STRATEGIC TECHNOLOGY PLANNING & GOVERNANCE
(A WACTC-Tech Supported Initiative for 2018)

BACKGROUND

The Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) and college leaders recognize the need for collaborative efforts in securing and sustaining emerging and foundational technologies essential for the support and fulfillment of the mission of each college in the state. The SBCTC developed and shared the Strategic Technology Plan in November, 2008 to guide these efforts via a singular goal "to mobilize technology to increase student success" (SBCTC, 2008, p. 19), supported by guiding principles and specific strategies and actions. As efforts proceeded, the concept of "core technologies" emerged, and a second document was developed to help establish criteria and implications for adoption of technologies (SBCTC, 2013). Subsequent strategic system initiatives have implemented many of the actions described within the strategies of the 2008 document. ctcLink is one of those actions, and its launch has underscored the need to build upon prior work in support of a systemic approach for technology implementation and integration.

PROPOSAL

Guiding principle six from the 2008 Strategic Technology Plan called for the creation of "an accountable, open, system-wide governance structure to guide IT strategy and investments" (SBCTC, 2008, p. 17). We therefore propose to develop an implementation framework for Strategic Technology Planning and Governance to support planning, implementing, sustaining, funding, and assessing core technologies that increase student success and institutional effectiveness.

APPROACH

A Task Force will consult with SBCTC and colleges regarding key aspects of the planning and implementation processes. Proposed members for the task force will be solicited from commissions (Business Affairs, Information Technology, Instructional, Communications, Student Services), and other stakeholder groups such as Library Deans, eLearning, and CATO.

We propose to conclude this work by September 2018, providing a document for approval and adoption that we anticipate will include the following major components.

MAJOR COMPONENTS FOR THE FRAMEWORK

- Definition for core technology.
- Annual "Rotating" Strategic Plan for Technology Implementation, including a multi-year list of major platforms/solutions in queue for consideration and implementation.
- Process for annually updating core business and educational needs and potential technologies to meet those needs.
- Process for studying and implementing technology platforms/solutions to augment the core infrastructure.
- Process for defining and maintaining secure and reliable data integration among the components of the state core technology infrastructure.
- Process for identifying appropriate funding, support, training, and sustainability models for each technology.
- Process for ongoing assessment of the technology and data infrastructures.
- Governance structure to support the above.

REFERENCES:

SBCTC. (2008). *Strategic Technology Plan for Washington State Community and Technical Colleges*. Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. Retrieved from https://www.sbctc.edu/resources/documents/about/agency/initiatives-projects/strategic-technology-plan.pdf

SBCTC. (2013). *Core Technologies: Criteria & Implications*. Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.