continue training toward a two-year degree.

Academic I-BEST
Geared toward Adult Basic Education and pre-college students, academic I-BEST prepares students to transition quickly and smoothly into a two-year Associate degree.

Professional Technical I-BEST Programs (Traditional I-BEST)
Geared toward Adult Basic Education and pre-college students, Professional Technical I-BEST provides job-training certificates that lead directly to jobs or to further career-training. Also offered at four correctional facilities.

On Ramp to I-BEST Pilots
On Ramp pilot programs provide, in 1-3 quarters, the training needed for Adult Basic Education and English-language learners at lower skill levels to participate in I-BEST.

2. “A Skilled and Educated Workforce 2015 Update” by the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, and the Washington Student Achievement Council.
3. SBCTC calculation (June 7, 2016) from 2010-14 five-year American Community Survey estimates.
4. SBCTC 2015-2016 Academic Year Report.
6. 2015 Workforce Training Results, Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board.