



December 19, 2019

Dear Student Services and Financial Aid Colleagues:

As we look forward to a new quarter, we are all too aware of the financial strain college puts on many of our students. Some students rely on financial support from their parents to come to our schools. Other students work while going to school, and some of them work multiple jobs. Still others struggle to put food on their tables. Whatever obstacle they face, though, their reasons for pursuing their education are the same: earn an education with the skills and knowledge to pursue their dreams.

Despite our efforts, though, too many Washingtonians don't go to college — too many potential students think they can't afford it. Why? Because they don't complete the FAFSA, WASFA, the Washington College Grant, or other financial aid applications. As Student Services and Financial Aid professionals, you are in a unique position to help our students clear this hurdle.

I am excited to invite you to a train-the-trainer workshop that will ultimately help prospective students and their families complete financial aid applications. At this four-hour workshop, financial aid staff from the Washington Student Achievement Council will train you to become a trainer. From there, you will be able to train volunteers who will in turn coach prospective students and their families through to completing those applications.

The free training opportunities, each from 8 a.m. to noon, are as follows:

- Tuesday, Jan. 28 at Skagit Valley College
- Tuesday, Jan. 28 at Gonzaga University
- Wednesday, Jan. 29 at Everett Community College
- Wednesday, Jan. 29 at Columbia Basin College
- Thursday, Jan. 30 at South Seattle College's Georgetown Campus
- Thursday, Jan. 30 at Washington State University, Vancouver
- Friday, Jan. 31 at Clover Park Technical Colleges

We will send a registration link and additional details in early January. I hope you will save the date for one of these workshops.

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We work at community and technical colleges because we believe in our mission, and we believe in our students. We know first-hand how our colleges improve the lives of our students, their families, and our communities. Most well-paying jobs now require an education past high school; of the 740,000 job openings anticipated by 2021, more than half will require postsecondary education or training. Financial aid is critical for our nearly 363,000 students and thousands of others who don't complete a financial aid application. With your help, we can dispel myths, inform, and teach people how to complete their application and take step to enrolling in our colleges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jan Yoshiwara', with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Jan Yoshiwara

Executive Director