

D2 Center Annual Report 2016-2017



D2 Center Mission

The mission of the D2 Center is to connect out-of-school and disengaged youth ages 15-21 into an educational pathway with other resources and supports needed to earn a high school diploma and prepare for post-secondary opportunities and a career.

The D2 Center is a voluntary program for youth who are currently not in school, are in alternative education programs, or are in a traditional high school and are exhibiting risk factors indicating they may drop out of school or may not graduate on time.

D2 Center Services

→ Youth Academic Navigator

YANs are education-focused case managers who check in with their students frequently & help with issues as they emerge to ensure they are making progress & earning credits in school.

→ Career Navigator

Assists students with postsecondary planning & connections for both career & educational opportunities. Services are also available to graduates.

→ Reengagement Specialist

D2 Center staff members do outreach to Omaha Public Schools (OPS) students who have withdrawn from school but are eligible to enroll.

→ Tutoring & Elective Classes

Certified part-time teachers are available two days a week for assistance in math, reading, and various subjects, with additional elective credits in the summer.

New in 2016-17

Reengagement Pilot Project: In November 2016, the D2 Center began a pilot project based on a Services Agreement with Omaha Public Schools (OPS) to outreach to students who were withdrawn from school but were eligible to enroll. D2 Center staff contacted students and families to encourage reenrollment in school. YANs made phone calls, texted, talked with students and relatives, made home visits, utilized Facebook, and sent letters to many of these youth.

Futures Specialist: Through a partnership with the D2 Center, an OPS Futures Specialist began providing career, postsecondary, and community engagement activities in the Accelerate Multiple Pathways program. The D2 Center Career Navigator works with the Futures Specialist and other Multiple Pathways staff members in a coordinated effort to motivate students to develop goals related to postsecondary and career planning and to take goal-oriented action steps.

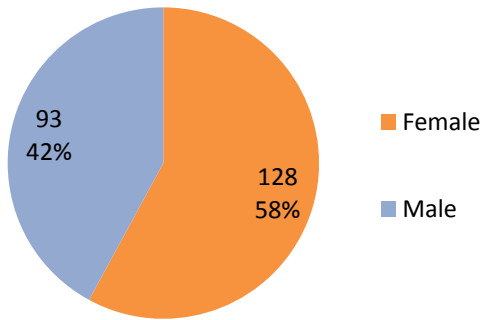
Opportunity Youth Alliance: The D2 Center continues to participate in this collective impact effort of the United Way of the Midlands. Many agencies and institutions in the community are collaborating to assist youth ages 16-24 whether they are in crisis or need help getting connected to services, education, jobs or a career in order to be successful. On June 1, 2016, the Opportunity Youth Alliance began piloting its first few youth applicants.

Board News: Two D2 Center student graduates will join the Board of Directors in 2017-18.

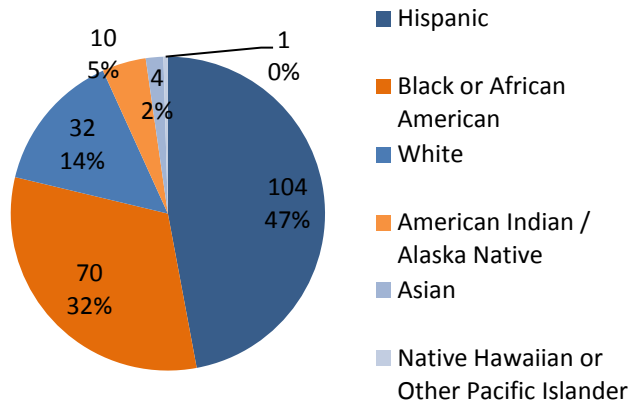
D2 Center Students

High school dropouts and disconnected youth have fewer employment opportunities, lower earning potential, higher rates of incarceration, more health issues, and are much more likely to rely on public assistance and to live for extended periods of time in poverty than high school graduates. The economic well-being of our community is dependent on educated and trained workers, and a high school diploma is considered the minimum amount of education required for success in a career.

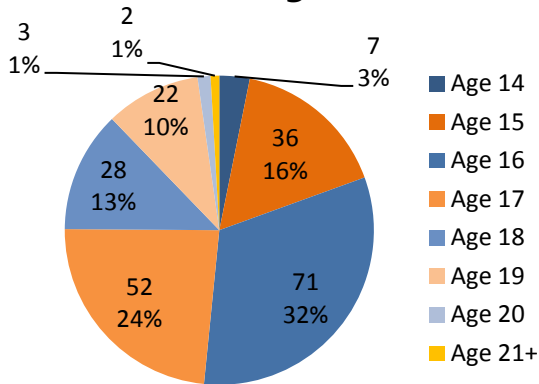
Student Gender



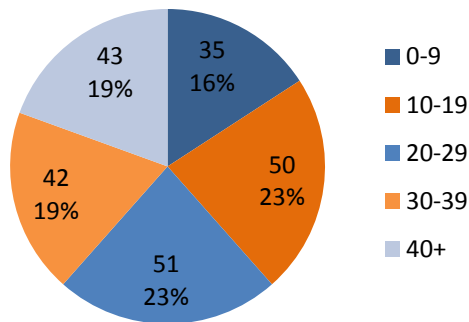
Student Race / Ethnicity



Student Age at Intake



High School Credits at Intake



Student Snapshot

Percentage of students who are:

- Current or former juvenile/criminal justice system involvement | 44%
- Pregnant or parenting | 25%
- Current or former foster youth | 18%
- Recipients of special education services in high school | 18%
- Recipients of English Language Learner services in high school | 15%

2016-17 D2 Center Data & Outcomes

Youth Academic Navigators (YANs)

99
**New
Active
Students**

43
Graduates

130
**Students
Still
Active**

221
**Total
Students
Served**

Career Navigator

- 24 D2 Center students served
- 36 additional OPS Multiple Pathways students served

Reengagement Specialist

124
Students Contacted

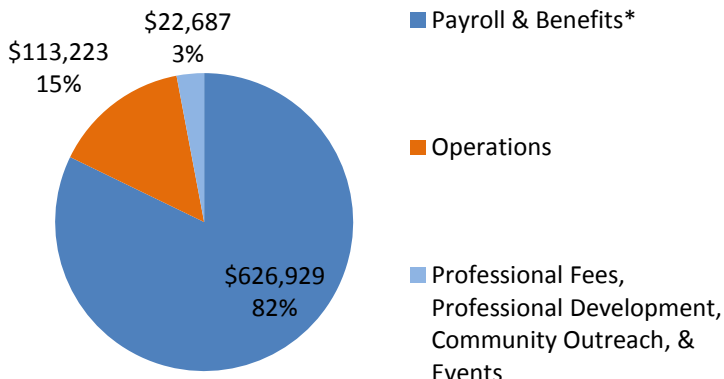
15
**Students Recruited into
D2 Center program**

- 13 Reenrolled & Graduated
- 12 Reenrolled & Still Enrolled
- 21 Still Attempting to Reengage
- 17 Reenrolled & Dropped
- 12 Moved Out of Metro Area
- 27 Unknown (ceased attempts at contact)
- 22 Not Interested

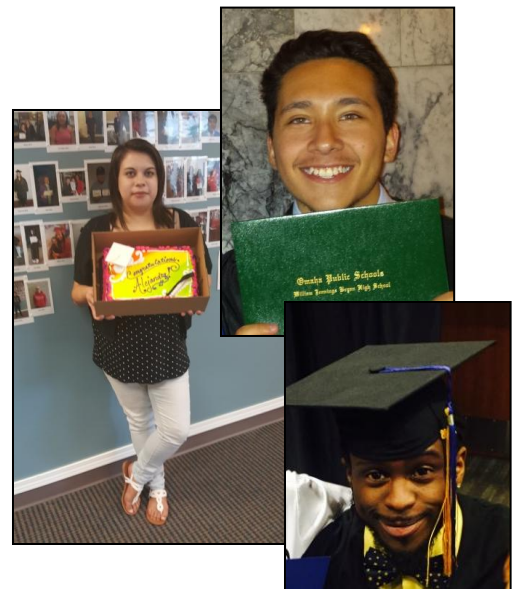
Elective Classes & Tutoring

- 14 students earned 17 elective credits at the D2 Center
- 30 students attended tutoring 177 times

D2 Center Expenditures 2016-17



* Full-time Staff: 8; Part-time Staff: 7



D2 Center Staff

- Greg Emmel and Carolyn T. Miller, Executive Directors
- Charnella Mims, Intake Specialist
- John Moore, Career Navigator



Youth Academic Navigators

- Crystal Cardenas
- Hansel Gonzalez
- Kelsey Hansen
- Olga Yaneth López
- Curtis Morgan
- Netta Prince

Part-time Certified Teachers

- Clem Bell
- Dianne Kielniarz
- Kathy Kocsis
- Terry Kocsis
- Jackie Thomas



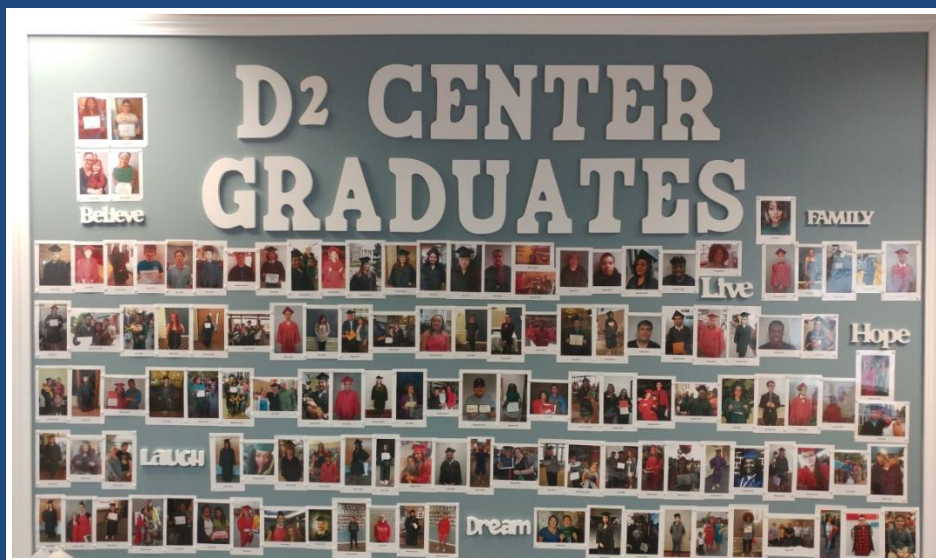
D2 Center Board of Directors

- Dr. Jerry M. Bartee, Community Volunteer
- Mr. Jerry Bexten, Director of Education Initiatives, The Sherwood Foundation (President)
- Mrs. Susan Christopherson, Director of Secondary Education, Omaha Public Schools
- Mr. Greg Emmel, Executive Director, D2 Center (Secretary)
- Ms. Caroline Hinrichs, Community Volunteer
- Dominique McDaniel, Student, D2 Center
- Karina Mejia Garcia, Student, D2 Center
- Ms. Lauren Micek Vargas, Assistant Public Defender, Douglas County (NE)
- Ms. Carolyn T. Miller, Executive Director, D2 Center (Treasurer)
- Mr. Daniel Padilla, Retail Bank Officer, First National Bank
- Dr. Katie Weitz, Executive Director, Weitz Family Foundation



D2 Center Value Statements

- We develop individualized solutions for disengaged students through a creative team approach
- We build genuine, long-lasting relationships with youth
- We connect youth with community resources and empower them to improve their life circumstances
- We help youth maximize their potential to be successful in school, post-secondary, and career endeavors



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