Thurston County Impact Report

College Readiness/Career Development

Connecting the Dots
- One hundred and eighteen youth from Bancroft Rosalie, Emerson Hubbard and Pender Public schools participated
- Partnered with Nebraska Indian Community College (NICC) to provide this program free of charge
- **97% of youth understood their options for higher education as a result of the Connecting the Dots program**
- 96% understood their opportunity to go to college in Nebraska
- “I learned that I have more opportunities available to me than I thought,” stated one student.

1st Generation Campus Visit
- Provided 38 high school freshman and sophomores from Omaha Nation, Walthill and Winnebago schools with the opportunity to explore the University of Nebraska Lincoln
- Sessions included: Financial Aid, student life and a mock class lecture
- “Hearing from current UNL students about their experience showed my students that they too could go to college,” stated one guidance counselor

Community Vitality

Summer Reading Connections
- Partnered with House Memorial & Walthill Public Libraries to provide lessons around the “Every Hero has a Story” theme
- **One hundred and seven youth** participated in lessons
- Both libraries completed a quilt block for the Nebraska Summer Reading Connections Quilt of Valor
- “Our partnership with the Nebraska Extension of Thurston County has been a great experience for us, as staff and for our youth patrons. The youth seem to enjoy the weekly sessions with the staff, and they love the opportunity to exhibit items at the fair.” – Walthill Librarian