

Submitter: Imogene Schwarz

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB604

I participated in the Strong Start (Destination Western) program at the start of the 24-25 academic year. I came from a small high school that did not offer a lot of academic resources to students. College was daunting to me, I wasn't sure what to expect, and I had nobody to guide me through the start of college. Destination Western was terrifying at first, living somewhere new and not knowing anybody, but by the end of the 10 day program, I had friends, mentors, and access to resources. It pulled me out of my comfort zone and allowed me to make connections with people, I wouldn't have the friends I do today without Destination Western. It also prepared me for future classes, it helped me to understand what to expect. Especially because I was moving away from my family for the first time, I was able to join our own family of peers in the cohort. I would recommend Destination Western for any struggling incoming student. It helped me in so many ways.