

Washington Community and Technical Colleges 2017 Legislative Agenda

Operating budget request (\$200 million)

Our 2017-19 operating budget request is designed to produce the diverse talent pool needed to fill thousands of jobs and grow Washington's economy. New investments would increase completion and retention rates, producing at least 15,000 more degrees and certificates over the next two years.

Capital budget request (\$338 million)

Funding our complete capital budget request would ease a backlog of projects so more students could learn in modern, well-maintained buildings that meet their educational needs. Every college would receive funding to maintain, repair and make minor improvements to existing facilities.

Corrections education

The community and technical college system contracts with the Department of Corrections to provide basic education and vocational training in corrections institutions. State and federal research shows these services dramatically reduce recidivism rates. A statutory change is necessary to allow the use of state funds for community and technical colleges to provide associate degrees as well (SB 5069 and HB 1129).

Bookstore tax issue

A number of colleges contract with for-profit vendors to operate bookstores, cafeterias and other similar services within college buildings. The Department of Revenue considers this use of college facilities a lease of state property for which the college owes a leasehold excise tax. A statutory change is necessary to clarify that colleges do not lease vendors space to operate their own stores, but rather contract with vendors to operate college stores (SB 5380 and HB 1397).

Customized Training Program

The Washington Customized Training Program provides interest-free training loan assistance to businesses that provide employment opportunities in the state. A legislative request is necessary to lift the July 1, 2017 sunset of this program and continue attracting and retaining business in Washington state. (SB 5381 and HB 1130).

State Need Grant

SBCTC supports the Washington Student Achievement Council's request for additional funding for the State Need Grant.

Sources: 1. Washington Roundtable and The Boston Consulting Group report, "Washington Kids for Washington Jobs," Oct. 5, 2016; 2. A Skilled and Educated Workforce, 2015 Update by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, Washington Student Achievement Council, and Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board. Data projected for 2018-2023; 3. SBCTC Research Report, "CTC Role in WSAC Roadmap Goals," April 2015.



Fast Facts

Washington state will have 740,000 job openings in the next five years. More than half of those openings will be filled by people who have postsecondary education or training.¹

Employers are having the hardest time filling mid-level jobs. These jobs require more than a high school education but less than a four-year degree — the level of education provided by community and technical colleges.²

Washington's goal for postsecondary education is for 70 percent of all adults to have a postsecondary credential by 2023. To meet our share, Washington community and technical colleges will need to produce 228,000 more graduates who have earned a certificate or degree for the first time.³