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| **Basic Education for Adults (BEdA)** | **Ability to Benefit New Regulations** The Department of Education is proposing a modification to some of the rules for Ability to Benefit. As outlined in an email to CBS on November 30th, beginning in July 2024 the Department of Education will require colleges to submit documentation demonstrating that Ability to Benefit is being used in Eligible Career Pathway Programs (ECPP.) Only one pathway needs to be submitted, along with an attestation that all pathways where ATB is offered meet the same standard. We will participate in public comment on the process and provide guidance once the rules are released. This process will provide colleges assurance that they are offering ATB appropriately, which should help colleges expand ATB confidently and with less worry. **Biennial Conference: Literacy and Justice for All** Our first in-person state conference since 2018 will take place July 23-25 at the Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick! It will be so good to all be together as a state system of adult education professionals. The conference centers on the idea that adult education is social justice. As reflected in our BEdA vision statement, we see our work as advancing racial and economic justice. To home in our vision, we have organized the conference into eight interrelated strands: 1. Accessibility, Digital Literacy & Equity
2. Corrections Education
3. Equity & Belonging
4. Culturally Responsive Curriculum Design and Assessment
5. BEdA Data Mining
6. Guided Pathways
7. Navigation & Student Support
8. Equitable Math Pathways and Practices

Stay tuned for further announcements and information related to the conference. **BEdA Bridge Module Release** The BEdA Bridge Modules have been developed by expert BEdA faculty across the state for use with students enrolled in BEdA programming. The intent of the Bridge Modules is to provide students transitioning into higher levels of ABE/ELA with opportunities to further develop the skills that they will need when they make the transition from BEdA programming to their selected College and Career Pathway.  These modules are open educational resources and are designed for use with students enrolled in both ABE and ELL programming. Faculty can teach the modules as-is or borrow portions to incorporate into their own curriculum. Below you will find a list of some ways in which these modules can be used: * In combination with other instructional content
* To extend instruction to upper-level ELA students who have already completed I-DEA or other level 1-3 ESL coursework
* With IELCE-funded students who are transitioning into I-BEST

Please be on the lookout for an email with information regarding a webinar on January 19th previewing these modules and providing information on how and where to access the modules. **BEdA Grading Basis Enhancement Request** We are currently consulting with both the State Board of Education and registrars in our system on the design of how we address upgrades to the BEdA Grading Basis and the creation of a high school transcript. We may need to pull together a task force of folks from both BEdA and college registrars to vet proposed solutions and will be in touch as soon as we have an outline of what those solutions could look like. **Digital Equity Planning** The Digital Equity & BEAD Planning process for Washington is wrapping up.  The Washington State Broadband Office (WSBO) within the Washington State Department of Commerce will be submitting revised plans based on public comments received to NTIA on or before the end of December 2023.  WSBO believes that BEAD funding, which is earmarked solely for broadband expansion and access, will begin flowing into Washington sometime during the 2nd quarter of 2024. While there is no timeline yet for the Digital Equity Capacity Building and Digital Equity Competitive Grant Programs, we anticipate that Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) will be rolled out mid-2024.  SBCTC is tracking the Digital Equity Capacity Building and Digital Equity Competitive Grant Programs and intends to submit applications for both opportunities once they are available. **New Data System Training and Onboarding** We have wrapped up the initial contract negotiation with LiteracyPro Systems for our new LACES data system and are making progress on the statement of work. Early in the new year the data configuration process will start. We plan to ask for participation from the system during the configuration process. We will start by asking the same folks who helped draft requirements and loop in others as needed. That is also a time we’ll be able to put together a training plan. We anticipate that we will convert to the new data system in concert with the end of winter quarter 2024 (late March/early April.) **Testing Exemption for I-BEST and Workplace Literacy Programs** CBS received an email on December 12th outlining the new testing exemption for I-BEST, all IET, and employer-based (workplace literacy) programs.We look forward to learning from providers who adopt the exemption. This will help us move closer to our state goal of having I-BEST in every area of study at the colleges and holds promise for increased employer partnerships now that we don’t have to build standardized assessments into employer-customized programs. **Upcoming Professional Development (All Dates 2024)** We have lots of good training and professional development leading up to the conference! Here’s a reminder of what’s coming in the first half of 2024: 1.8-2.16 I-BEST Team Teacher Training (Asynchronous) 1.15-3.10 Leading with Racial Equity in Basic Education for Adults (Synchronous)  1.19          BEdA Bridge Module Release (Webinar; Zoom)  1.29-2.9 Beyond Accommodations (Synchronous)  2.23          Building BEdA Math Pathways (In-person; Green River)  3.1 Teaching Skills That Matter (In-Person; Big Bend Community College)  3.14 I-BEST Team Teacher Training (In-person; TBD) 4.8-19 Beyond Accommodations (Synchronous)  5.17 BEdA Math Pathway Overview (In-Person; Bates)   |
| **BAS - TRANSFER** | **Bachelor of Science in Computer Science**More than 30 system faculty gathered in November to continue the work on a statewide computer science core curriculum. They made progress toward identifying key knowledge, skills, and abilities that should be included in bachelor’s level computer science degrees and had robust conversations about entry requirements, program maps, and strategies to continue the collaboration. Our college system’s 2024 supplemental budget request includes $9M to expand computer science bachelor’s degree programs. Funding would support both one-time startup costs including curriculum development, computer equipment and infrastructure, outreach resources, and ongoing program costs, including qualified faculty recruitment, student support including lab technicians, software, materials, and supplies. **Climate Solutions**$950K has been added to the system’s supplemental budget request based on support from the governor’s office and the WACTC legislative committee. If this request is funded, it would support the continuation of the climate solutions work across the system, specifically:* Creating green workforce modules for manufacturing, transportation, agriculture, natural resources, and building trade programs.
* Creating Tribally focused climate solutions and green workforce modules for natural resource programs.
* Creating a sustainable curriculum development program at every CTC to develop climate justice and solution focused modules for transfer education programs.
* Developing an open educational resource repository for this curriculum.
* Continuing existing program redesign pilots at Spokane CC and Grays Harbor in the Tribal Stewards Green Workforce program in Natural Resources.
* Planning for new program redesigns that center diversity and inclusion, incorporates new green skills curriculum, and builds new partnerships with regional green employers.

**Transfer Degrees Under Review****Computer Science** - based on system feedback, the Joint Transfer Council has requested additional work on the new proposed degree -Associate of Science Transfer - Track 3, Computer Science (AST-3). If approved, this degree would replace the computer science emphasis pathway in the current Associate of Science Transfer - Track 2 degree. The workgroup reconvened in fall 2023; proposed changes will again be widely circulated for feedback.**Pre-Nursing DTA/MRP** - a workgroup is being convened to review this degree and determine the feasibility of broadening its focus to include more allied health professions.  |
| **Dual Credit & Strategic Enrollment Initiatives** | **College in the High School Funding** For College in the High School (CiHS) programs that operated during 2022-2023, SBCTC has received approval from OFM to disperse funds to colleges by January 5, 2024. These funds are based on 2022-2023 enrollment data sent to OFM from SBCTC on 10/15/23. [SB 5048](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?billnumber=5048&year=2023): Eliminates College in the High School fees for all students in 9th grade through 12th grade that attend a public high school or charter school and are enrolled in a public institution of higher education.* Community and Technical Colleges will be reimbursed at $300 per student and capped at $3500 per course
* "Course" means a class taught under a contract between an institution of higher education and a single high school teacher on an articulated subject in which the student is eligible to receive college credit
* SBCTC interprets a ‘course’ in the bill language as a single class iteration of a course, taught by a single high school teacher. This means a ‘class’ or a ‘section’
* The definition of class vs course is in here:<https://www.sbctc.edu/resources/documents/colleges-staff/policies-rules/policy-manual/definitions-of-terms-for-enrollment-reporting.pdf>

**Math Placement Grant Update**In collaboration with Dual Credit and Student Success Center Departments and funded by College Spark, SBCTC hosted a Math Placement Grant Convening November 2023 at Wenatchee Valley College with representation from 19 Community & Technical Colleges.Goals for the 2023-2024 grant are the following:* Implement a universal transcript placement policy for regional community and technical colleges.
* Create a global policy for identifying and tracking placement in ctcLink.
* Elevate Bridge to College agreements and courses.
* Create space and sustainable learning environments for continued professional development and learning in the areas of placement.
* SBCTC overarching goal – comprehensive guidance on placement – supportive guidance for community and technical colleges.

Future gatherings for the grant:* Winter Virtual Convening – Online – January 25, 2024
* Spring In-Person Convening – West Side WA (location TBA) - April 25, 2024

**Bridge to College Update**In 2023-24, the Bridge to College program is operating in 107 school districts (167 high schools) across the state, supporting 391 teachers (202 English, 189 math) offering the senior year transition courses. In late January 2024 school districts begin to register teachers to offer the courses for the 2024-25 school year; please refer your K-12 partner schools to the [OSPI Bridge to College page](https://ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/graduation/graduation-requirements/graduation-pathways/transition-courses/bridge-college-courses) for more information. For more details about the program, the current automatic placement agreement, and the latest evaluation data on the impact of the courses, see the [SBCTC Bridge to College web page](https://www.sbctc.edu/about/agency/initiatives-projects/bridge-to-college).**Upcoming Running Start Series for Community & Technical College Staff**Join fellow community and technical college Running Start colleagues in receiving program updates and sharing a space for systemwide staff to come together and connect. The first hour of each session will be recorded and shared out. Each session will have updates followed by themes and topics for discussion. January 18th 9-11am:<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84529125336>February 27th 2-4pm:<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86776276346>March 20th 9-11am:<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83232242702>April 18th 2-4pm:<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81148936980>May 22nd 9-11am:<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86477902736>   |
| **Educational Resources and Innovation** | **Washington's OER & Low-Cost Labeling Policies**Washington's OER & Low-Cost Labeling Policies have been awarded a [**2023 Open Education Award for Excellence**](https://awards.oeglobal.org/awards/2023/open-policy/washington-oer-and-low-cost-labeling-policies/) by Open Education Global. A special note of appreciation goes to the state's student leadership group, WACTCSA. Their leadership in conducting the 2018 survey, which garnered 10,050 responses from our students, has been instrumental in both establishing the policy and passing it into law.SBCTC Awarded 2.1M from FIPSE FY23 Open Textbook Pilot GrantSBCTC was awarded a $2.1M grant from the U.S. Department of Education under the 2023 Open Textbook Pilot program for the [**Washington Open ProfTech project**](https://www.sbctc.edu/blogs/news-releases/2023/oer-grant-prof-tech). This is in addition to the $1.8 M received in 2021 through the same grant program, bringing the total grant amount to $3.9M. SBCTC will assemble a team to execute the newly awarded grant, which may include members for project management, faculty cohort, and support team.**Micro-Credentials**Director, Dr. Michael A. Brown and Policy Associate, Alissa Sells have been selected to represent SBCTC as participants in the [**Education Design Lab and Community College Growth Engine Design Fellows Program**](https://eddesignlab.org/news-events/montana-launches-first-of-its-kind-statewide-micro-credential-development-initiative/). The pair will observe Montana’s community colleges micro-pathway development and then draft an implementation blueprint for Washinton’s CTCs.**WA Checklist**Be sure to check out the [**new WA Checklist home page**](https://sbctc.instructure.com/courses/1990829/pages/wa-checklist-resources-v4) and the all new content in [**Guides Section 1: Sense of Belonging & Student Engagement**](https://sbctc.instructure.com/courses/1990829/modules/7403239). Plans for piloting a stacked pathway of [**course review badges**](https://sbctc.badgr.com/public/issuers/-sh-wmEzTKaEKf4JA7T9Jg/badges) to recognize the work of faculty participants in Shoreline Community College’s quarterly WA Checklist Institute are underway.**eTutoring*** There are several updates recently, where we’ve completed rolling out a [**new version of the web application**](https://app.etutoringonline.org) for tutors. Work is now progressing on the administrative pages in the new application!
* Another update is a new integration for Canvas, and other Learning Management Systems, to automatically create student accounts, relieving college admins of some additional work. This feature includes the option to use and display the preferred student name from Canvas, which in turn is obtained from ctcLink.
* Finally, the eTutoring service is migrating to Amazon Web Services, with help from SBCTC IT. We expect to improve the reliability and speed of the service.
* Boise State University re-joined on 1/1/24, putting eTutoring membership at 58 colleges, stretching from coast to coast!

**Canvas Integration**Improved handling of two special cases of student accounts: duplicated accounts, and those marked as fraudulent. **Canvas Data**Working in concert with the SBCTC Data Services group, we are working to make Canvas data available to colleges through dataLink. Each college would have access to only its own Canvas data, which could be used for student services, institutional research and various e-learning reporting. The goal is to eventually have all the roughly 100 Canvas Data tables updated regularly to dataLink. At this time, we are still investigating the technology and do not have an ETA on when a pilot might start and deliver data to dataLink. **Accessibility Updates*** SBCTC is working with Disability Support Services Council members to update the yearly Disability Accommodation Pool (DAP) report that tracks accommodation expenses and spending at each college. Noah Overby will work with Monica Olsson to develop a yearly Data Brief report based on the DAP for college leadership and the Disability Services directors beginning in fall 2024.
* SBCTC is working with Bellevue College and Lake Washington Institute of Technology to explore the use of Student Groups as a solution to the proposed disability coding changes submitted through the ctcLink Enhancement Request Process.
* With leadership from Dr. Michael Brown, the Educational Technology Advisory Group (ETAG) is in active conversation with Instructure regarding specific requirements and requests from your system leading to the contract renewal this spring. This includes Monica Olsson proposing the new Accessibility Rider contract language for review.
* The second iteration of the Web Accessibility Learning Lab (WA Lab) has been postponed until summer 2024. We plan to offer a shortened "summer camp" version.
* SBCTC staff are working with the Anthology accessibility team to deliver a series of sessions to our system focused on Ally, the third-party accessibility remediation third-party tool available to all colleges inside Canvas.
* Vicki Walton and Monica Olsson are working together to deliver customized accessibility training to SBCTC HR and the web editor staff.
* SBCTC staff continues to conduct internal accessibility testing and reporting for in-house and third-party applications.
* The monthly ctcLink Accessibility Open Forum sessions continue to see a good turn out from our colleges. More information can be found on the [**main ctcLink Accessibility web page.**](https://www.sbctc.edu/colleges-staff/it-support/ctclink/ctclink-accessibility)
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| **Policy Research** | The Policy Research team welcomes Megan Moon to the team as a Policy Research Analyst. Megan comes to us from Lower Columbia College, and is a LCC and WSU-Vancouver graduate, so she brings both personal and professional experience of our colleges. Megan will be working with Diana Knight on data infrastructure, including reports and dashboards.Final fall data is complete, and SBCTC data dashboards have been updated through fall 2023. Detailed analysis of fall quarter enrollments is underway, but system headcount is up 8% and FTE is up 7%, the first consistent pattern of growth since the first fall of the pandemic. |
| **Student Services** | **2024 Legislative Interns:** The SBCTC is excited to introduce our Legislative Session Interns. We welcome Josie Saccino-Devine from Lower Columbia College and Molly Kuwahara from Tacoma Community College. During the 2024 Legislative session interns will be working in-person and virtually with the State Board’s Legislative Director and other staff in support of our system’s legislative priorities and goals.**New Staff:**Rebecca Kay joined the Student Services department in November as the Relationship and Compliance Analyst in Student Supports Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET) and WorkFirst programs. Rebecca’s role is pivotal in supporting the college’s ability to build and foster cross-departmental relationships and apply program specific practices that increase efficiencies through intentional integrations and dedicated technical support and training. Her skills, experience, and dedicated commitment to EDI are central to the core of our agency work, values, and mission.**Student Success Tool RFP Taskforce**Co-chaired by members of WACTC, the taskforce aims to complete the RFP process and contract with a vendor for a unified opt-in student success tool. Leading with racial equity, the primary purpose of the student success tool is to enhance and support academic progress, academic planning, and student achievement. The scope of the work involves a thorough review of student success tools, culminating in the issuance of an RFP. The timeline for this taskforce is anticipated to occur over 18 months which is separate from implementation. We are privileged to have a diverse and dedicated group of commission and council members from 16 institutions that will work together to facilitate constructive dialogue, collect and share feedback from stakeholders, and ensure equity-focused processes and transparency from start to finish. **Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) Planning Grant**The City University of New York (CUNY) ASAP program eliminates barriers and graduate students within three years by providing structured and wide-ranging services. The ASAP model is a key equity driver and achievement strategy aligning under the guided pathway framework. Our state team from SBCTC and WSAC attended the fall kickoff coalition facilitated by CUNY marking the commencement of a five-state planning grant effort. Additionally, Washington's three evaluating colleges (Clover Park, Peninsula, and Spokane Colleges) engaged in a fall overview session, delving into aspects such as program model characteristics; financial modeling and cost; other states replications models; and reviewed other considerations. This planning grant is poised to enhance our knowledge and influence if we will pursue further opportunities for pilots to enhance our commitment to student success and equitable educational outcomes. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue learning and evaluating during the winter and spring terms. **Health Care Authority**The SBCTC has been invited to partner with Washington State’s Health Care Authority for the purpose of providing scholarships and support services to increase enrollments and completions in substance use disorder training programs. We will update the college system once we delve deeper into this potential partnership.**Promising Practices Exchange and Webinar Series 2023-24**The Promising Practices Exchange provides an opportunity to highlight “what’s working” within our system. We want to hear from colleges about their latest innovations and strategies to make a difference for students. Please visit the [Promising Practices Exchange](https://www.sbctc.edu/about/task-forces-work-groups/strategic-enrollment/promising-practices.aspx) to view past webinars and to submit current practices for consideration. Upcoming webinars include:* Winter, March 12, 1:00 - 2:30 pm - “Connections:  Building and Sustaining Innovative Partnerships with Industry and Community-Based Organizations to Improve Economic Mobility for Adult Learners
* Spring (TBA) - Artificial Intelligence Panel

Information on registering will be distributed through SBCTC listservs.**Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness**The SBCTC, the Washington Student Achievement Council, and participating colleges submitted the first SSEH legislative report on December 1st, 2023. The report includes findings and recommendations from all four pilot years of the program. The [Executive Summary](https://wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2023-Supporting-Students-Experiencing-Homelessness-Pilot-Project-Executive-Summary.pdf) and the [full report](https://www.sbctc.edu/resources/documents/colleges-staff/programs-services/students-experiencing-homelessness/student-homelessness-pilot.pdf) are available on the SBCTC website.SSEH is excited to welcome four new SSEH Planning Grant colleges: Clover Park Technical College, Peninsula College, Skagit Valley College, and Whatcom Community College!If you want to know more about Student Services work and what is going on, please review our Student Services Quarterly Newsletter.  |
| **Student Success** | **Guided Pathways Peer and Professional Learning Calendar**[The Guided Pathways Peer and Professional Learning Calendar](https://www.sbctc.edu/colleges-staff/programs-services/student-success-center/peer-professional-learning) is regularly updated with new events to support Guided Pathways implementation. Events are in a variety of modalities. Some highlights include:* Developing an Assessment cycle in Student Affairs: This free series of workshops is designed for student affairs professionals who advise students at community and technical colleges. The series will provide an overview of the role of assessment in Guided Pathways, opportunities for data collection in student services, analyzing data in student services, and using data to inform action and continuous improvement. The workshops will be facilitated by Dr. Kellie Dixon of Clear Pathway Consulting Services, LLC.
* Guided Pathways Career Convening (Full): This full day, in person, workshop will provide space to engage in comprehensive conversations and action planning to enhance the role of career and employment services in Guided Pathways implementation across Washington State.

**Assessment, Teaching, and Learning Conference Call for Proposals** The 2024 Assessment, Teaching, and Learning Conference is a two-day event that will bring together faculty and teaching and learning professionals in our system. This event will take place May 2-3, 2024, at the Yakima Convention Center. The conference will explore a variety of topics related to faculty and student success and will feature keynote speakers, panel discussions, and breakout sessions. There will also be opportunities for networking and collaboration. [Click here to submit a proposal.](https://forms.gle/7RjoxgKSGgn82jdn8)**Faculty Professional Learning Credential**This program uses the existing Canvas Credentials badging system to award faculty with badges for courses they complete at their respective institutions and through SBCTC. It capitalizes on the expertise and dedication of faculty developers in our state and offers faculty tangible acknowledgement of their professional development efforts. The program is in development and set to launch in late spring. For questions or to learn more contact Guava Jordan or Alissa Sells.**WA Shared Professional Development Calendar** In collaboration with the eLearning Council, promoting and supporting professional development by WA CTC employees for WA CTC faculty. Teaching and learning professionals can easily add available professional development to [the calendar](https://sites.google.com/site/waelearningcouncil/calendar-training-conferences-and-events?authuser=0&pli=1) and interested faculty can easily register for sessions they would like to attend, creating more opportunities for faculty and engagement for developers.**Math Pathways & Placement**In the fall, math faculty met to review corequisites and guided self-placement in Washington. Currently, 68% of WA CTCs offer at least one corequisite math course and 50% use some form of guided (or directed) self-placement. This winter, math and BEdA faculty are invited to join us on March 8 for presentations and guided workshop time on “Math I-BEST Team Teacher Training” led by Will Durden, SBCTC Director of Basic Education for Adults, and “How to Make Math Corequisites Work for You and Your Students” by Kathleen Almy founder of [Almy Educational Consulting](https://www.almyeducation.com/).For more information about Math Pathways and Placement work happening in Washington, please read the [Winter Math Newsletter](https://docs.google.com/document/d/15ybqRokEpk9LbG8YW5yLcqmw2JnViK0bIc6Evn4PB4w/edit?usp=sharing), join the [CTC Math Listserv](https://lists.ctc.edu/mailman/listinfo/math_lists.ctc.edu), and/or email Dawn Draus to get enrolled in the Math Pathways and Placement Canvas course.**College Success/ First Year Experience (FYE) Courses Project**Amunoo Tembo and Guava Jordan in the SBCTC Student Success Center are embarking on a project focused on college success/ first-year experience courses! This initiative recognizes the critical role that college success/first year experience courses can play in shaping a student's academic journey and future career path, and we want to support our CTC system.  * Enhancing Student Success/First-Year Experience Courses: Refine existing curriculum, incorporating best practices and innovative approaches to academic readiness, study skills, time management, career development and connections, job market, advocacy, and overall well-being.
* Building a Robust Professional Network: This network will offer opportunities to give input, share resources, and potentially collaborate on curriculum.

To ensure this project reflects the needs and expertise of our community, A form will be distributed with the purpose of seeking involvement from as many colleges as possible! **Initiative in Diversity, Equity, Antiracism, and Leadership (IDEAL)**The fifth cohort of the IDEAL Fellowship is launching in February with students from Lower Columbia College, Green River College, Skagit Valley College, and Olympic College. IDEAL fellows engage in project and problem-based learning where they use the Innovative, Measurable, Purposeful, Antiracist, Caring, Transformative (IMPACT) framework to identify and investigate campus policies that disproportionately impact hyper marginalized student groups and propose equity-centered alternatives for consideration. The fellowship commences with a symposium where students present their IMPACT projects, findings, and recommendations.**Guided Pathways Coaching**The 2024-2025 [Guided Pathways Coach application](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScagosn7InJdiWLuE9TGINPnXQ1laOFpzLry9EIU8Ycby_tXg/viewform) is open. We are seeking additional coach candidates to complete the application and consider joining the coaching cadre this spring for possible assignment in the 2024-25 year. We now need your help in identifying additional candidates to help expand our capacity. Recruitment and Selection Timeline: * Applications should be submitted no later than April 1, 2024, for this round.
* Coach Advisory Team reviews and recommendations for appointment of new coaches: April 1-April 15, 2024
* Notification of new coach trainees by May 1 and New Coach Orientation May 16, 2024, 1-4 p.m.
* Confirm continuing 2023/24 coaches: A check-in will occur in early February to determine the interest and capacity of current coaches. This will be used to determine any changes in assignments as we plan for fall 2024.

Click here to access the [2024-2025 Guided Pathways Coaching Application.](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScagosn7InJdiWLuE9TGINPnXQ1laOFpzLry9EIU8Ycby_tXg/viewform)  |
| **Workforce Education** | **Aerospace & Advanced Manufacturing Pipeline Advisory Committee:** The Aerospace Pipeline Committee had their first hybrid meeting November 1, 2023, with only a few committee members opting to attend via zoom. The meeting was held at Bates Technical College and the in-person attendees were provided with a tour of the Welding facility and an opportunity to talk to both the faculty and students in the welding program. At the time of the Fall meeting the awards for the Aerospace 1000 FTES had yet to be finalized so the Committee was not provided the specific details about the proposals, but they were provided an overview of the types of programs receiving funding and the number of proposals received and funded. The Committee concluded the meeting with a robust conversation about connecting graduates to employment and how industry partners can connect with programs and their graduates.**Apprenticeship CoP**: The Apprenticeship Community of Practice continues to meet monthly. The apprenticeship colleges are just wrapping up their work on the inventory project and will shift into the second phase of the coding work by implementing the new plan code framework over the next six months. This is a significant amount of work for the colleges and requires more coordination with Registrars, Institutional Research staff and ctcLink staff on campuses. While this shift does require an increased workload on the front end this will ensure the system can accurately identify all registered apprenticeship enrollments, enable apprentices to apply for the Washington College Grant for Apprenticeship, and ensure appropriate credit is transcripted.**Career Launch Equipment Funds:** The 2023-25 Career Launch Capital Equipment fund received multiple applications for round one. There was $5 million in capital equipment funding available for Career Launch Endorsed programs, and round one allocations will be distributed at the end of January 2024. Round two applications are open on March 17, 2024, with a deadline of April 4, 2024.**Centers of Excellence (COE):** Cybersecurity Center of Excellence: A number of professional and program development opportunities are coming up for CTCs. Visit<https://coecyber.io/events> for more info. The Enlighten Forum & Empower Conference on March 21 brings together women in construction & energy trades to make connections and foster leadership development. Sponsored by the Construction COE, Clean Energy COE, and Renton Tech. More info at<https://www.tradeempower.com/> Colleges can get the scoop about Chmura labor market data analytics in quarterly webinars sponsored by Centers of Excellence. Learn how to get sector-specific data to inform your prof-tech program offerings. The event will feature Clean Energy, Agriculture & Natural Resources, Information & Computing Technology,Global Trade & Supply Chain Management. Faculty, staff and leadership across all professional technical programs are invited and encouraged to attend. Registration is not required. ***CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE CHMURA DATA WEBINAR SERIES******WINTER WEBINAR, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2023******11:00A - 12:00PM*****CDL Fund:** Allocations to 8 CTCs continued for the second year to support expansion and sustainability of CDL and related supply chain programs. The grant program for private career schools was expanded in FY24 to include some costs of curriculum development, instructor training, equipment, and instructional space. 7 private schools received 1-year funding after a competitive grant review.**CTE Dual Credit:** In June 2023, the Washington legislature funded a CTE Dual Credit proviso ([ESSB 5187](https://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2023-24/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/Senate/5187-S.SL.pdf?q=20230905163613)) for the state board to administer a pilot program to increase career and technical education dual credit participation and credential attainment in professional technical programs. This pilot specifically focuses on the region served by four of our system colleges (Whatcom, Bellingham Tech, Skagit Valley, and Everett) and NWESD 189.  The legislative proviso establishes SBCTC as the authorized agency to guide this work, ensuring stakeholder engagement and project deliverables. NWESD has signed an interagency agreement with SBCTC to serve in a project management capacity to support key elements of the CTE Dual Credit Proviso.**Customer Advisory Committee (CAC):** The Workforce Training Customer Advisory Committee held their fall meeting on October 16, 2023, at Clover Park Technical College. The membership, representing business, labor, and education, discussed SBCTC’s strategic plan update, preview of the legislative session, and recognition of the Job Skills Program (40th anniversary) and Worker Retraining Program (30th anniversary). The committee meets three times per year as an advisory to our executive director on Job Skills and Worker Retraining programs.  As part of the fall meeting, members heard from a panel of Pierce County colleges about their incumbent worker initiatives – highlighting efforts in Corporate Training & Employer Direct Training; Registered Apprenticeships; Credit for Prior Learning, Microcredentials, & Non-credit; and Worker Retraining & Early Achievers Grant. The meeting also included a student panel sharing their experiences in the Construction, Welding, and HVAC programs at CPTC. Engaging the student voice in each of these meetings is a priority for our executive director, program staff, colleges, and committee members. Workforce Education staff members provided updates on current initiatives, Job Skills Program, and Worker Retraining program. One key outcome of the meeting was a vote by the committee to affirm eligibility of the Pre-Nursing DTA (Direct Transfer Agreement) Program for Worker Retraining funding.**Customized Training Program (CTP):** As of January 1, 2024, the Customized Training Program’s revolving loan fund is fully utilized. There is a queue for projects waiting to be funded. Please contact CTP program staff if you have a potential project and need to know the status of funding and queue of projects. Three new contracts were approved in fall 2023, bringing the total of CTP contracts for 2023 to five (5), and to 107 since the program started in 2006.**Early Achievers:** The Early Achievers Grant is a student financial aid program to help employed childcare providers and early learning educators complete required certificates and associate degrees in early childhood education. The Early Achievers Grant is offered in partnership with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). In FY23, colleges served 1,936 unique students and 743.3 FTEs were achieved. For FY24, 27 colleges submitted applications and funding for 517 FTEs were distributed. In late November 2023, DCYF made an additional $500,000 available for a Responsive Pathways project and FTE funding. As a result, funds for an additional 51 FTEs were distributed to colleges in mid-December 2023.**Hospital Employee Education and Training Grants (HEET):** The Hospital Employee Education and Training Grant (HEET) provides funding for the development or expansion of innovative training programs in partnership with labor and employers that support incumbent healthcare workers to advance their careers in the healthcare field while meeting the rapidly changing workforce needs of our healthcare system. The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) received seven applications from Washington state community and technical colleges for HEET funding. A committee consisting of education, labor, and employer representatives reviewed and approved six applications, totaling $1,679,171.70 in awards. The remaining $318,060.30 was opened for a second round of applications for FY24; one application was received and is in the review process.**Job Skills Program (JSP):** **As FY24 funding has been fully awarded, there will be no further applications accepted this year.** For the FY25, please take note of the following changes to the deadlines: Application open: March 28 Application deadline: May 2**The amount available to award for the second half of the biennium (July 1, 2024) is $7,542,207.****Program Approval Request (PAR):** We are steadily making progress on the development of a new online PAR application for colleges to submit requests for new programs and program revisions. * Focusing on professional-technical programs of study. Future work will focus on BAS and transfer programs.
* Integrating apprenticeship programs into this new process and coding framework for apprenticeships in the program inventory.

  Our efforts support the full integration of prior program approval efforts in the legacy system into ctcLink and require updated processes to ensure accuracy in coding, tracking, and reporting of our program inventory.   We are in the final stages of refining the new online application as we prepare to launch the new PAR application in winter term.**Perkins (CLNA):** The Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA), a Perkins funding requirement for colleges, is due every two years. The document is an assessment summary of the following areas:  1. Improving Equity and Access
2. Evaluation of Student Performance
3. Evaluation of Programs
4. Pathways and Programs of Study
5. Recruitment, Training, and Retention of CTE Educators

The priority strategies from each area informs Perkins funding requests. Colleges will be submitting their CLNA on January 31, 2024, for review. The current plan is valid from the fiscal years 2019-2023. The WTECB will submit an updated 2024-2028 Washington State Perkins V State Plan which will also include the new SDPLs for the next four years. The plan is being reviewed by WTECB and the SDPLs will be included in the public comment period of the Talent and Prosperity for All (TAP) Plan, Washington State’s strategic workforce plan.**Professional Technical Faculty Skills Standards**: The final phase of this project focuses on the identification and alignment of Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) competencies into the remaining seven Critical Work Functions of the Skill Standards for Professional Technical Faculty in Washington State. This project aims to update the standards to reflect the diverse needs and experiences of students and promote inclusive practices across the state. The rationale behind this project is to ensure that the faculty are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to create an inclusive learning environment for all students. A survey will be launched in early January to collect system input on the identified DEI competencies, which will inform the final proposal. The updated Skill Standards and DEI competencies will be presented to the Workforce Education Council (WEC) at their winter meeting (February 29 & March 1). WEC will be voting on whether to move these comprehensive reforms forward to the Instruction Commission for their consideration and approval at their spring meeting.**Workforce Education Council (WEC):** WEC fall meeting was held October 12 & 13 at Green River College – Kent Campus. Membership engaged in conversations with the Washington State Labor Council, Association of Washington Business, and SBCTC Centers of Excellence. The membership also dedicated time to their annual work plan, receiving updates on Perkins and CLNA, and reviewing progress on existing committee work. Meeting [minutes](https://www.sbctc.edu/colleges-staff/commissions-councils/wec/current-meeting) are available for your review. * Opportunity Gap Analysis - Workforce Education, WEC, and Advance CTE provided training on the Opportunity Gap Analysis framework bringing together college teams from across our system to engage in deep learning and practical application of new tools to assess equity gaps specific to CTE programs.

 * Career Technical Education (CTE) is intended to provide opportunities for each learner to follow their passion and achieve their career goals and future economic success. While high-quality CTE programs of study across the country are delivering positive outcomes for learners, the reality is that not all learners have access to these programs. The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) elevated the importance of access and equity and has challenged states and local recipients to prioritize this work to address identified gaps.

 * Advanced CTE was contracted to provide this training. Participants engaged in a half-day workshop to help identify CTE opportunity gaps and conduct a root cause analysis and equity planning exercise utilizing their own college data. While this training provided information to support college completion of the CLNA (Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment) and strengthen responses to existing gaps in student outcomes, it is a tool that can assist colleges in addressing gaps across all programs and student populations.

**Workforce Development Funds**: This funding supports one-time projects to meet changing needs and expectations of industry and/or prospective students, or to support local workforce and economic development initiatives. For FY25, Invest in Washington funding – in the amount of $92,000 – has been added to the Workforce Development Fund (WDF) to meet the specifications of [*RCW 82.85.070.*](https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=82.85.070) Total funding for FY25 will be $1,592,000, and **FY25 applications are due April 4, 2024.****Worker Retraining (WRT):** A WRT Funding Workgroup, consisting of representation from the Workforce Education Council, Instruction Commission and the Presidents was convened this summer and fall to re-assess WRT funding allocations and components of the formula. The workgroup recommended that the formula elements (base, 2-year performance, unemployment) stay intact, but base allocation be recalculated using 75% of each college’s 5-yr average WRT enrollments. Information on the proposed recommendation was provided to WEC, IC, the Customer Advisory Committee (CAC), and WACTC. WACTC requested more detail and additional options for consideration before making their decision. The Workgroup reconvened and, along with their original recommendation, put forth an option for an incremental roll-out, as well as an option to hold off making any changes.WACTC will consider the proposed options at one of their Winter meetings.  |