



Washington Youth Academy



WYA Vision Statement

The vision of the Washington Youth Academy (WYA) is to provide at-risk youth a quality education, positive values, and life and job skills training that will change their lives and give them hope and opportunity for a new future.

WYA Mission Statement

The mission of the Washington Youth Academy is to provide a highly disciplined, safe, and professional learning environment that empowers at-risk youth to improve their educational levels and employment potential and become responsible and productive citizens of the State of Washington.

WYA Principles

- **High Standards**
- **Personal Responsibility**
- **Safe Environment**
- **Service to Community**
- **Mentoring**

WYA Program

The WYA is a high school credit recovery program funded by the Department of Defense (75%) and the OSPI (25%). DoDI 1025.8 establishes program activities as "non-combat activities of the National Guard". Program graduates can recover up to 8.0 credits (approximately 1.3 years of high school credits.) The goal is to return graduates to their home high school to graduate on time with their peers.

The WYA includes a 22-week intensive residential phase and a 52-week (one year) post-residential phase where the youth receives intense mentoring and placement follow-up. The residential program's target is 125 cadets per class (a total of 250 a year). The official NGB target is 120 per class (240 annually). A class cycle is 154 days, including up to 7 days for home pass and placement activities for the post-residential phase. Placement activities include job search, educational appointments, vocational/technical training, or a return to high school classes, or full-time volunteerism.

Program activities includes academics, service to community, leadership, mentoring, and personal development. A number of small unit training and educational enhancement activities supplement the program including: an additional 7th period in the academic program to assist individuals in need of extra assistance and limited special education services.

The WYA is exploring opportunities to expand across the state. The program is successful in reintegrating graduates back into a productive lifestyle and has exceeded graduation targets for the past four class cycles, and is poised to do so with the current cycle. Cadets complete the program with an overall average 2.4 grade level increases.

Washington's Needs

Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) data notes 17,000 high school aged students drop out of public high schools each year (approximately 17.6% of all students in grades 9-12) and another estimated 40,000+/- students are at-risk. Washington State Senate Committee's Memorandum, "Graduation Rates and Trends", dated December 28, 2012, reveals Washington's graduation rate increased modestly between the years 2002 to 2009 from 72.2% to 73.7%. Recommendations (most of which are typically incorporated into the YCP structure) include "comprehensive dropout recovery programs for disconnected youth." Washington State's average graduation rate from 1972 and 2008 averaged 71.9%.

The Impact of Washington's Dropout Rate (from Federal Way School District report)

- In Washington State approximately 76.6% of students graduate on time during 2010 (78.2% within five years. (National data suggests graduation expectancy at 65.6%)

- Washington State is ranked 37th in the nation for graduation rates.

Economic Impacts*

- 29,800 dropouts in 2007 equaled a loss of lifetime earnings of more than \$7.7 billion.
- Washington would save more than \$436.1 million in health care costs over the lifetimes of each class of dropouts had they earned their diplomas.
- Nationally, if the dropouts in 2008 had graduated the nation's economy would have benefited from an additional \$319 billion of income over their lifetimes. Nearly half of all dropouts ages 16-24 are unemployed.

Impact on Income Potential

- The average annual income for a high school dropout in 2005 was \$17,299, compared to \$26,933 for a high school graduate, a difference of \$9,634.
- Students living in low-income families drop out at six times the rate of their peers from high-income families.

Impacts on Crime

- A combination of crime-related savings and additional revenue of about \$111 million each year if the male high school graduation rate increased by just 5%.
- High school dropouts are 3.5 times more likely than high school graduates to be arrested; 75% of all states prison inmates, 59% of federal inmates, and 69% of jail inmates did not complete high school.

WMD/WYA Strategic Outcome

4-1 Increase the # of Washington Youth Academy (WYA) graduates and participants.

4 -1-1 Sustain the cadet graduation level at or above 70% (the national average residential graduation rate) by 2013.

4-1-2 Sustain graduate post residential graduation rates at or above 70% in school, employed, military service or meaningful volunteer work 12 months after graduation by 2013.

4-1-3 Increase the Academy staffing levels from 63 to 79 by 2017 (for a NGB 250 graduation target program).

4-1-4 Increase staff development plans/training to graduate 100% from the National Challenge Institute Course training within first year of employment by 2017.

4-1-5 Assess feasibility to expand the WYA capacity (e.g., funding, capital facilities, staff) to reach and enroll more dropouts/at-risk youth by 2018.

4-1-6 Assess feasibility to expand the WYA to add a graduate Post-Residential Transition Program by 2021.

4-1-7 Assess feasibility to expand the WYA to add a Non-Violent Offenders Program by 2021.

4-1-8 Sustain Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training for 40+ cadets for each class cycle by 2014.

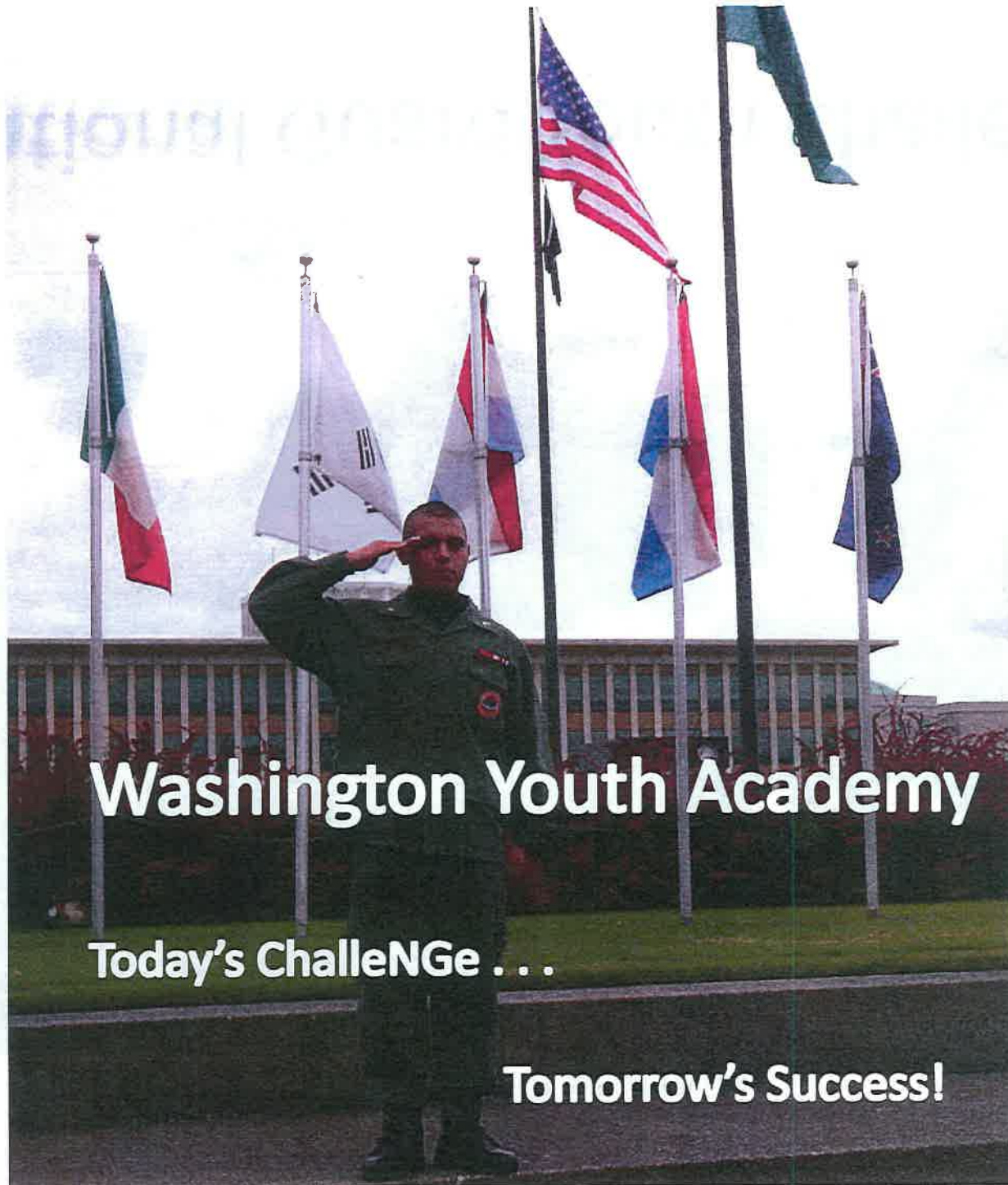
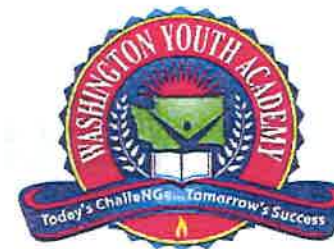
Potential Barriers

Some of the obstacles that the WYA will contend with in the task of increasing program participant and success rates include:

- Securing fiscal resources to expand the WYA program in a time of declining federal/state budgets
- Transient dropout population/No uniform system for tracking dropouts/ Schools hesitancy to "transfer" a dropout/at-risk student out of the district
- WYA inability to access OSPI school construction funding (no authority to levy and/or bond) vs low priority in capital budget process
- Reduced staffing levels due to limited federal/state cost sharing and available funding, likelihood of continuing resolutions for FY14
- Reliance on OSPI apportionment funds to meet state match (negatively impacts academic program)
- Youth unemployment continues to be an issue. The 18-24% unemployment rate is three times the adult rate during the recession.**

**Alliance for Excellent Education, 2011.*

*** Washington State Economic Development Commission, 2013.*







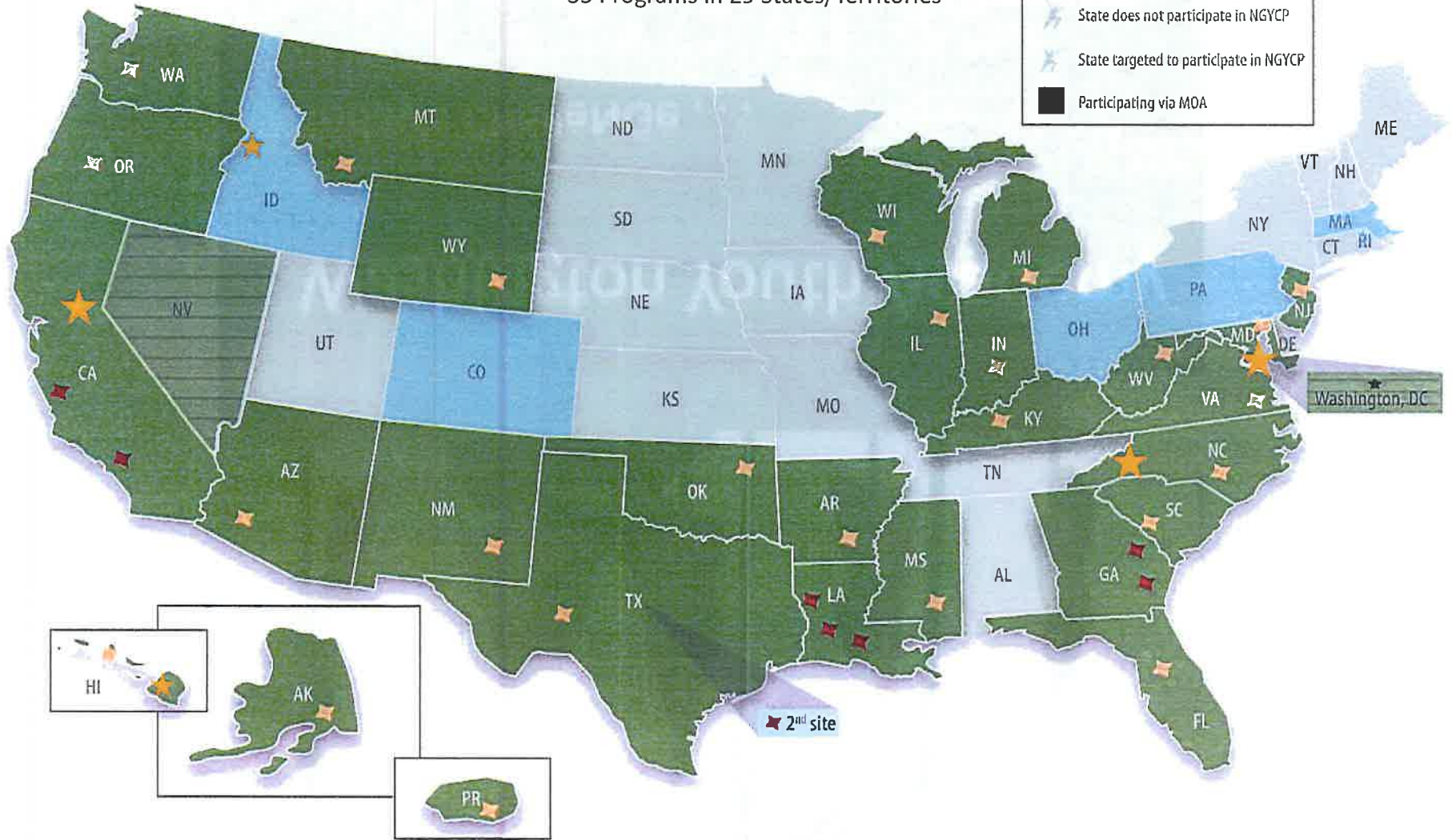
Washington Youth Academy

Today's Challenge . . .

Tomorrow's Success!

35 Programs in 29 States/Territories

-  State participates in NGYCP
-  State does not participate in NGYCP
-  State targeted to participate in NGYCP
-  Participating via MOA



National Guard Youth Challenge

ChalleNGe was designed to be:

- ...an intervention, rather than a remedial program. We would deal with the symptoms and underlying causes in a construct that fully embraced a “whole person” change and readied the students for the post-program environment. We would arm them with the skills and experiences necessary to succeed and we would ensure there was “a way back” to mainstream society. Donohue (2008)
- The quasi-military structure of WYA’s gives the youth the discipline and structure they need to focus on changing their behavior and attitudes. (DMT, 1998)



ADMISSION CRITERIA

- Voluntary admission
- 16-18 years of age on day of admission
- Current high school dropout/expellee/at-risk
- No pending legal action (charge, indictment, sentencing)
- Never convicted of a felony
- Not on probation for other than misdemeanor offenses
- Drug free upon enrollment
- Citizen or legal resident of the US and Washington State
- Physically and mentally able to complete the program



ChalleNGe Structure



The W.Y.A. is a credit recovery/life intervention program within the Washington Military Department and is considered “a non-combative activity of the National Guard.”

2 PHASE PROGRAM

- 2 week Acclimation Period– Goal: identify those students that have the desire and discipline to complete the program.
- 20 week ChalleNGe Phase– Goal: uses a structured quasi-military environment that emphasizes self-discipline and personal responsibility.
- 52 week Post-Residential Phase– Goal: using a one-on-one mentoring relationship, student progress is tracked for one year to provide advice, guidance, and support.

Typical Weekday – Challenge Phase Daily Activities



- 0600 Wake-up
- 0600-0645 Hygiene/Barracks Maintenance
- 0645-0730 **Morning Chow/Personal Time**
- 0800-1055 Academic Instruction
- 1100-1145 Lunch
- 1150-1445 Academic Instruction
- 1450-1545 Guided Instruction
- 1600-1610 Formation
- 1610-1725 Physical Training (PT)
- 1730-1815 **Dinner/Personal Time/Mail Call**
- 1925-2035 Small Unit Training/Guided Study
- 2040-2130 Hygiene/Snack
- 2130-2145 Evening Details
- 2145 Lights Out



WYA – 8 CORE COMPONENTS



Physical Fitness

Life Coping Skills

Leadership/Followership

Responsible Citizenship

Job Skills

Health and Hygiene

Service to Community

Academic Excellence



WYA – Courses Offered



State Course Code	W.Y.A. Course Number	Course Name	Credits
01992	ENG 099	English Proficiency Development	1.0
02151	MAT 120	Applied Math	1.0
03201	SCI 250	Integrated Science with lab	1.0
04149	SST 301	U.S. History	0.5
04064	SST 410	Contemporary World Issues/Debate	0.5
10004	CTE 245	Digitools (Computer Applications)	1.0
11099	FAV 201	Photography/Video Foundations	0.5
13099	FAV 131	Production Art – Glass	0.5
22152	CTE 235	Career Choices	0.5
22104	CTE 099	Community Service	0.5
08099	CTE 425	Nutrition and Wellness	0.5
08005	FIT 123	Fitness and Conditioning	0.5

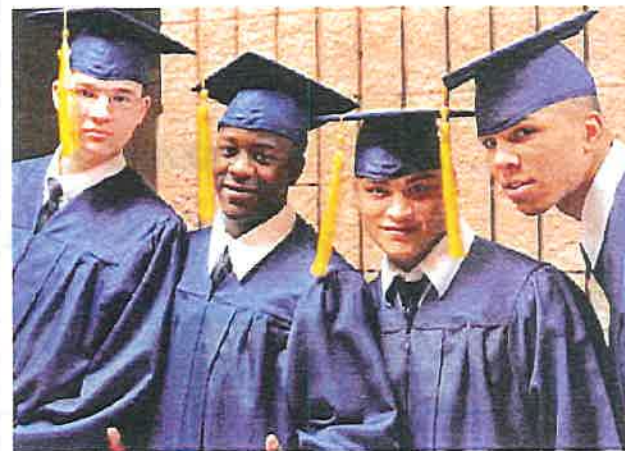
A full year at a High School is 6.0 credits

Total Possible Credits: 8.0

Tough Standards but Impressive Results!

Cadets that completed the program

Session	Lowest credits earned	Average credits earned	% achieving all 8.0 credits	Average grade gain on TABE test
2009-01	5.0 credits	7.38 credits	40.0%	2.3 grades
2009-02	6.0 credits	7.76 credits	71.1%	2.5 grades
2010-01	6.0 credits	7.86 credits	81.9%	2.4 grades
2010-02	6.0 credits	7.78 credits	74.6%	2.6 grades
2011-01	7.0 credits	7.95 credits	93.1%	2.6 grades
2011-02	5.5 credits	7.85 credits	85.0%	2.2 grades
2012-01	6.0 credits	7.92 credits	91.7%	2.0 grades
2012-02	6.0 credits	7.99 credits	99.2%	2.6 grades
2013-01	5.0 credits	7.86 credits	84.7%	2.8 grades



WYA – Cadet Placement

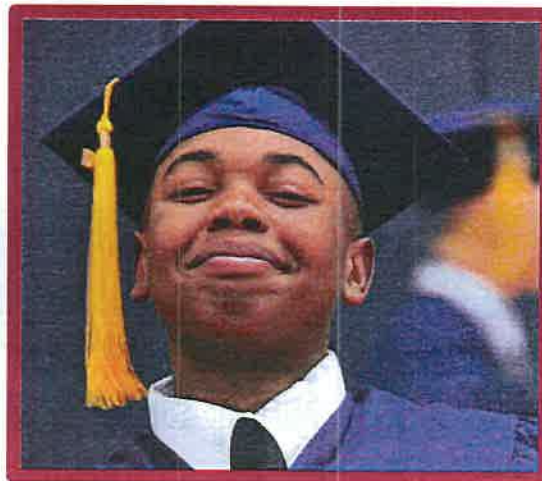


Target: 70% at month 12, 75% at month 6

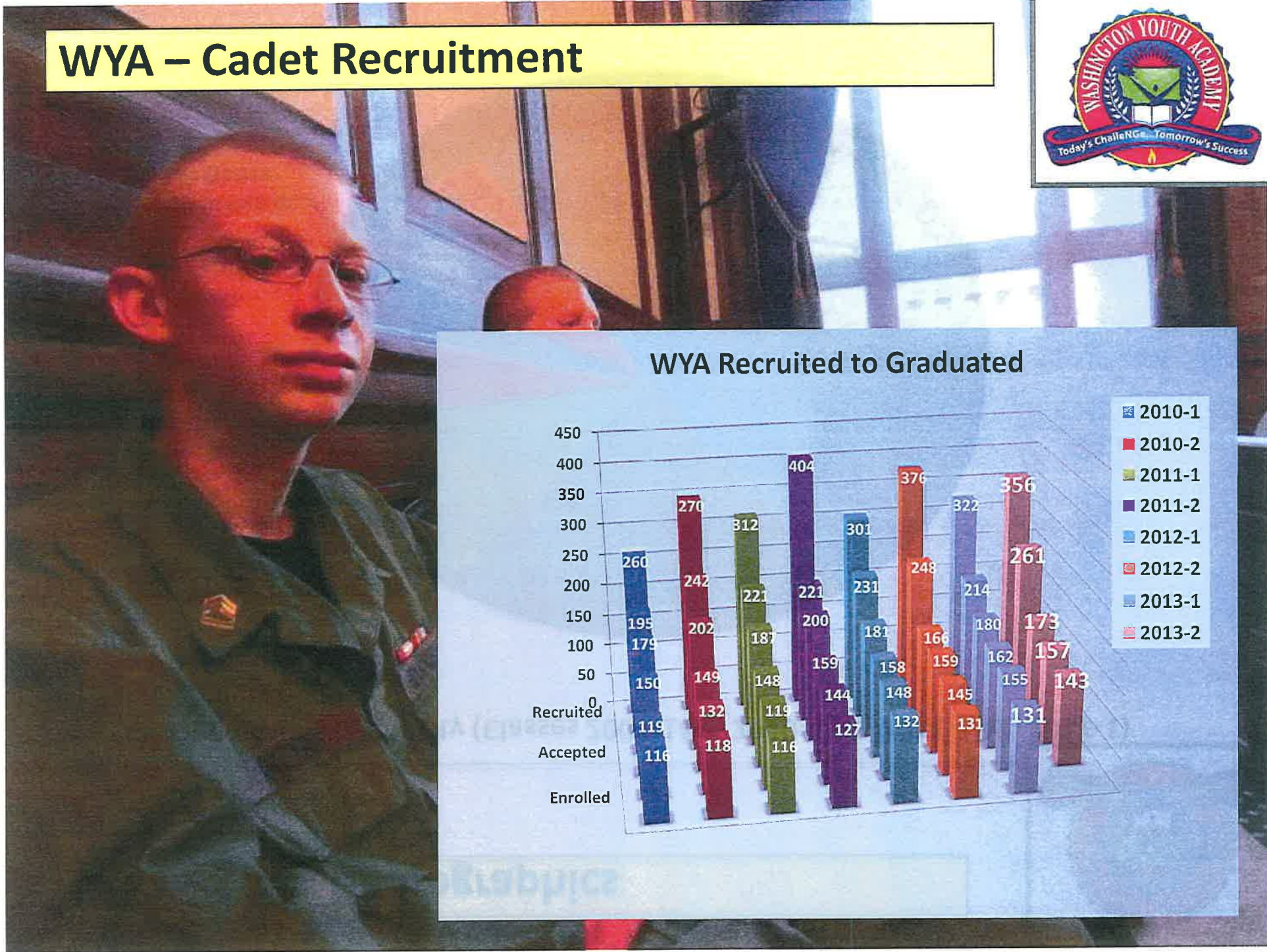
- Class 2012-1 (12th Month): 77% graduates were placed
 - ** 1% military
 - ** 67% education
 - ** 11% employment
 - ** 3% misc

- Class 2012-2 (6th Month) : 89% graduates were placed
 - ** 88% education
 - ** 4% Employment

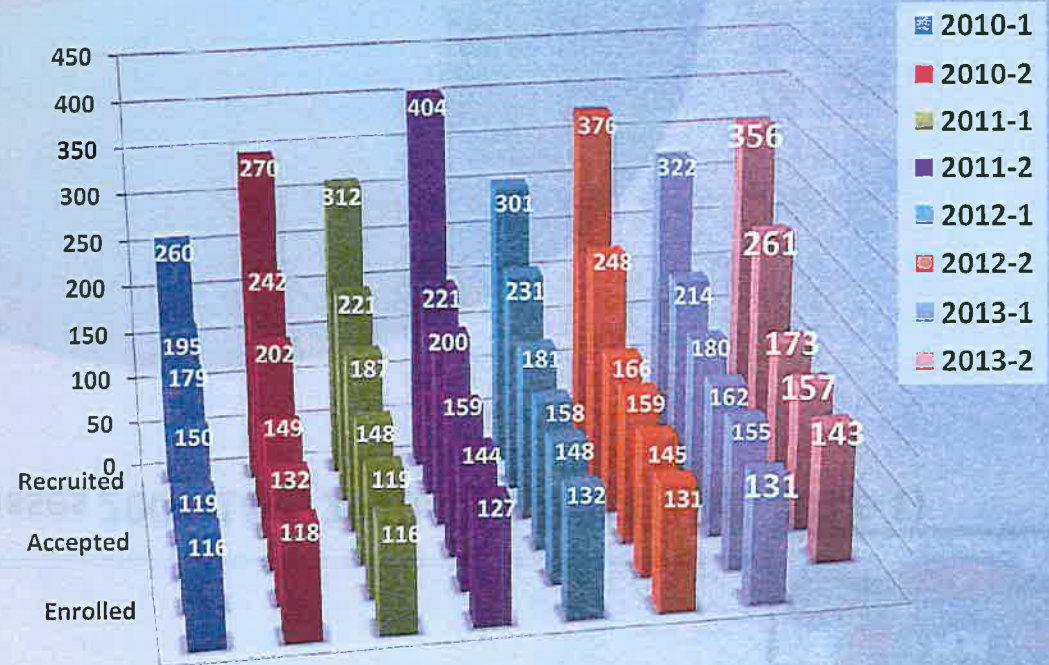
- Case mgt staffing has fluctuated and is currently at 6 FTEs (model calls for 8 per annual 250, WYA increased targeted graduates to 250).



WYA – Cadet Recruitment



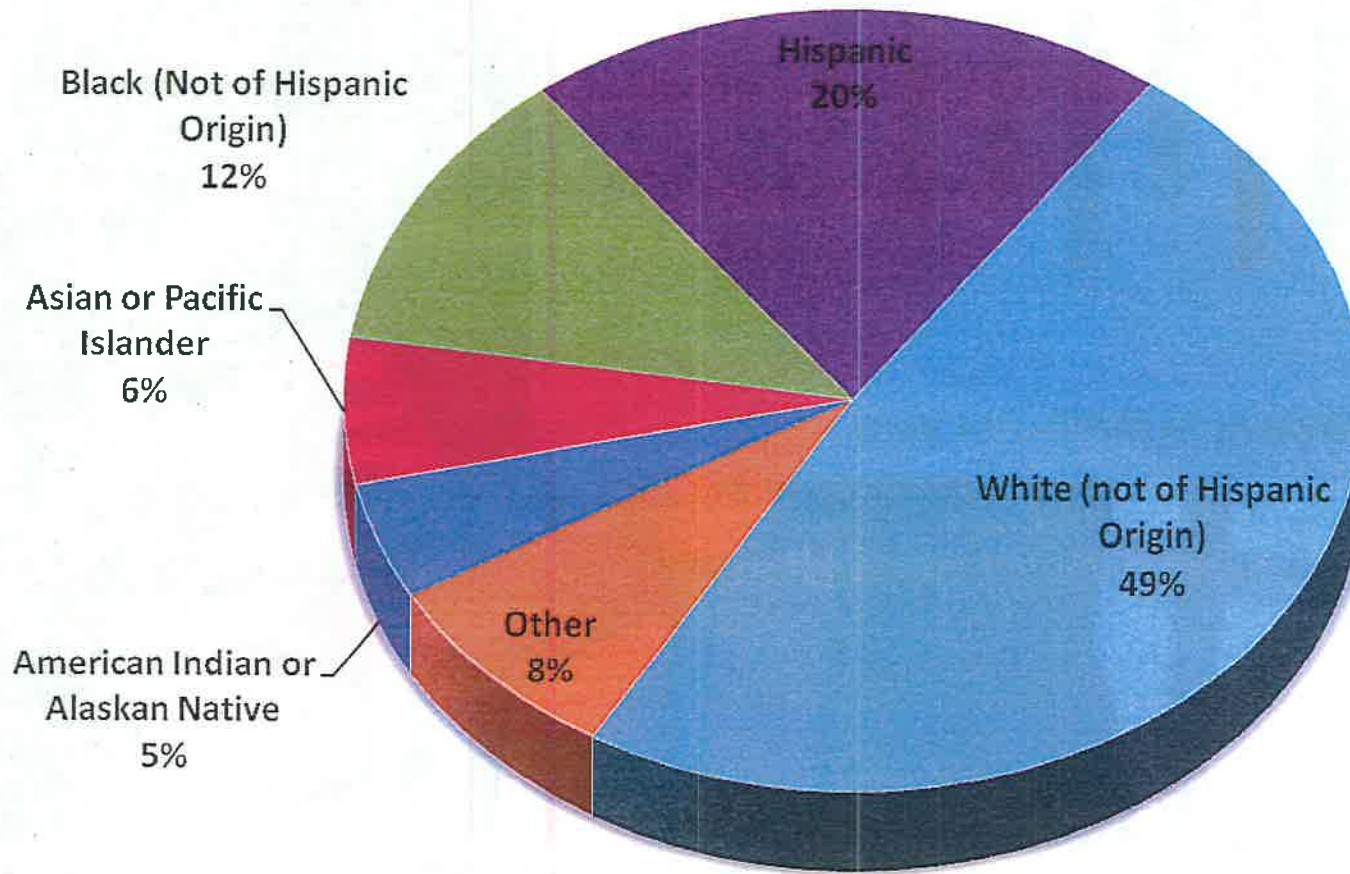
WYA Recruited to Graduated



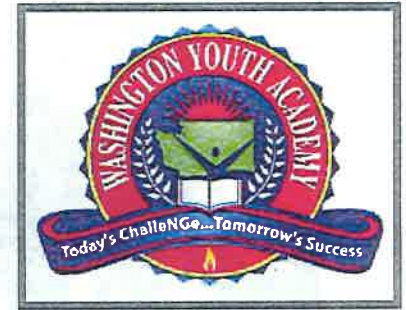
WYA – Class Demographics



Overall Class Ethnicity (Classes 2009-1&2, 2010-1&2, 2011-1&2, 2012-1)



WYA – Evaluation Results



Washington Youth Academy highlights:



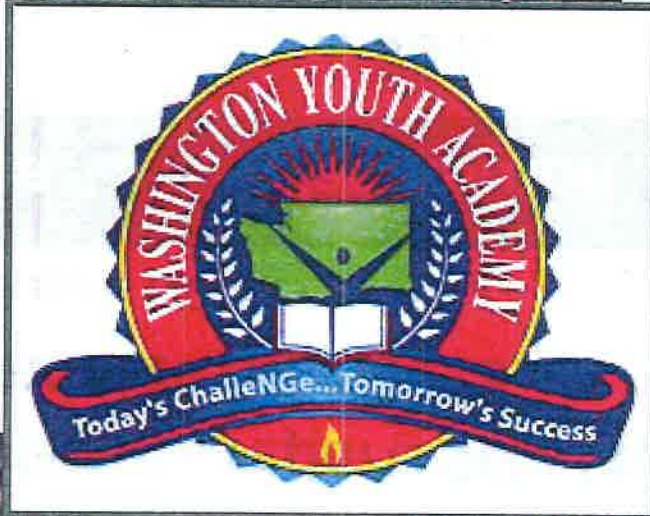
- ✓ Designated Innovative School “2011”
- ✓ State Audit for School Programs: “No findings”
- ✓ Child Nutrition Audit: “No findings”
- ✓ NGB audit-score report: 96% “top program”
- ✓ 1000th Graduate June 2013

Last NGB CORE Evaluation Results (2011):

Functional Area	Washington	Nat'l Average
Overall Average	96%	82%
Operations	93%	90%
Resource Management	98%	77%



DREAM



ACHIEVE



BELIEVE

