

## 2019 LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW

AUGUST 2018



### Community and Technical Colleges' Priorities for 2019

To build vibrant communities and a great quality of life in Washington, people need education past high school and good jobs right in our local communities. Community and technical colleges are the answer. At local colleges, students get to pick the educational path that's right for them and at a more affordable cost — be it a two-year degree, a university-transfer degree, a certificate program or an apprenticeship. The local businesses that hire our students also get the skills they need to thrive because we partner with employers, day in and day out. Our 2019 agenda will ensure more people go to college, finish on time, and put their talents to work across the street and around the state.

#### Competitive compensation for student success

Faculty and staff are at the heart of our students' success, but we are losing them to K-12 schools and private employers. In fact, our faculty are among the lowest paid educators in the state. In 2019, we will request funding to make faculty and staff salaries more fair and competitive.

#### More pathways into, and through, college for all Washingtonians

Washington employers are anticipating 740,000 job openings by 2021. Most of the jobs will require education beyond high school.<sup>1</sup> Community and technical colleges are a vital bridge into college for local students, especially for students of color and those who are the first in their families to go to college. Working adults, too, turn to us to update their skills or train for new jobs. We provide career-connected learning for students of all ages, transforming lives in the process.

In 2019, we will seek funding to strengthen partnerships with K-12 and universities and to enroll more adults in college. Funding will help us expand "guided pathways" — a powerful redesign of course sequencing and student advising. This redesign will move more students into careers or universities with a degree or certificate in-hand. Early data from pilot colleges shows strong results.

#### High-demand training locally and statewide

Our colleges are uniquely equipped to partner with employers to meet local workforce needs and make sure students graduate with job-ready skills. Our 2019 budget request will seek funding to increase the number of graduates in programs such as allied health, advanced manufacturing and information technology — fields which are rapidly creating high-skilled, high-wage jobs.

#### Updated facilities to meet student and workforce needs

We will provide the Legislature a thoroughly vetted request for capital projects to meet student and workforce needs locally and across the state. We urgently need funding for the entire request to provide students with modern, relevant, well-maintained buildings that meet their educational needs as they prepare for jobs or to transfer to a university.

1. Washington Roundtable "Washington Kids 4 Washington Jobs," 2016.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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