Could We Do Better?

As vital as community colleges are to the education of underserved students, *low completion rates strand too many with debt and no credential*. According to a national study of first-time-in-college degree-seeking students entering community colleges in fall 2008, **only 39.1% attained some higher education degree within six years** (National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, Signature Report, November 2014). This chart follows first-time degree-seeking students at Lane Community College during the same six years.

Percent Retention, Cumulative Graduation and Cumulative Transfer over Six Years among First-Time-in-College Degree-Seeking Students at Lane Community College

	RETAINED		TRANSFERRED			GRADUATED		???????	
Fall 2008 100									
									10
Winter 2009	80							1	19
Spring 2009	69						3	28	
Fall 2009	51					9		40	
Winter 2010	46				11			43	
Spring 2010	42			1	2	3			
Fall 2010	31			17 5			47		
Winter 2011	29		18	18			47		
Spring 2011	2	24	19	9			48		
Fall 2011	17		23	11			49		
Winter 2012	15	24		12			49		
Spring 2012	13	25		13			49		
Fall 2012	8	26		14			52		
Winter 2013	8	27		15			50		
Spring 2013	6	27		15			52		
Fall 2013	4	28		16			52		
Winter2014	4	29		16			51		
Spring 2014	3	29		16			52		

• About half of our new-to-college degree-seeking students leave with no documented attainment.

• Roughly one-fifth drop out after one term; two-fifths after one year.

• Lane's 6-year graduation rate for these students is about 16%; our transfer rate about 29%.

Lane serves many needs besides degree acquisition, but in the eight academic years from 2006 to 2014, **fully 84% of our new credit students were award seeking—38,541 individuals** Imagine the benefit to Oregon, and in the day-to-day lives of our alumni and their families, if we could improve our retention and graduation rates.

One clear message in the data about this improvement: there is room for it.