

# Washington Community and Technical Colleges 2017-19 Budget Request and Agenda

Our 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. Given our state's desperate need for postsecondary education, this budget request embodies our legislative agenda.



## Operating budget request (\$200 million)

### Stabilize funding to move forward (\$49.6 million)

A fully funded, maintenance-level budget would create a financial backstop, ensuring community and technical colleges can push forward to serve nearly 386,000 students. This request covers the current level of operations plus inflation. It also includes Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) for faculty and technical college classified employees as required by I-732.

Investment: \$49.6 million

Deliverable: stabilized funding means fewer cuts to programs and services needed by students and employers.

### Close skill gaps, fill jobs (\$81 million)

- **Guided pathways to careers, including STEM**

“Guided pathways” is a research-based approach that simplifies choices for students. Courses are grouped together to form specific career paths that lead to jobs after graduation. Students get intensive, targeted advising in those career paths. This investment also includes funding for the MESA Community College Program, which helps under-represented students pursue STEM degrees. 100 percent of the MESA graduates in the 2011-12 graduating class earned a bachelor's degree in a STEM field.<sup>1</sup>

Investment: \$81 million, which includes \$7.3 million for MESA

Deliverables: 15,000 more degrees and certificates over the biennium.<sup>2</sup> The highly successful MESA program would expand from the current six colleges to all 34 colleges.

- **Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST)**

I-BEST programs use a team-teaching approach. One instructor teaches reading, writing and math skills while the other shows students how to apply those skills in a profession. Students learn by doing. I-BEST students earn an average of \$2,675 more per year and work more hours.<sup>3</sup>

Investment: \$11.3 million

Deliverables: additional 900 (FTE) for I-BEST; greater completions and higher earnings.



### 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.<sup>4</sup>
- 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.<sup>5</sup>
- 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.<sup>6</sup>

## • **Opportunity Grants**

Opportunity Grants help low-income students train for careers in high-demand fields. Grants cover tuition (up to 45 credits), books and supplies, emergency childcare and transportation services.

Investment: \$10.3 million

Deliverables: 660 more students would receive grants to pursue high-demand programs. Average grant amounts would increase by 20 percent.

## **Invest in teaching and learning, align salary increases (\$34.1 million)**

Producing qualified students for the workforce and for university transfer depends on keeping and attracting outstanding faculty and staff. Our request seeks additional funds to increase faculty and staff salaries and to move more part-time faculty positions into full-time positions. Students would have greater access to full-time faculty outside of class, resulting in higher retention and achievement.<sup>7</sup> This request includes funding to align salary increase rates for employees.

Investment: \$34.1 million

Deliverables: improved ability to keep and attract talent; higher student retention and achievement.

## **Create a safe learning environment (\$13.6 million)**

Campus safety is of utmost concern, especially given the tragic school shootings nationwide. This investment would help colleges protect students, employees and visitors from armed/hostile intruders, wildfires, floods, sexual violence and harassment, and other human and natural dangers.

Investment: \$13.6 million

Deliverables: more robust safety programs and planning; a safer learning and working environment.

## **Capital budget request (\$338 million)**

Funding our complete capital budget request would ease a backlog of capital projects so more students could learn in modern, well-maintained buildings that meet their educational needs. Projects are ranked in order. All colleges would benefit, regardless of whether they are on the list for a major project in 2017-19. All colleges would receive funding to maintain, repair and make minor improvements to their existing facilities.

Investment: \$338 million

Deliverables: Minor works funding for all colleges. Construction-phase funding for major projects at Edmonds, Whatcom, Big Bend, Spokane, Highline and Clover Park colleges. The request also includes design-phase funding for major projects at Wenatchee, Olympic, Pierce College Fort Steilacoom, South Seattle, Bates, Shoreline, Spokane Falls, Clark, Everett, Grays Harbor, North Seattle, Walla Walla and Cascadia colleges.

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## **Corrections education and training (legislative policy request)**

National research shows that prison education reduces recidivism rates and frees public funds for other important priorities. A statutory change is needed to allow the use of existing state funds for academic degree programs within corrections institutions. We also request the 2017-19 operating budget include enabling language from the 2016 supplemental budget.

### Sources:

1. Washington MESA Community College Program Overview, Data & Highlights, by Washington MESA, Jan. 19, 2014; 2. SBCTC Research Division. (to see methodology, see SBCTC agency budget submission to OFM); 3. Washington Roundtable and The Boston Consulting Group report, "Washington Kids for Washington Jobs," Oct. 5, 2016; 4. 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; 5. SBCTC Research Report, "CTC Role in WSAC Roadmap Goals," April 2015; 6. 2015 Workforce Training Results, Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board; 7. SBCTC Efficiency Study: Understanding Benefit Drivers, March 1, 2013, based on findings by The Hill Group.