



Climbing Higher: Expedition Central Washington University

The Climbing Higher: Expedition CWU series was created through a partnership between the South Central STEM Network Team at ESD 105 and Central Washington University (CWU). This cohort-based model will provide students with the opportunity to meet other high school students from across the region who are interested in attending CWU, meet university staff who can help support the transition from high school to college, and receive much-needed resources and guidance. This is especially important for our low-income and first-generation college students. Through the three-part series of events, organizers will address barriers that prevent students from getting to and through a college degree and provide parents with the opportunity to hear from the parents of current university students to answer any questions they might have.

The three-part series offered during the 2021-2022 school year will have individual sessions focused on Admissions (Fall), Financial Aid (Winter), and Summer Transition (Spring). This pilot program will expand in future years to include additional universities that are highly attended by students in the ESD 105 region.

On August 19, 2021, we held our inaugural event for the Climbing Higher CWU Expedition Series-Summer Transition. We had over 100 Students and parents attend this in-person event at the Yakima Valley Technical Skills Center. Wellington, the CWU mascot and student ambassadors from CWU did a great job welcoming everyone! Students and parents were greeted with a box of delicious finger food appetizers and bottled water. CWU t-shirts, a foam paw for sporting events, and lots of swag were given to participating students. Parents received a gift bag including their own CWU coffee mug! For our program, introductions from ESD 105 and presentations from CWU admissions, student speakers, and financial aid fill our evening.