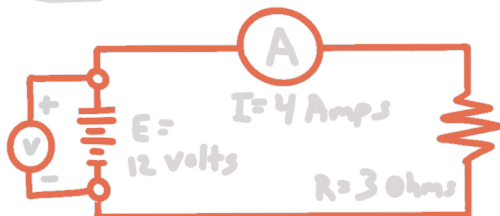




Connected  
Lane County

'21 – '22

# Annual Report



MENTORSHIP

# Table of Contents

**Letter from Heidi**..... 3

**Highlights**..... 4

**District Stories**

- *Creswell & Blachly*..... 7
- *Junction City & Lowell*..... 8
- *Oakridge & Fern Ridge*..... 9
- *Youth Profile: Cassy*..... 10
- *Crow-Applegate-Lorane & Marcola*..... 11
- *Bethel & Springfield*..... 12
- *Youth Profile: Quentin*..... 13
- *Eugene & Siuslaw*..... 14
- *Educator Profile: Eddie*..... 15
- *South Lane & McKenzie*..... 16
- *Youth Profile: Heron*..... 17
- *Mapleton & MLK*..... 18
- *Youth Profile: Logan*..... 19

**Metrics**..... 20

**Looking Forward**..... 27

# Letter from Executive Director Heidi Larwick

**It's been a huge year of growth, for both our team and for the community we serve.**

Our ongoing goal of creating equitable learning opportunities for Lane County youth has led us to create new initiatives such as Spark on 7th. We've also been finding ways to unify and expand our existing programs including Elevate and Navigate.

To make this happen, we've engaged in dialogues around safe working conditions for African American, Black, and Latinx youth, employment and participation barriers such as vaccine requirements and lack of transportation, and how to best anchor Connected Lane County to the community. During these conversations, our focus never wavered from our equity stance—a commitment to creating a safe and equitable learning environment for all youth, where they each experience a sense of belonging.

Increasing access to programming was a big focus of ours, recognizing that youth sometimes have to choose between educational experiences and paid work. To address this, we expanded our available youth experiences, creating programs like the summer Invention Lab and the after-school Agency. In total, we have paid youth \$392,115 in wages throughout all programs with paid opportunities. Youth also received invaluable industry mentorship and guidance. To support this effort, we forged new partnerships with local organizations including Oregon MESA, South Lane School District, the John & Ginger Niemeyer Foundation, Threadbare Print House, and many more. We're so grateful to all of our partner organizations for stepping up to help us provide these new opportunities.

As we look to expand programming in coming years, our board made the decision to move the organization to be a fully independent nonprofit and shift away from the Lane ESD. While this change presents new challenges, it also presents a huge variety of new opportunities; I know we must take this leap for the health of the organization and the longevity of our programming. We're well-situated for growth and I'm confident our organization will reach its full potential by continuing with our strong foundation of healthy teamwork and successful collaboration.

Reflecting on everything we've done this year leaves me excited and optimistic about everything we have planned. Over the next two years, we will create a second Spark location in Springfield, launch an Elevate Youth Workforce center, diversify and grow our staff, build out fundraising strategies, and start a manufacturing apprenticeship program for Lane County. We are confident we will see more youth such as Invention Lab participants Kobe and Dante, experience tremendous growth through our programs and ultimately be accepted to four-year universities with full-ride scholarships.

I can't thank you enough for your support in helping serve the people of this wonderful community, and I hope you will continue to support us as we grow.

*Heidi*



# Highlights



**\$2,354,695**

*in grants, contracts,  
donations, & more*

**\$392,115**

*paid in youth wages*

**\$105,416**

*paid in mentor &  
educator wages*

**paid experiences:**

- Internships
- The Agency
- Invention Lab
- STEM Maker Camp
- and more

**12**

**articles in  
local news**

*[connectedlane.org/in-the-news](https://connectedlane.org/in-the-news)*



**178**

**active industry  
partners**

•

**53**

**new industry  
partners**

*our new impact partners:*

THE  
CORSON &  
JOHNSON  
LAW FIRM

SP  
SIERRA  
PACIFIC  
INDUSTRIES

**John & Ginger  
Niemeyer Foundation**

South  
Lane  
school district



MOSSADAMS



Oregon  
Pacific Bank

Trillium

Community Health Plan

THREADBARE

preventionlane  
at Lane County Public Health

MESA  
Mathematics  
Engineering  
Science  
Achievement  
OREGON







**1,704**

**youth served  
by Connected  
Lane County**



**20,422**

**hours spent  
by youth in  
programming**



**Elevate**  
*by Connected Lane County*

- Hiring Fair 2021: **150 youth**
- Career Expo 2021: **275 youth**
- DevNW Financial Foundations: **212 youth**
- Paid Mentorship Projects: **20 youth**
- Job Shadows: **156 youth**
- Internships: **38 youth**
- OSHA 10 Certifications: **50 youth**
- Virtual Tours: **160 youth**
- Showcases: **52 youth**

**spark**

- Workshops: **57 youth**
- STEM Maker Camp: **31 youth**
- Invention Lab: **29 youth**
- Invention Club: **15 youth**
- The Agency: **10 youth**



**Navigate**  
*by Connected Lane County*

- DevNW Financial Foundations: **72 youth**
- Work Experiences: **54 youth**
- Internships: **20 youth**
- Job Shadows: **38 youth**
- Wonder Wednesdays: **37 youth**



# District Stories

“They can open the doors to such a wide range of interesting, in-demand, well-paying career opportunities.”

“Without Connected Lane County, our students wouldn’t have the connection to real industry.”

“What I’ve learned in the last three weeks will completely transform my resume.”







We were so thankful that Connected Lane County was able to provide this opportunity for our students. So many of our students didn't even realize how many opportunities there are locally for them. They had a wonderful time and came back to our campus excited about their day.

**Julie Johansen**

*Creswell Middle  
School Principal*

## Creswell



Career Expo 2021 was held at Spark in November for Creswell middle schoolers. Students got hands-on experience with a variety of careers—practicing CPR with a firefighter from the City of Eugene, painting wood cookies while discussing logging with Swanson Group, seeing the effects of diabetes with LCC Nursing, measuring objects using various tools with Kaminski Construction, and learning to code with Code Ninjas. **Over 100 middle school students** experienced the fun of the Career Expo.

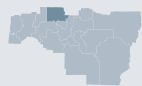
## Blachly



Jenisa, a junior from Triangle Lake Charter school, shadowed a criminal defense attorney during the evidentiary hearings for a murder trial. She couldn't believe how lucky she was to have such a great learning experience, and said it enhanced her desire to become an attorney. She went on to participate in our Project-Based Mentorship program with a project dedicated to creating a mock trial defense.

Autumn, also a junior, shadowed a City of Eugene Civil Engineer. This allowed her to narrow down what kind of engineering she wants to study after high school graduation. Dylan, a senior, shadowed an electrician: **"My experience was exceptional!** They were nothing but kind to me and provided me with great information about the career I am interested in. I felt that I learned a lot."

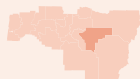
## Junction City



In October 2021, team member Lizzie Gray participated in a panel discussion hosted by the Tri-County Chamber of Commerce to discuss equitable hiring practices, explore how businesses can market themselves better to young candidates, and how to retain entry-level employees. Lizzie's role was to represent the youth's voice in the discussion to ensure the local employers were prepared to recruit and retain Junction City High School graduates. Lizzie helped employers shift their mindset from focusing on the frustrations of the generational clash in value systems and instead on implementing small changes to help young employees along the pathway from entry-level jobs to long-term careers.

**136** youth participated in job shadows county-wide

## Lowell

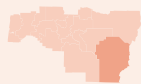


Lundy Elementary has participated in Connected Lane County's early learning efforts for the past four years. In the summer of 2021, our staff drove to Lowell to host a summer learning site in the elementary parking lot. Students received sack lunches along with STEM, Math, and Museum kits, and a handful (or two!) of books. In total, **over 300 hands-on learning kits and 450 books** were distributed. Lundy's Principal, Jessica Edgerton: "Listening to the kids relate the books to their lives was incredible. They opened up and talked about things I never would have known were happening if they hadn't had those books. After the first year of seeing how much it impacted the kids, I took money that we've traditionally allocated to additional FTE and instead added a line item in our Title 1 budget to buy books for kids every year."





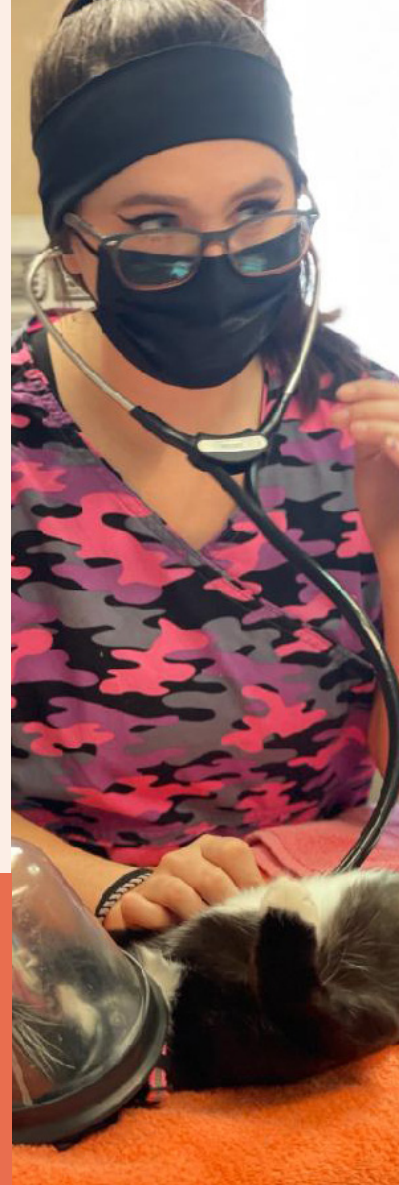
## Oakridge



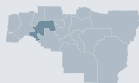
Myia L. is a shining example of an Elevate student success story. A junior at Oakridge High School with a passion for animal science, Myia applied for our 2021 paid summer internship and was placed with a veterinary clinic. With transportation support in the form of gas cards, Myia drove to and from her five-day-a-week internship at the City of Eugene's Spay and Neuter Clinic. When asked about how the experience affected her career goals, she said, "This experience has been so amazing that it makes me want to pursue my career goals that much more. I loved everything about this internship! All my coworkers made it easy to ask questions and to learn about everything going on." Myia had an incredibly hands-on experience vaccinating animals, checking their vitals, and communicating with pet parents. The clinic veterinarian saw her drive and passion, and offered to extend her paid internship until her 18th birthday when she could apply for a full-time position at the clinic. Myia is now an official employee of the clinic and still works part-time as a technician during the school year.

**This experience has been so amazing that it makes me want to pursue my career goals that much more. I loved everything about this internship!**

**Myia L.**



## Fern Ridge



Our organization is often asked how we get information to students, as our staff is not located in schools. The answer is multifaceted, but one of the most consistent ways we connect with students is through high school Career and Guidance Counselors, such as Court Wirth, Brittany McMillan, and Jon Guldager at Elmira High School. They've been connected to Elevate since the program's inception in 2017. When asked why they've stayed connected to our organization for so long, Court said, "Over the years, I've turned to and leaned on Elevate more and more because they can open the doors to such a wide range of interesting, in-demand, well-paying career opportunities, right in our community. And they can partner with the student to guide them through, not only the initial steps but the training required to begin and advance in a career path. I feel like, without exception, when I have reached out to connect a student with any of the programs offered by Elevate, they're given individual attention aimed at matching their interests and goals or, if needed, to help them identify their interests and goals with options that may be a good fit for them." The consistent participation from Elmira HS students would not be possible without partners like Court, Brittany, and Jon.



## ELEVATE YOUTH PROFILE

# Cassy

📍 Graduating Senior  
Willamette HS

---

### PARTICIPANT IN:

**MENTORSHIP, SUMMER '21  
INTERNSHIP, INVENTION CLUB  
MEMBER, INVENTION CLUB MENTOR,  
THE AGENCY, CODEORCREATE  
WINNER, MARKETINGJAM  
PARTICIPANT, INVENTION LAB '22**

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“The mentorship helped me fall in love with direct community impact work. It helped me get better at communicating and using my resources.”

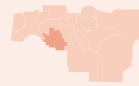


Cassy's first experience with Connected Lane County was a mentorship in the spring of 2021. She was paired with Ashley Espinoza of Lane Workforce Partnership, who advised Cassy on creating a COVID call center to provide the Latinx community with accurate COVID vaccine information and support in registering for a vaccine appointment. Cassy recruited Spanish-speaking students from her school to support the effort.

Since her mentorship, Cassy has participated in numerous Connected Lane County programs: Invention Club, as a member and a mentor for the middle school group; the Agency; and student competitions (codeORcreate and marketingJAM). Cassy has leapt at every opportunity for growth. Before she heads off to college in the fall as the first in her family to do so, she will participate in Invention Lab and her second Elevate internship.



# Crow-Applegate-Lorane

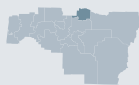


SUMMER  
LEARNING

In 2021, we took our BookMobile to rural communities in the county. Our goal was to get hands-on learning kits and fun reading material in the hands of early learners, so they could continue to grow and learn during their time away from school. Applegate Elementary's summer school program was one of our team's first stops. After school, kids poured through the hallways and stopped to choose five or six books along with a STEM, Museum, or Math kit to take home with them. **Altogether, over 300 books and 170 hands-on kits went home with elementary and middle school students.**



# Marcola

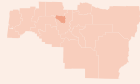


We piloted our Elevate paid internship program in the summer of 2021. **Thirty-eight qualified youth from high schools across the county spent three weeks interning** at local companies and putting the skills they had learned in school to practice in real work environments. One of those interns was Marshall T. from Mohawk High School. Marshall, now a senior, is incredibly passionate about working in the tech industry, programming, and robotics. He was paired with another computer science student from Cottage Grove High School and the two spent their time working on projects designed by the software engineering team at SheerID. When asked how this experience will help him take his next step, Marshall said, "What I've learned in the last three weeks will completely transform my resume."





## Bethel

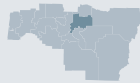


As in-person classes resumed in Fall 2021, a top priority for us was to make free, accessible after-school STEM programming available at Spark for middle and high school students. Through a partnership with Lane ESD's Migrant Education Program and Willamette High School senior Cassy M., **we enrolled 12 Willamette students**

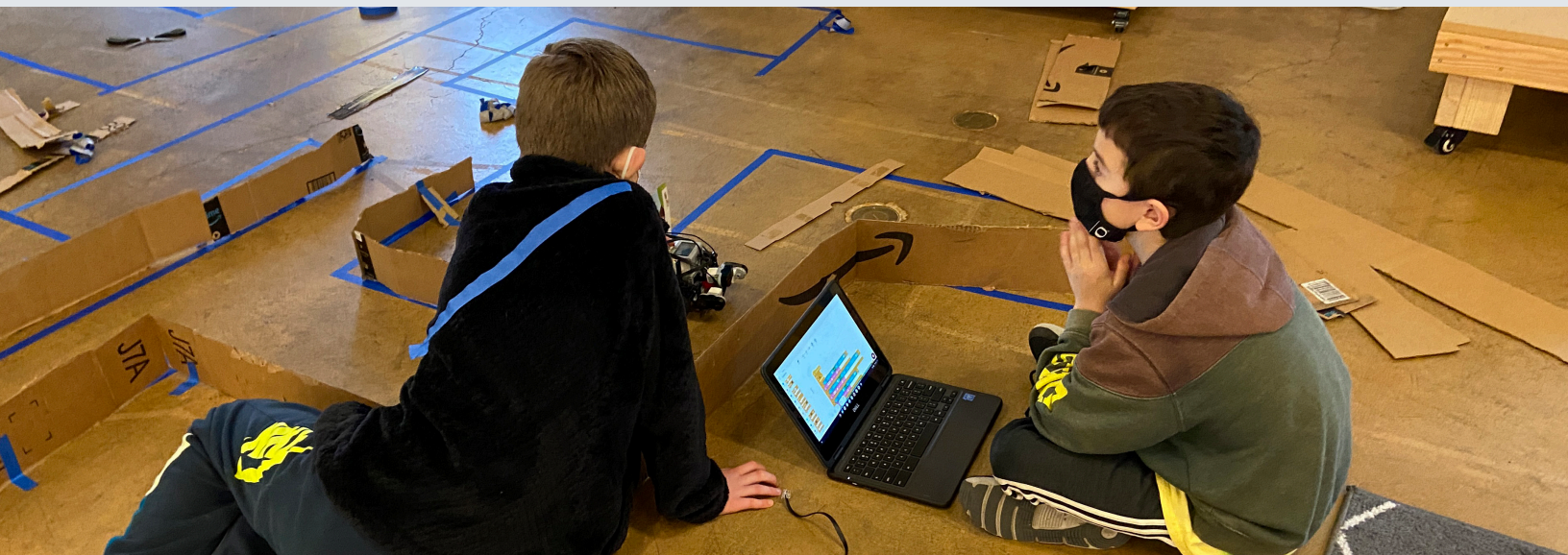
**630** *hours spent in  
Invention Club*

**from the Latinos Unidos affinity group to participate in Invention Club.** The curriculum, developed by Oregon MESA, focuses on empowering students to become inventors and to create solutions for people in the community. The students interviewed a senior buyer from Mountain Rose Herbs and developed strategies for quality control, like sifting poorly harvested herbs and ensuring better access to FDA regulations. Reflecting on the experience, one student commented, "This is so cool, interviewing someone with such an important job." Weekly meetings continued throughout the year and culminated in the team participating in the Oregon MESA Day competition hosted at Portland State University.

## Springfield



Starting in the spring of 2022, Connected Lane County hosted middle and high school students from Springfield Public Schools for a series of STEM workshops offering engaging in-person enrichment on early release Fridays. **Offered free to students, alternating cohorts from Agnes Stewart Middle School (25 students) and Springfield High School (12 students) participated in four three-hour workshops each throughout the spring.** The series included sessions on robotics, coding microcontrollers, 2D and 3D design, and operating machines like laser engravers, 3D printers, and vinyl cutters. The workshops were a fantastic supplement to many of the CTE classes youth were taking in school, and their excitement was a joy to behold for Spark staff.



## SPARK YOUTH PROFILE

# Quentin



Sophomore  
Sheldon High School

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### PARTICIPANT IN:

**INVENTION LAB '21, THE  
AGENCY, INTERNSHIP '22**

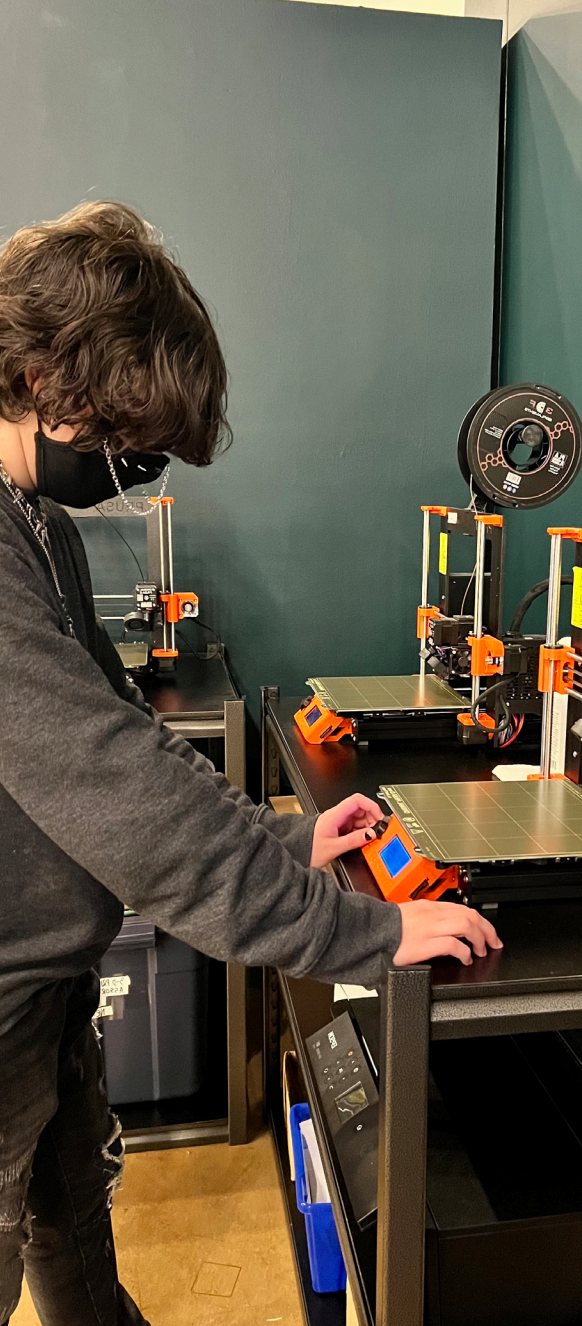
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“Everyone has different ideas to achieve the same goal. I have learned we can work our way around these different ideas to make one big idea work.”

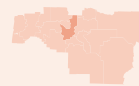


Quentin participated in the first-ever Invention Lab at Spark in 2021. Recruited by H.O.N.E.Y. (Honoring Our New Ethnic Youth), Quentin was entering his sophomore year, didn't know anyone in the program, and wasn't sure he was interested in STEM. His mind quickly changed as he learned to code, build and use 3D printers, and solve challenging problems, all while making a lot of new friends. Quentin quickly became a standout in the program and was invited to participate in the first cohort of the Agency. Over the school year, Quentin worked with his cohort to complete projects for businesses including designing and printing orchid pots, creating websites for local artists, and laser engraving intricate items for the Eugene Symphony Association. Quentin plans to stay engaged in our programs, and this summer he will participate in an Elevate Internship.





## Eugene



In August 2021, as students prepared to return to in-person classes, Connected Lane County hosted a two-week paid STEM internship for freshmen and sophomores from Eugene School District 4J. Held at Spark, the STEM Maker Lab provided a work-based learning experience as well as the opportunity to sharpen social and collaboration skills that had atrophied during the pandemic-induced school closures. While the first week consisted of skill-building in robotics, 2D and 3D design, basic carpentry, and operating vinyl cutters and 3D printers, by week two students were working in teams to build vertical marble run boards. With 3D designers churning out precise ramps, gears, and pulley systems, 2D designers creating custom vinyl decoration, and builders constructing the boards, team leaders were responsible for tracking progress and bringing their team's project together. Capping off the final day with a family showcase, STEM Maker Lab participants had the satisfaction of watching younger siblings in the crowd play and learn with their creations.

**\$22,320**

*paid to STEM Maker  
youth & educators*

## Siuslaw



Our third annual codeORcreate high school hackathon was a success. While we are always blown away by the results of this out-of-school event, few students consistently display such technical expertise as Team Fenrir from Siuslaw High School. Not only did Team Fenrir take first place in video game design for the third year running, but it seems Siuslaw HS has already formed their next generation of winners with Team Vali, who took second in game design. The building and channeling of such talent is the result of Siuslaw's dedicated and coordinated high school and middle school CTE computer science teachers, Eddie Mielke and Patrick Looney respectively. We thank Pat and Eddie for guiding their students in interdisciplinary teamwork and technical computer science fundamentals and congratulate them on their teams' repeated success. We look forward to seeing their future Siuslaw teams at the next codeORcreate.



## ELEVATE EDUCATOR PROFILE

# Eddie

### PARTICIPANT IN:

### ELEVATE TECH TOURS, COACH OF CODEORCREATE TEAMS

“Connected Lane County, as the name suggests, connects industry with public education. It’s a dream! Without Connected Lane County, our students wouldn’t have the connection to real industry.”

Eddie’s first big experience with Connected Lane County was the Tech Tours in 2018 which has impacted the way he teaches and recruits students to business and computer science programs at Siuslaw High School. In those early tech tours, Eddie learned that it is possible for his students to find careers locally that can be fulfilling and exciting, with all the fun employee perks such as stocked lunch rooms, video games, nap pods, and more. Eddie strives to teach them skills they need to lead successful careers at such companies.

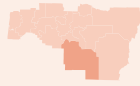
Since 2019 he’s recruited and coached three teams of Siuslaw students through codeORcreate, our annual weekend hackathon event. For three consecutive years, a Siuslaw team has been crowned champion.



Teacher  
*Siuslaw High School*



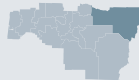
## South Lane



LANE STEM

Implementing a comprehensive Computer Science (CS) framework that serves all students equitably from K-12 is never an easy task, so for South Lane School District to begin this work under the added pressures imposed by the pandemic has been inspiring. The EdTech/CS Committee, composed of South Lane teachers and administrators as well as Connected Lane County facilitators, voiced the need for ALL South Lane students to be good digital citizens with the potential to grow into diverse and creative problem solvers with the ability to adapt. With this vision in place, the committee used district survey data to establish four priority CS standards: online social interactions; online safety, law, and ethics; Google Suite; and navigating devices. Spring 2022 saw the committee developing instructional resources for teaching students best practices and creating standards that will give students the foundation to absorb computer science and digital literacy in their classrooms.

## McKenzie



code OR create

For the last two years, McKenzie School District has been implementing a detailed K-12 CS framework under the stewardship of their middle and high school CS teacher, Corey Culp. Central to Culp's CS framework is the utilization of students as tech ambassadors to aid in elementary classrooms, and here he could do no better than Anna R. and Hailee P. Currently juniors at McKenzie HS, Anna and Hailee have proven technical chops, **taking first place in web design at codeORcreate 2019 AND 2020, as well as working for Connected Lane County teaching elementary robotics and coding in summer 2021.** They now play an integral role as tech ambassadors, helping McKenzie Elementary teachers with weekly Code.org lessons and providing near-peer mentorship to elementary students. It has been a joy for Connected Lane County staff watching Anna and Hailee grow into these leadership roles in tech, and we cannot wait to see their positive effect on the industry.



## ELEVATE INTERN, 2017 COHORT

# Heron

📍 Software Engineer  
Revl Inc.

---

### PARTICIPANT IN:

**TECH TOURS, JOB SHADOW,  
FIRST ELEVATE INTERNSHIP  
COHORT IN 2017**

---

“My first internship through Elevate propelled me to where I am today.”



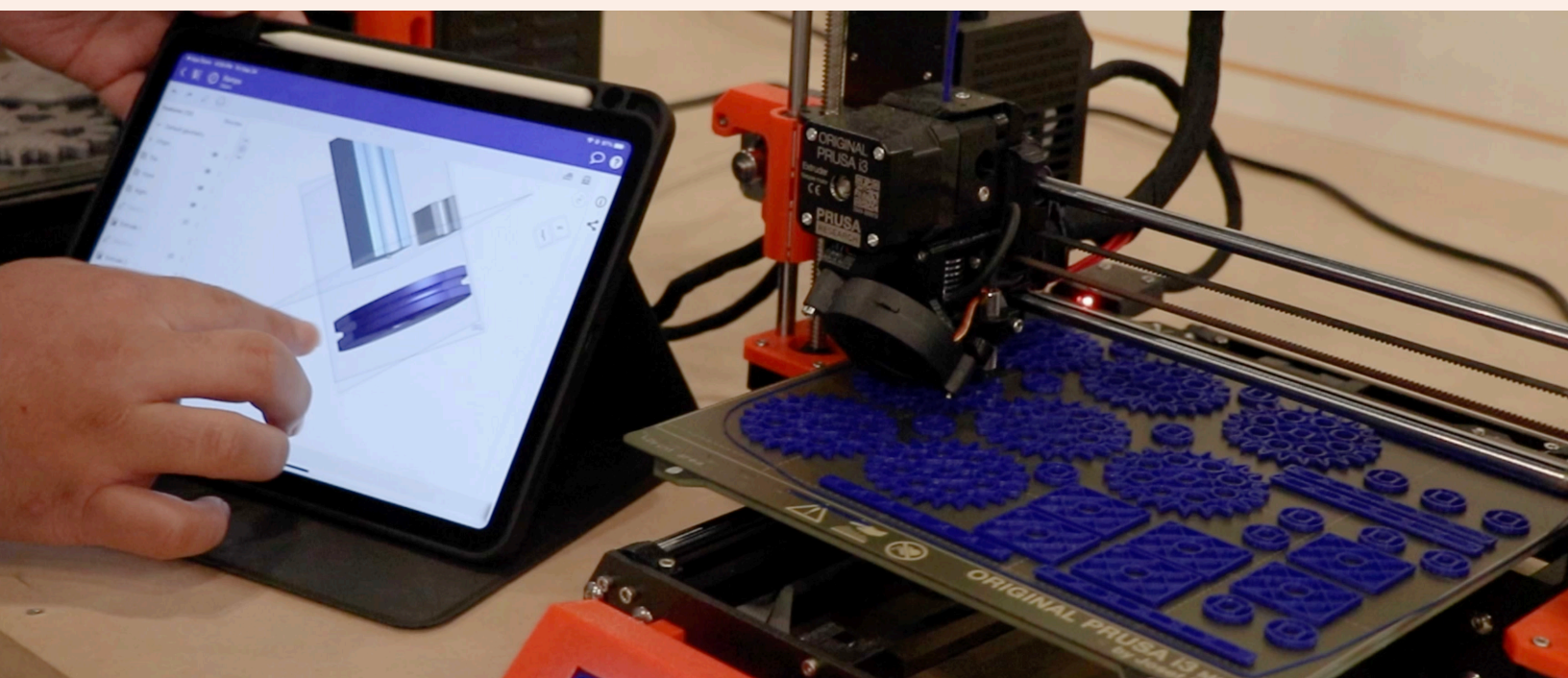
In 2017, Heron was a senior at ECCO high school where he learned to code for the first time in an elective class. His first project was to create a simple game in Scratch and when that went well, his teacher recommended he try the next project using Python. Before he knew it, he had taught himself web development outside of school and was writing Java Script. Heron’s teacher saw his potential and suggested he apply for an Elevate internship. Heron was selected to be in the first-ever cohort of Elevate student internships. Heron was placed with Waitrainer, a small tech start-up in Eugene, for a six-week internship.

“My first internship through Elevate propelled me to where I am today. In that internship, I had pivotal conversations with my mentor and learned of the different paths I could take. It taught me professionalism and how to write code in a professional manner. It led me to seek out another internship offered directly through a local tech company. That internship turned into a full-time job at CBT Nuggets for nearly four years. I now work as a software engineer for a San Francisco-based start-up.”

Heron attributes much of his success to the Elevate internship program. Heron’s participation in that first cohort also helped us refine and expand the program. Without those early interns, our program would not be where it is today. We’re so proud of Heron and can’t wait to see what the future holds for all our youth.



This year, Navigate broadened services to more rural communities in Lane County including Oakridge, Lowell, Florence, and Mapleton. Mapleton has been especially successful in partnering with Navigate staff to refer and provide services to their students and youth. Navigate has connected with a handful of youth who are receiving services to complete their diploma, participate in career learning experiences like job shadows and informational interviews, obtain their driver's license, and explore college options. Navigate continues to hold drop-in times on-site at Mapleton HS to build rapport and connections with staff and students. In addition to Navigate employment and education services, our Peer Support Specialist has also been able to provide mental health services to students. This support has been invaluable to students who are processing past and current traumas and mental health concerns.



This winter and spring, Connected Lane County began providing instruction to youth at MLK Education Center. Staff visit the classroom twice a week to teach about STEM, Career Learning, and Financial Literacy. For STEM, youth are gaining hands-on experience with 3D printers, 2D Designs, Robotics, and Digital Storytelling. In Career Learning, they are getting exposed to a variety of careers such as construction, architecture, and music. For Financial Literacy, we coordinated with DevNW to provide instruction on money management, financial goals, savings, and debt management. Youth have had an opportunity to learn about new career pathways and life skills that will help them become successful adults.

## NAVIGATE YOUTH PROFILE

# Logan

---

### PARTICIPANT IN:

**NAVIGATE, DEVNW FINANCIAL  
FOUNDATIONS, WONDER  
WEDNESDAYS, ELEVATE  
WEBINARS, JOB SHADOW**

---

“CLC has opened my eyes to a thousand more opportunities and gave me confidence.”

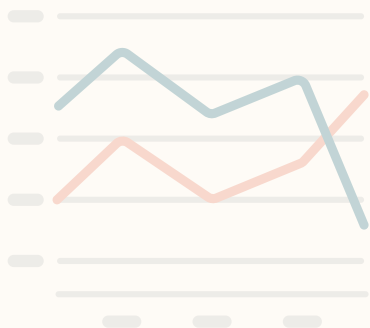


Logan enrolled in our Navigate youth program in 2021. When Logan first came into the program, he was 17 years old and had just enrolled in the GED program at Sheldon High School. Logan felt he was so close to being an adult but had no idea where to start with adult things such as finding a job. Since joining Navigate, Logan has jumped at every opportunity he's been provided. He's participated in the DevNW Youth Financial Foundations courses, weekly Wonder Wednesday workshops, Elevate Webinars, a job shadow with Old Dominion, and much more.

In regards to his future plans, he's learned “there are better jobs out there that not only pay more but that [I'm] going to enjoy. Navigate has opened my eyes to a thousand more opportunities and gave me confidence.”



# Metrics

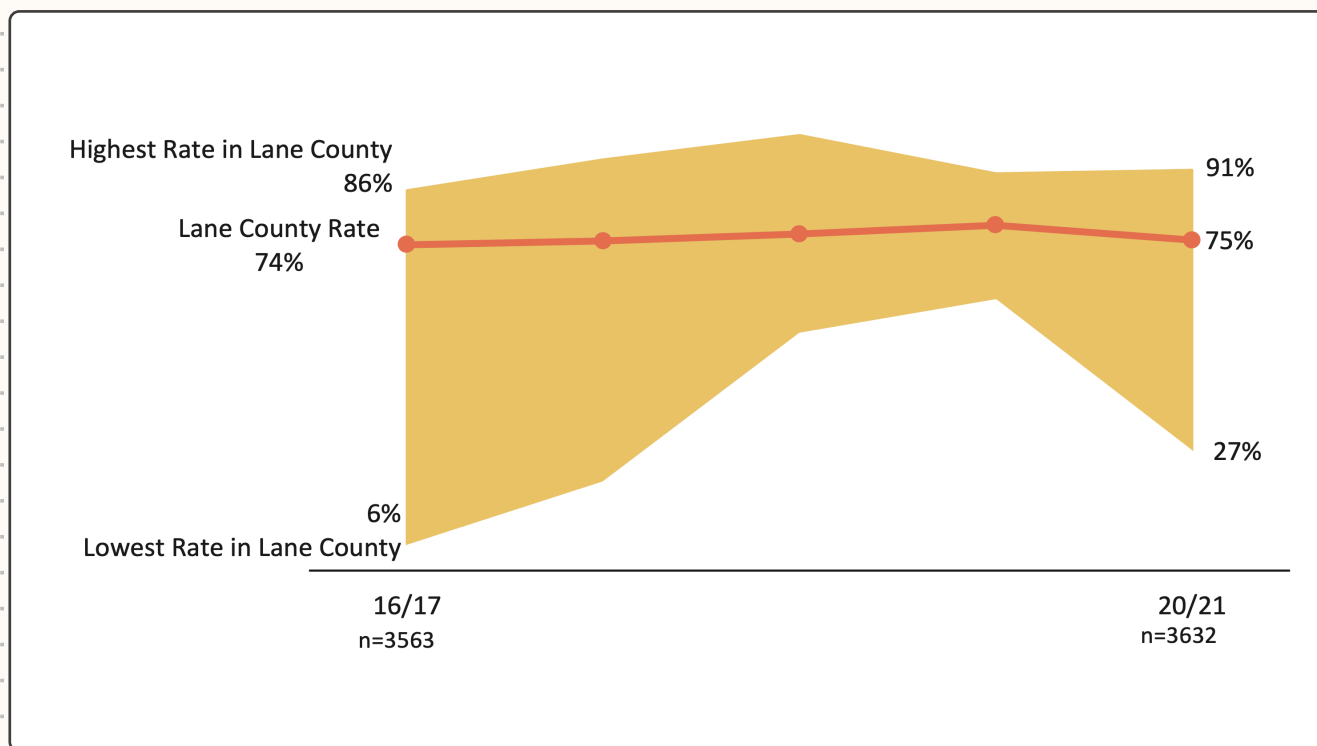


**The last two years have been challenging for our local community; our K12 community and local youth have had to adapt to new and revised approaches to education.**

These challenges have directly affected our traditional metrics. Many of the measures we have used in the past—such as elementary and middle school tests — are not available with many schools and students opting out of participation. As you will see over the next few pages, the challenges of the past two years can be found reflected in the metrics we continue to report.

The fact the data reflects these challenges demonstrates why it’s important to continue providing an overview of the available metrics. Both as an organization and as a county, we need to be aware of how current events are affecting the youth of the area. This data is also essential for the organization and partners to understand our work; it not only allows us to recognize our successes (and shortcomings), but, crucially, identify areas where we need to make an impact.

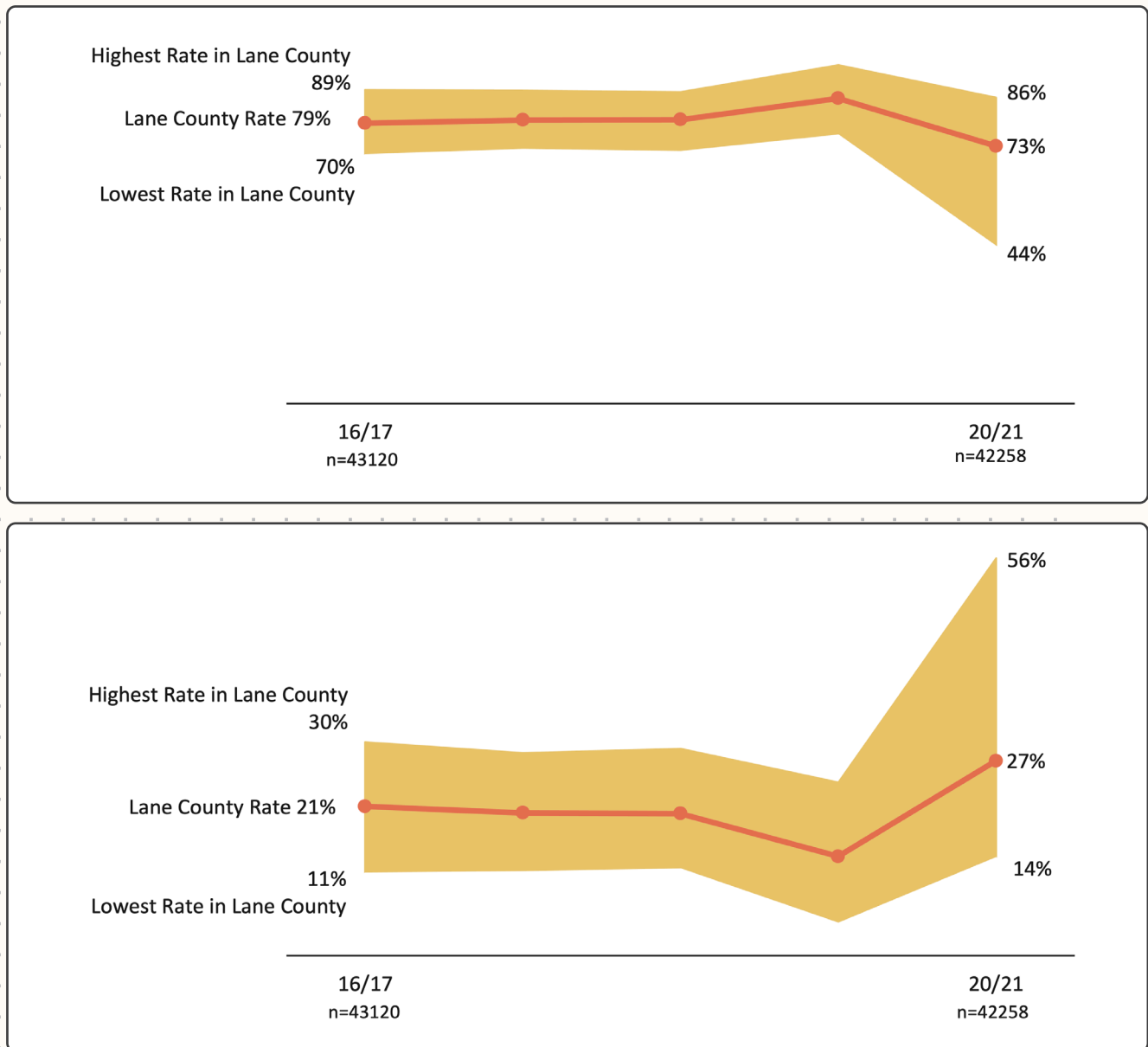
Fig. 1: On Track To Graduate



Ninth grade is a pivotal year for students—completing at least a quarter of the credits required to graduate is a key indicator of on-time graduation and high school completion. In the last five years, ensuring students are on track has been a focus both in Lane County and throughout the state.

Since emphasis was placed upon this important metric, **the county's overall on-track rate has consistently been around 75%.** Due to COVID-related challenges, we saw a slight drop in the on-track percentage in 2020/21, but the rate is still comparable with those seen over the previous four years. The effect of these educational challenges can be seen more clearly when looking at individual school districts, with half of the county's districts recording an on-track percentage below the county average (with the lowest rate of only 27% being markedly below the percentage recorded over the previous two years).

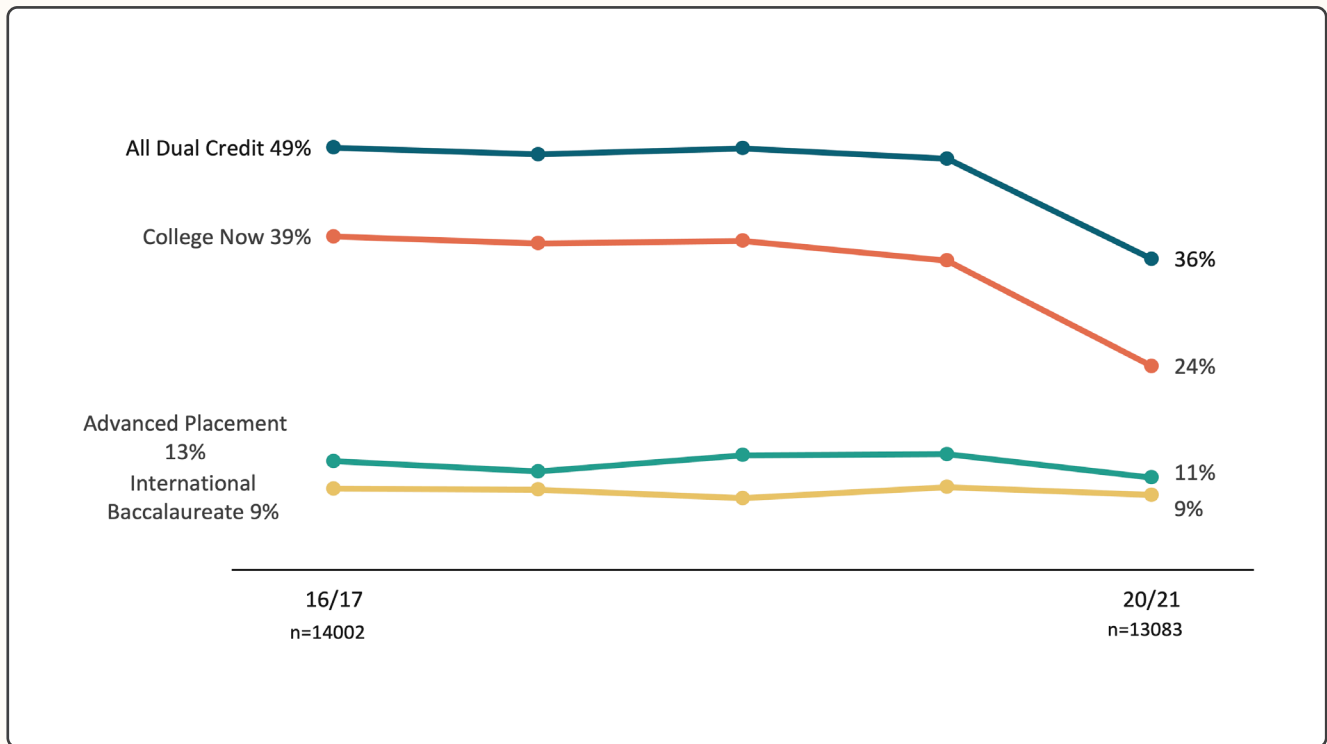
*Figs. 2 & 3: Regular Attendee / Chronic Absentee Rates*



Students who attend more than 90% of their enrolled school days are classified as regular attenders. Attendance is a key indicator of academic achievement and on-time graduation. Over the last few years, the regular attendee rate for Lane County has consistently been around the 80% mark.

In the 2019/20 school year the regular attendance rate rose to over 86%, a growth that was almost certainly related to the move to online school and the resulting changes in the way attendance was collected. Following this significant rise, the 2020/21 school year saw a drop of over 13 percentage points to below 73%, with more than 1 in 4 Lane County students being classified as chronically absent. These numbers reflect the ongoing COVID-related challenges faced by our county's students, families, and schools.

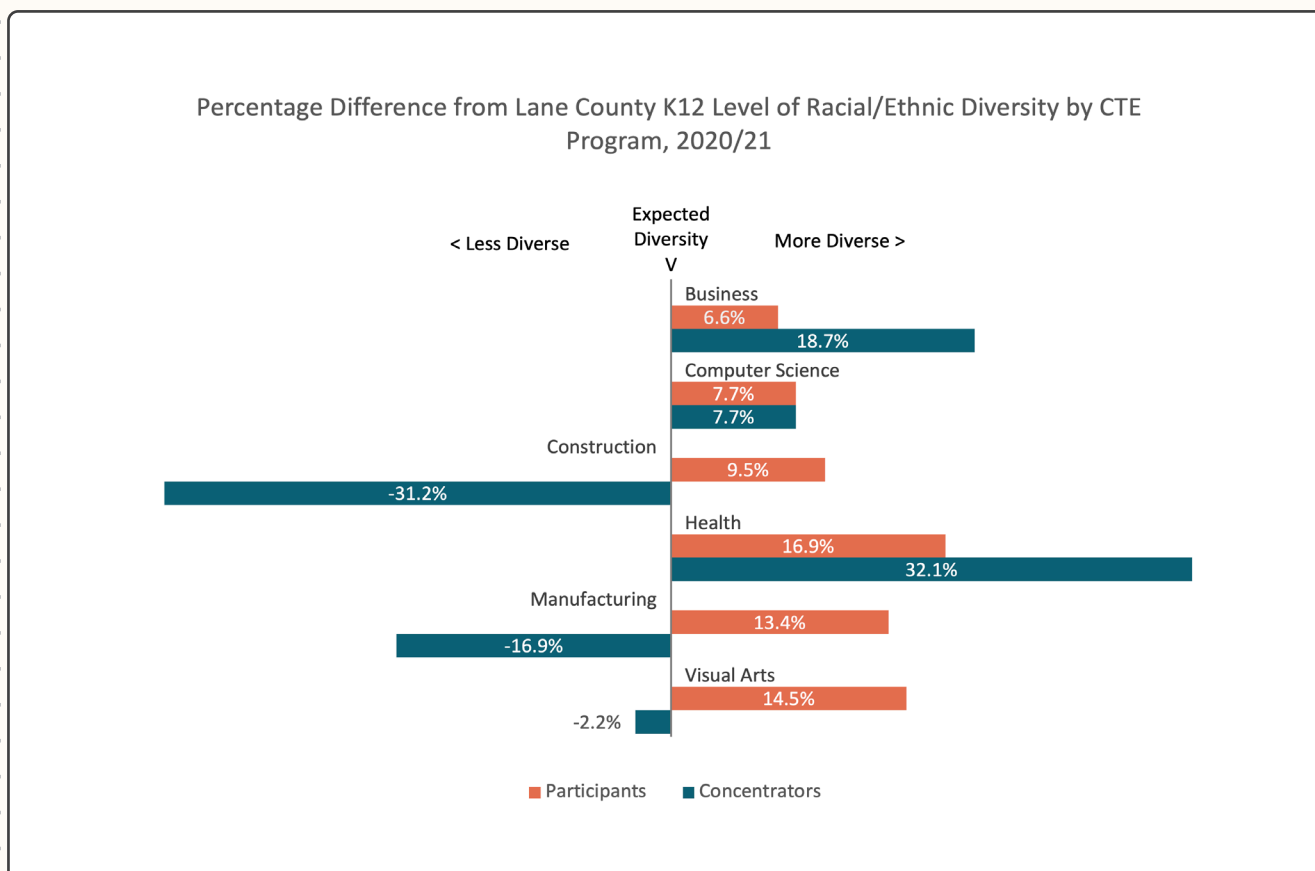
Fig. 4: Dual-Credit Enrollment



Despite a county-wide emphasis on increasing dual credit opportunities for high school students, which has increased the number and type of courses available, the percentage of students taking advantage of these opportunities had remained relatively consistent over the last 5 years.

**2020/21 saw a significant reduction in the number of dual-enrolled students**, with most of the change (an almost 40% reduction) being seen in enrollment in College Now courses. Once again, this figure is almost certainly directly affected by the challenges of education during the pandemic.

**Fig. 5: Percentage Difference from Lane County K12 Level of Racial / Ethnic Diversity by CTE Program, 2020/21**



During our work with CTE, we have consistently used data to identify and challenge inequities in program enrollment.

**The data from 2020/21 shows a significant growth in the number of programs with levels of diversity similar to, or even greater than, the high school population as a whole.** However, we continue to see inequities amongst concentrators (students with two or more credits in the area) in a number of programs, suggesting that BIPOC students are less likely to persist in the program than their white contemporaries.



Fig. 6: CTE Program Enrollment by Gender, 2020/2021



CTE programs also often suffer from gender inequities, with enrollment in many programs tending to follow traditional gender roles.

Females are underrepresented, often markedly so, in the majority of programs of study. The exceptions to this pattern tend to be in areas that are traditionally seen as female fields, which both show heavy female over-representation.

Fig. 7: **Four-Year Graduation Rate**

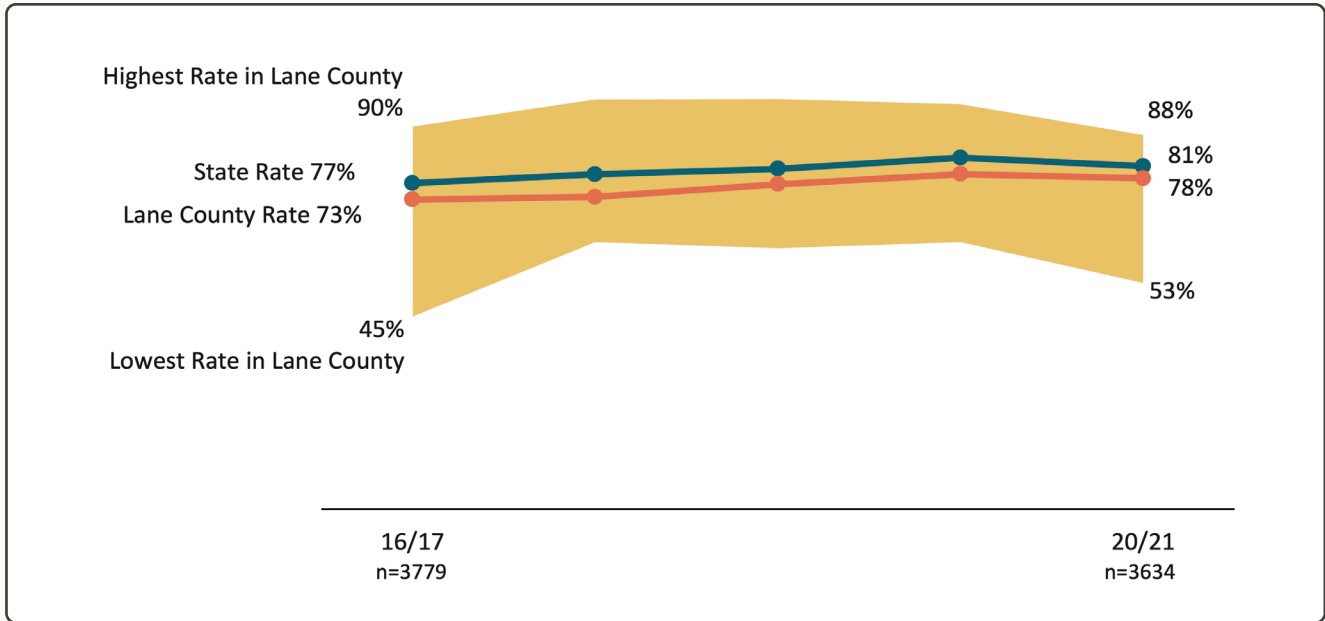
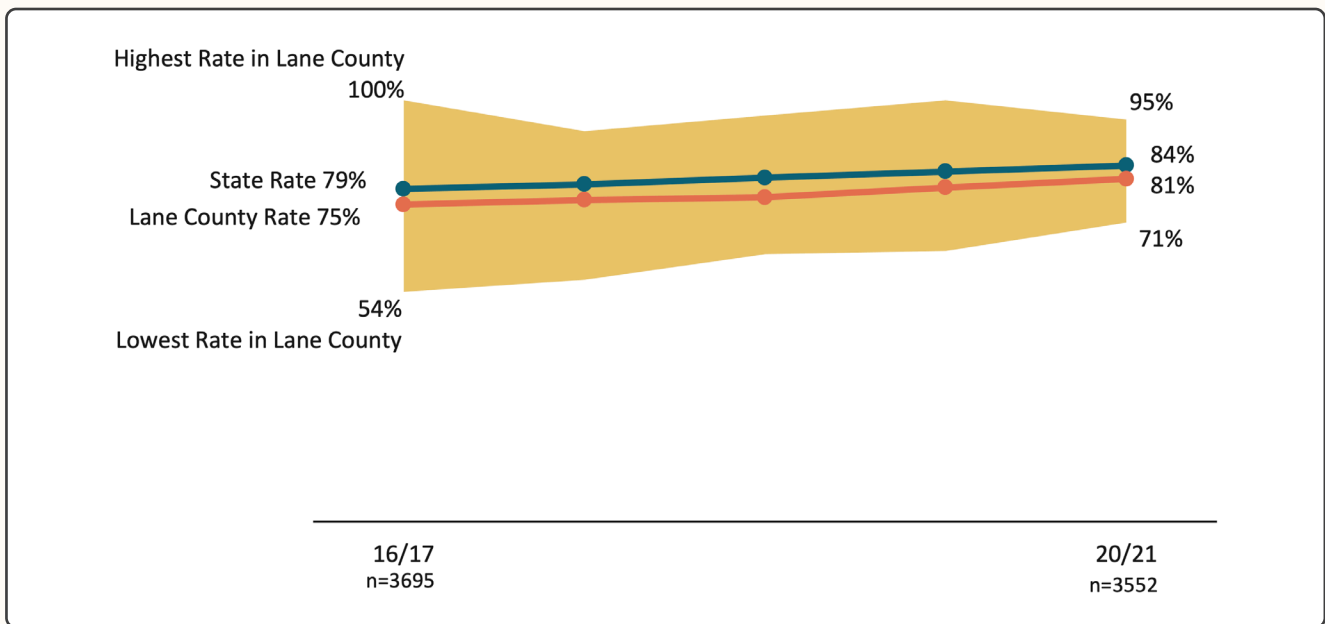


Fig. 8: **Five-Year Graduation Rate**



In recent years Lane County's high school graduation rate has seen a slight increase over the previous year for every graduating cohort.

While this trend continued in 2020/21 for the five-year cohort graduation rate, which was over 81%, the four-year cohort rate 2019/20 school year fell very slightly, with a decrease of 1 percentage point when compared to the previous year's high of 79%. Unlike several other metrics, there were no obvious significant changes in graduation rates that might be related to the pandemic. However, it will be important to remain aware of how this might become a factor moving forward.

# Looking Forward

2021-2022 was a huge year of growth for us. We're incredibly optimistic about what the future holds for Connected Lane County, including Spark at Booth-Kelly, an Elevate Youth Workforce Center, growing our staff, building our fundraising efforts, and connecting with more youth.

We are grateful to all our partners, supporters, program participants, and advocates for continuing to help us fulfill our mission of equipping Lane County youth with the tools to help them gain confidence in their abilities and see value in their decisions. With the help of our beloved community, we will continue to break down barriers, build bridges, and create strategic partnerships to connect youth with education and employment pathways to transform their future potential.



*thank you to our board:*

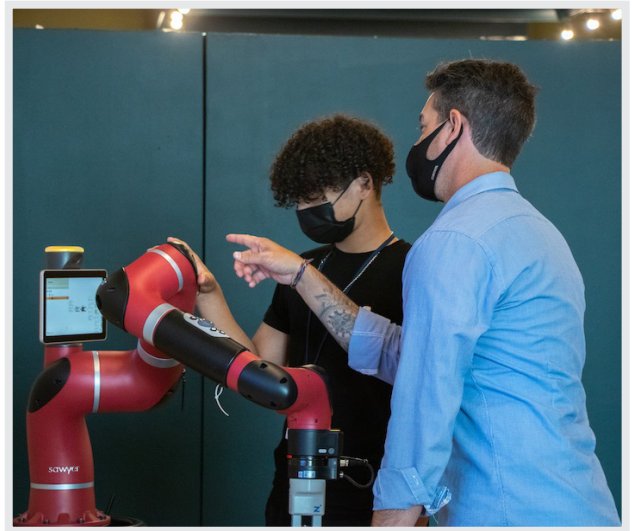
**Sally Bell**  
**Dianna Carrizales-Engelmann**  
**Jenna Cusimano**  
**Andy Dey**

**Ashley Espinoza**  
**Todd Hamilton**  
**Paul Jarrell**  
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**Johnie Matthews**  
**Laura Lee McIntyre**  
**Judy Newman**  
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**Tony Scurto**  
**Carlos Sequeira**  
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