A Closer Look at the 2018 Early College Graduates from Wonderful College Prep Academy

Background

- **Early College Pilot Program:** In 2013, the Wonderful Company partnered with Bakersfield College under the California Career Pathways Trust 1 (CCPT1) grant with the goal of providing students at their charter school in Delano, CA with the opportunity to complete an Associate of Science in Agriculture Business from BC by the time they graduated from high school. The pilot program, called the “Ag Prep Program” proved successful when one-third of their 2018 graduating class received an associate degree. The success of this first cohort laid the foundation for BC’s launch of Early College across more rural areas of Kern County in Fall 2019.

- **Student Demographics:**
  - 95% of the participants were Hispanic/Latinx
  - 85% of the participating students were first-generation college students
  - 89.4% of the population were from socioeconomically disadvantaged homes

Success in High School

- **Unit & Degree Completion:** A total of 75 students from the Wonderful Academy class of 2018 participated in the Early College program between summer 2014 and summer 2018. Of the 75 participating students, 28 students were awarded an Associate Degree for Transfer in Agriculture Business. The chart to the right details student academic progress for all participants. Participants who earned a degree demonstrate a higher GPA, but participants who did not earn a degree still earned an average of 46 units.

- **Dual Enrollment Success Rates:** The graph to the below shows the average success rates of students in dual enrollment courses at Wonderful College Prep Academy over the last four years. The first year of the pilot, the students performed slightly under the institution-set standard of 69%, but every year since that the success rates have far exceeded the standard.
Success After High School

- **Graduates v. Non-Graduates:** Of the 75 participating students in the 2018 cohort at Wonderful College Prep Academy, the “graduates” mentioned below refer to 28 students who were awarded an associate degree when they graduated high school and the “non-graduates” refer to the remaining 47 participants who graduated from high school, but did not receive a degree.

<table>
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<tr>
<td>28 Students</td>
<td>47 Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earned an average of <strong>63 units</strong></td>
<td>Earned an average of <strong>46 units</strong></td>
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<td>With an average <strong>GPA of 3.29</strong></td>
<td>With an average <strong>GPA of 2.51</strong></td>
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<td><strong>54%</strong> matriculated into college as a Junior</td>
<td><strong>51%</strong> matriculated into college as a <strong>Sophomore or higher</strong></td>
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- **Matriculation After Early College:** The majority of both graduates and non-graduates from Wonderful College Prep Academy went to a California State University (CSU) school after high school graduation. Some important findings from the data provided below were that significantly more graduates went to a University of California (UC) school than non-graduates, and the very few participants altogether attending a community college after earning credits through Early College.

**INSTITUTIONS ATTENDED AFTER HS GRADUATION**

- College Going Rate & Retention: The 2019 College Going Report put out by the California Department of Education set the rate at which students enroll in college within 12 months of high school graduation at 64.4%. Looking at the Early College class of 2018, 86-87% of participating students went to college directly after high school. While both groups show high retention rates, it can be seen that the graduates were more likely to retain enrollment through the second semester.

**IMPACT ON COLLEGE RETENTION**