

# Student Success & Pathway Navigation

## Winter Newsletter

February 2025



*As we wind down winter and prepare for spring, this newsletter aims to provide career specialists, advisors and counselors with the necessary tools and resources to integrate career exploration and employment opportunities into their advising sessions, ensuring students are well-prepared for their academic and professional futures.*

### Connecting Students to Careers: Leveraging the AWB Institute Washington Workforce

**April 16th, 11:00 - 12:00 pm**  
**Free Virtual Webinar**

Join us for an exciting webinar showcasing the AWB Institute Washington Workforce Portal. This webinar is designed for Advisors, Career Counselors, Workforce Deans/Directors, Faculty Advisors, and College Success Instructors at Community & Technical Colleges. Session outcomes:

- Increased understanding of the importance of work-based learning.
- Knowledge of a valuable resource to connect students with employers.
- Ability to effectively use the AWB Institute Washington Workforce Portal.
- Networking opportunities with colleagues and potential partners

*Don't miss this opportunity to empower your students for career success! [Register](#) today! .*

### Equity & Inclusion in Action!



Photo by Oladimeji Odunsi on Unsplash

As we celebrate Black History Month and reaffirm our commitment to equity and inclusion in college and career advising. We're pleased to share a Q&A with Simone Green, a Central Catholic High School graduate and current College & Career Advisor, who offers valuable perspectives on supporting all students. [Link to the full article.](#)

### Did You Know?

**Fact:** The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics highlights "travel training" as a career with a focus on empowering independence. Travel trainers teach individuals with disabilities or other needs to navigate public transportation and other travel situations safely.

**Call to Action:** Share this resource with your students interested in helping professions: [Travel trainer : Career Outlook: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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# Guided Pathways Work Plans 2024: A Career and Advising Analysis

A review of the 2024 Guided Pathways work plan submissions with a focus on **Advising, Career Exploration, and Career Support** yielded key themes, challenges, and potential solutions that were common across many colleges. Broad sharing of both individual college challenges/solutions and targeted discussions at a statewide level can help further the improvements our colleges have experienced related to improved student career pathways. Opportunities for continued innovation and systemic support will continue to be at the forefront of our efforts.

## Key Themes Identified

1. **Career-Technical Workforce Program Maps**
  - **Technology Integration:** Colleges are leveraging digital platforms to enhance program map accessibility.
  - **Advising Improvements:** There is a strong focus on aligning advising efforts with program maps.
  - **Funding Challenges:** Limited financial resources hinder the ability to update and maintain program maps.
  - **Staffing Limitations:** A shortage of personnel slows down progress in scaling and improving workforce program maps.
2. **Career Exploration, Advising, and Progress Monitoring**
  - While no dominant themes emerged in the raw analysis, common challenges often include ensuring early engagement in career exploration, scaling structured advising in the first term, and improving student progress tracking.

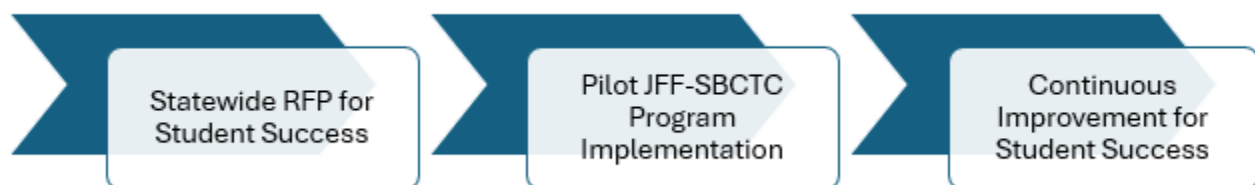
## Potential Solutions

1. **Invest in Technology:** Colleges can adopt centralized online platforms for program mapping and advising.
2. **Expand Advising Capacity:** Leveraging peer mentoring or part-time advisors can mitigate staffing constraints.
3. **Increase Funding Advocacy:** Institutions should seek additional grant funding and state support for Guided Pathways initiatives.

This analysis underscores the ongoing commitment of Washington Community and Technical Colleges to improve student career pathways, with opportunities for continued innovation and systemic support.

## Exciting News for Student Advising in Washington State!

### A Statewide Student Success Platform is on the Horizon!



Washington's Community and Technical Colleges are poised to revolutionize student advising! Last fall, college Presidents and Chancellors authorized a Request for Proposals (RFP) process for a new student success software platform optimized for seamless two-way integration with PeopleSoft.

Over the past year, a dedicated workgroup has defined the platform's purpose and functional requirements. This fall 2024, a team of system representatives evaluated 11 proposals, narrowing the field to four finalists: ConexEd, EAB, Frequency

Foundry, and Highpoint. These vendors recently showcased their products, highlighting accessibility features and engaging in Q&A sessions with stakeholders.

The goal? By March 2025, the RFP process will wrap, and a vendor will be selected to provide a common advising platform to all colleges who opt in. This initiative promises several key benefits for our institutions:

- **Enhanced Integration:** Two-way integration with PeopleSoft will increase data access and help illustrate the student success journey across the state.
- **Student-Centered Approach:** The platform will support a student-centered advising model, with common business processes that prioritize equity and student success.

What's Next? Funding Opportunities for Implementation!

The SBCTC, in partnership with [Jobs For the Future](#), will soon announce a funding opportunity for up to five colleges to accelerate preparation for and implementation of new student success and advising software.

This ambitious initiative aims to transform student support by leveraging technology to create personalized, proactive, and seamless advising experiences. The project will be crucial for improving student transitions, fostering data sharing, driving institutional change, advancing equity, and establishing a continuous improvement model for student success. Stay tuned for more details about this exciting opportunity! We will share information about the selection process as soon as it becomes available.

## Stay Connected

### Career and Employment Services Roundtable

Drop in for quarterly Zoom roundtables to network with other career professionals and to find out what community and technical colleges are doing related to Career and Employment Services and Guided Pathways. Look for a future calendar invitation to these opportunities to connect. The next session will be March 13 from 2-3 pm. [Register](#) now for the link.

### We Want to Hear from You

We are eager to hear about new programs and approaches your college is taking to inform effective career and academic advising practices. Please take a moment to fill out a [short survey](#). We hope to highlight programs and practices in upcoming newsletters.

### Listservs for the Latest News

[Advising and Counseling Council \(ACC\)](#) - open to all advising or counseling professions at our colleges

[Career and Employment Services \(CES\)](#) - open to all who are career and employment professionals

[Guided Pathways](#) - open and will share information related to Guided Pathways

[First Year Experience-College Success Courses](#) - community of practice for leaders of college success courses

## Upcoming Advising and Career Counseling Conferences

- ☐ [The Career Leadership Collective](#)  
April 22-24 | New Orleans, LA
- ☐ [National Association of Colleges and Employers \(NACE\)](#)  
The NACE 2025 | Philadelphia, PA | June 9-11  
(in-person)  
Virtual sessions - June 25-26
- ☐ [National Career Development Association](#)  
June 18-20 | Atlanta, GA  
[Pre-recorded webinars](#)
- ☐ [2025 NASPA Conferences on Student Success in Higher Education](#)  
June 27-30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 | Denver, CO {registration is now open}
- ☐ [40th Annual Institute for Academic Advising](#)  
July 20-25, 2025 | Syracuse, New York (registration opens in May)
- ☐ [NACADA Annual Conference- registration opens Spring 2025](#)  
October 26-29<sup>th</sup>, 2025 | Las Vegas
- ☐ [Jobs for the Future Horizons Summit](#)  
Explore content from past JFF Horizons Summits [for free](#)