

## Connect2Complete: A Conversation with Johnny

### Connect2Complete Mentee – Green River Community College, WA



Johnny Padilla graduated from high school in 2012, and decided to attend Green River Community College to help him achieve his future goals: He hopes to own a restaurant one day. To accomplish this goal, Johnny is planning to complete dual degrees in business and culinary arts. Although Johnny went right from high school to Green River, the transition was difficult: “The transition was hard to get used to going from high school to college. The college environment was hard.”

To help him through these challenges, Johnny had the support of Connect2Complete and a Peer Advocate, Danilo: “Danilo made me want to become a Peer Advocate. He inspired me to help other people.”

Danilo organized study sessions to encourage students to work together on assignments and conducted workshops on issues such as improving time management and organizational skills. “Before, I wasn’t really good at keeping track of my time,” Johnny explains, “But Danilo helped me overcome that and manage my time better.” Johnny says that Connect2Complete seems to be making a difference to his peers, too: “I see that students are being more successful.”



**Campus Compact**

*Connect2Complete, a program of Campus Compact supported by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, works with nine community colleges in Florida, Ohio and Washington to utilize peer mentoring and community-engaged learning as strategies for retention of low-income, developmental education students.*