

News release



Everett Public Schools

Nov. 19, 2012

For more information:

[Mary Waggoner](#), Director of Communications, 425-385-4040

[Kris McDowell](#), Special Services Executive Director, 425-385-5250

[Carl Fender](#), Career and Technical Education Director, 425-385-4073

Special services program earns \$20,000 grant

Second year for Gaining Ownership of Adult Lives (GOAL) to get financial support

Gaining Ownership of Adult Lives (GOAL) just received \$20,000 in support for [Jobs for Washington Graduates](#) (JWG). GOAL is a special services program in Everett Public Schools for students 18-21 years old, transitioning from public school into further education and work.

GOAL special needs students experience a sequence of school-based opportunities and training to help them become more self-reliant and independent. GOAL students usually have completed their high school graduation requirements. JWG is the Washington state chapter of [Jobs for America's Graduates](#) (JAG).

Executive Director of Special Services, Kris McDowell, explains why JWG has recognized the value of district GOAL programs and dedicated financial support for GOAL as a model program. "JAG's ultimate objective is to provide participants with classroom and work-based learning experiences that lead to a quality job or postsecondary training that also leads to a career after graduation or GED.

"JWG shares our goal and that of Washington state – keeping GOAL students in high school through graduation during the in-school phase of the program and to improve the number who succeed in their education and career goals."

JWG ties its work to career and technical education (CTE). Through CTE, JWG students get technical, academic and 21st century skills that better prepare them for career and college options. CTE Director Carl Fender notes that, "... many high school CTE courses translate into college credit, and all CTE classes are based upon modern industry standards – what students need to know and will need to know for successful careers in those fields. CTE students learn and have opportunities to apply skills that help them successfully move from high school into the workforce and further education."

JWG programs were first launched at 16 public high schools and skill centers across Washington in 2012, serving just over 600 students. Now in its second year, JWG serves 1,188 students from 34 different schools.

This year's \$20,000 JWG grant for GOAL follows last year's grant in the amount of \$20,000.

---end---