



## **Why are Dual Credit Courses Valuable In Closing Achievement Gaps & Helping ALL Students?**

**Why are these programs important?** As research cited below shows, dual credit programs produce major benefits for students and broader society. Dual Credit courses:

- Help students and families save thousands, sometimes tens of thousands of dollars on college costs
- Increase the likelihood that students will graduate from high school, enter and graduate from some form of 1,2 or 4 year postsecondary program
- Help reduce the number of students who have to take remedial, non-credit-bearing courses upon entering colleges or universities (currently almost 30% of Minnesota high school graduates take remedial courses)

CSC has been able to help 6 St. Paul high schools serving mostly low-income students triple their enrollment in courses that allow them to earn college credit in high school. As the students explain, these programs help youngsters change their view of themselves, seeing themselves as able to accomplish far more than they thought possible. Here is a link to three 90-second videos with Khalique, Antonia and Jennifer: <http://bit.ly/1I022cy>

**"Research shows that students who participate in dual enrollment are more likely than their peers to finish high school, enter college and complete a degree."**

*From a 2014 publication of the Education Commission of the States.*

<http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/01/12/61/11261.pdf>

In one statewide study of students from low-income families conducted in Texas, researchers found that **"dual enrollment participants were 2.2 times more likely to enroll in a 2 or 4 year college, 2.0 times more likely to return for a second year, and 1.7 times more likely to complete a college degree."**

*Jobs for the Future, 2012, <http://www.jff.org/publications/taking-college-courses>*

**Taking dual credit closes gaps.** Preliminary results of a UMN study found that "students from low SES households who took advanced courses did just as well in first term and first year GPAs as students from high SES households who did not take advanced courses." Additionally, the study found that "PSEO students tend to graduate at faster rates than students from other programs."

*Forthcoming from Geoffrey Maruyama, Julio Cabrera, Ronald Huesman, & Robert Bruininks*

**"Males, low-income, and low-achieving high school students all appear to benefit from participation in dual enrollment to a greater extent than their dual enrollment peers who enter college courses with more social, economic, and educational advantages. These findings indicate that dual enrollment can benefit a range of students, and may have the greatest positive impact on those students who are often excluded from participation."** *From a 2008 report by the Community College Research Center at the Teachers College of Columbia University.*

<http://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/media/k2/attachments/dual-enrollment>

**Minnesota ranks fifth in the nation in average college debt accumulated by graduates. The average 4-year (public & nonprofit) college debt is \$30,894. Dual Credit courses can save students literally thousands of dollars.**

[http://projectonstudentdebt.org/files/pub//Student\\_Debt\\_and\\_the\\_Class\\_of\\_2013\\_NR.pdf](http://projectonstudentdebt.org/files/pub//Student_Debt_and_the_Class_of_2013_NR.pdf)

For more information, please see <http://centerforschoolchange.org/dual-credit/>