*Some good news about salaries.*

***Base line item: A 3% salary adjustment in both years of the biennium is included both the Senate and House version of the budget. The 3% salary increase will be awarded July 1st 2019 and July 1st 2020.***

***85% for the funding for this salary increase will come from the legislature and 15% from college.***

Please consider sending this advocacy letter from your home email account about HB 2158 which you can find summarized below.

Dear [REPRESENTATIVE/SENATOR]:

I’m writing to urgently request your support for the Workforce Education Investment Fund (HB 2158) because it will:

* Fully fund the State Need Grant.
* Provide competitive compensation for teaching faculty, especially those in high-demand fields.
* Support Guided Pathways, which moves more students to completion.

I teach…. and thank you for all that you do to support our college, our students and our state.

Sincerely,

*Your name*

*Your College.*

*You can find your representatives and senators by following this link:*

[*https://app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder*](https://app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder)

*Our local districts are 18, 17 and 49; you can send an email to all nine legislators.*

**HB 2158 Workforce Education Investment**

Scheduled for a public hearing on 4/22, this bill seeks funds to invest in the training of Washington students for Washington jobs. The bill would generate revenue--through various Business and Occupation surcharges on “services and other activities”--to be invested in higher education.

**Workforce Education Investment Appropriations.**

Appropriations from the WEIA are provided, totaling $389.6 million for the 2019-21 biennium.

Some of the larger WEIA appropriations for the biennium include:

* $218.6 million for the Washington College Grant;
* $60.8 million for increasing nurse educator salaries and high-demand program faculty salaries at the community and technical colleges;
* $55.1 million for implementing Guided Pathways at the community and technical colleges;
* $20.9 million for new degrees and expanded enrollments in high-demand programs;
* $16.5 million for career connected learning initiatives; and
* $10 million for the Washington Student Loan Program.

*The SBCTC will focus on advocating for this bill for the remainder of the legislative session.*

**HB 1714: CTC Granting High School Diplomas**

Currently in the House Higher Education Committee, passed on third reading 97-0 in the House and then 47-0 in the Senate and will likely be signed by Governor.

**HB 1300: Reinvesting in Our Colleges Program**

This legislation “requires the Legislature to allocate state funds, in addition to maintenance level funds, to be distributed to the colleges for increasing compensation, increasing counselor positions, converting part-time faculty to full-time faculty, establishing diversity, equity, and inclusion offices, and other uses.” This ask for this appropriation to the STCTC is 500 million for the 1019-2021 biennium. **This bill did not pass.**

**HB 1355:** **Establishing staffing standards and ratios for [mental health] counselors in community and technical college**

This bill establishes a task forces to study the issue and to make recommendations. Bill has passed and has been signed by the governor.

**HB 1950: Free to Finish**

The program means to entice students who have just few credits left to graduate and who fell short completing two or more years again. This “recapture” program has been tried at WWU and has helped “over 181 students complete their degree”.

If the student “meets the eligibility requirements and is confirmed by the institution of higher education they are enrolled in to have no more than 15 quarter credits, or the equivalent, left to finish a certificate or degree may receive a Free to Finish College grant”.

A public hearing was held but the bill died in committee: RIP.

**E2SSB 5393L: Washington College Promise Scholarship**

Seeks to create a free college program by implementing changes to the state needs grant. The engrossed substitute bill will make “The College Promise Scholarship…an entitlement for eligible students with family incomes at or below 110% of the federal poverty level”. The bill is currently in the House Committee on College Workforce Development, having already passed in the Senate 27-18. The bill did not pass the house, since they folded it in to HB 2158.

**HB 2059: Diversity, equity, and inclusion goals at community and technical colleges**

Currently this bill is just beginning its journey through the legislature in the College & Workforce Development Committee. The bill would require an annual report from all CTC for achieving their strategic diversity, equity and inclusion plans, and includes the ability of each CTC to request funds for staffing to implement and assess the plan, and limits overhead expenditures to 5% of allocated funds. Dead bill that stalled in committee.