

TO: Student Services Commission and Councils  
FROM: Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, Student Services  
RE: **2021 Spring Student Services State Board Report**

## New and Familiar Faces – Staff Updates

### **Katelynn Orellana, Integrations Coordinator, Student Support Programs**



Katelynn Orellana is the new Student Supports Integrations Coordinator. Kate joined SBCTC in March 2021 after working at Skagit Valley College for 7 years where she held different roles within Workforce Grants, Counseling & Advising, and Basic Education for Adults (BEaA). Kate's role at SBCTC supports the colleges and the State Board by strengthening the integration of Student Supports Programs within Student Services, along with assisting with program administration for the Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET), WorkFirst and other student support programs. She comes to SBCTC with a passion for equity and social justice and is excited to support the community and technical college system with programs that make such an impact for students.

### **Kathi Medcalf, Program Administrator (BFET), Student Support Programs**



Kathi Medcalf is our new Program Administrator for the Basic Food Employment and Training Program (BFET) at the State Board. As part of the Student Support Team of the Student Services Department, Kathi's role helps ensure colleges are able to connect students to resources that help to meet their basic needs. Kathi has been at the State Board since October of 2019, and most recently served as the Program Administrator for the Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Navigator program. Kathi's work as the Program Administrator is to provide day-to-day administration of the BFET Program throughout the system by supporting college staff with technical assistance, program monitoring, policy implementation, and guiding practices to help the community and technical colleges run their programs and serve students.

### **Jennifer Dellinger, Policy Associate, Student Support Programs**



Jennifer Dellinger has been with the State Board since 2016, her previous roles included Program Administrator for WorkFirst and BFET and support roles in the development of ABAWD Navigation and other Student Support Programs. In her newest role of Policy Associate, Jennifer oversees the administration of all Student Support programming for the community and technical colleges. Jennifer has over 13 years of experience in the community and technical colleges system, including roles in Student Services, Financial Aid and Workforce programs.

## Student Support Programs Updates

### **Canvas Community Reminder**

The Student Support Programs Canvas Community is your resource hub for WorkFirst, BFET, SSEH, SEAG and WRT. Important program information, updates, and reminders are communicated solely via this Canvas Community. Take care to enable course notifications in your Canvas account to ensure you are getting the most up-to-date information for your programs. Utilize the Student Supports Canvas Community for:

- Grant Announcements
- Funding Surveys
- Notifications from DSHS
- Recorded Trainings
- Helpful Forms and Links

Katelynn Orellana ( [korellana@sbctc.edu](mailto:korellana@sbctc.edu)) can provide technical assistance.

### **Supports for Students Experiencing Homelessness (SSEH) Pilot**

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Governor Inslee signed into law [HB1166](#) which increases the number of participating colleges. For the FY22-23 two-year funding cycle, eight colleges will be selected to participate in a pilot program to provide accommodations to students experiencing homelessness or were in foster care at the time they graduated from high school. Please see the [SSEH Pilot website \(links to external site\)](#) for important deadlines, program guidelines, Q&A and application resources.

### **Student Emergency Assistance (SEAG) Program**

The Student Emergency Assistance Grant (SEAG) Program, administered by the SBCTC allows our colleges to provide monetary assistance to students experiencing emergencies that affect their ability to attend classes. For detailed information about this funding opportunity, please see the [SEAG Program funding website \(links to external site\)](#).

### **Able-bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD) Navigator Program**

Effective April, 2021, the Department of Social Health Services (DSHS) no longer holds a contract with the Federal Nutrition Services (FNS) for the ABAWD Navigation program, causing the closure of our contracts with DSHS to provide services at all 34 colleges. Over the last 2 years, the Navigators have developed an important core navigation model across WA State to connect individuals to community and campus resources to meet their basic needs. Currently, the State Board has identified temporary funds to support the Navigators within other Student Support Programs on campuses, and colleges have the option to explore use of federal ARPA funds for this purpose as well. Kathi Medcalf moved into the role of the Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET) Program Administrator.

### **WorkFirst Program**

FY21 is the first year of full implementation of the WorkFirst Delivery Agreement (WFDA) Program Funding Plan and Funding Policies, including the Take Back Policy. The intention of the Funding Policies is to ensure funds are redistributed in our system throughout the year to meet student need and prevent unspent funding at the end of the fiscal year. WFDA funds are awarded based on expected program need and past performance. Take Back Policy correspondence was sent in November to community and technical college presidents announcing delayed implementation, of FY20 WFDA expenditure outcomes applied to the Take Back Policy, due to pandemic. Since then, we have applied another delayed implementation of Take Back Policy for FY21 WFDA expenditure outcomes. The SBCTC will send delayed implementation letters to college presidents in August 2021 after FY22 WFDA grants are fully released. Student Support Programs staff will continue to work with colleges who fall within Take Back Policy application to mitigate further implications of the Funding Policies as well as offer assistance with budget planning and forecasting.

### **Running Start Summer Pilot Update**

House Bill 2864 (2020). The Running Start Summer pilot will launch this summer with registration beginning as early as mid-May at Yakima Valley College, Skagit Valley College, and South Puget Sound Community College. During the past few months OSPI and SBCTC has been working closely with the selected colleges and participating high schools to ensure a successful implementation. The pilot is limited to five credits per summer session for incoming 11th and 12th grade students in Summer 2021 and Summer 2022. Additionally, seniors who are one class short of receiving their AA may take five credits as well.

## College in the High School Review Cycle

College in the High School (CiHS) 2021 Review cycle is fast approaching. All content and documentation for the review of institutions in the 2021 cycle must be submitted no later than July 1, 2021. The Standards Review Report and Process Committee will send materials and information to qualifying institutions in mid-April, 2021.

## Promising Practice Exchange Webinar Series Launches!

Under the leadership of the WACTC Educational Services Committee and building on the work of the WACTC/SBCTC Strategic Enrollment Taskforce, we launched the Promising Practices Exchange this year on the SBCTC webpage: <https://www.sbctc.edu/about/task-forces-work-groups/strategic-enrollment/promising-practices.aspx>. A webinar series featuring some of these practices debuted in March with a session on promising practices in alignment with K-12 partners. Featured colleges were Centralia, Lower Columbia, Seattle District, and South Puget Sound. Participation was strong, with 184 community and technical college staff, faculty, and students in “attendance” at the virtual event. Presenters who shared their time and expertise were Melody McMillan (Seattle Colleges), Valerie Robertson (South Puget Sound), Nicole Faber (Lower Columbia), and Darcell Scott and Oscar Escalante (Centralia).

The April webinar focused on promising practices in college success courses. Led by Stephanie Schlitz of Shoreline Community College, the webinar also featured Highline, Pierce and South Puget Sound. Presenters in addition to Stephanie were Justin Dampier (Highline), Lizz Zitron and Erik Gimness (Pierce), and Amy Kelly and Anne Molenda (South Puget Sound). Interest in this event was strong as well, with 125 participants.

**The third webinar in the spring series will be on May 20, 1:00 – 2:30 PM on the topic of communication tools with prospective and current students.** Presenters will include Melanie Casciato (Columbia Basin), Kelly Green (South Puget Sound), and Vanessa Calonzo (South Seattle). Watch for registration information in the coming weeks.

The Promising Practices Exchange is managed by SBCTC Student Services under the leadership of President Rebekah Woods, Columbia Basin College, who chairs the WACTC Educational Services Committee this year.



## WACTC/SBCTC PROMISING PRACTICES EXCHANGE

- Do you have a promising practice at your college that is—
  - Advancing racial equity, closing equity gaps?
  - Increasing enrollment, student success, graduation?
  - Re-engaging adult students?
- Please share it! Go to:

<https://www.sbctc.edu/about/task-forces-work-groups/strategic-enrollment/promising-practices.aspx>

## Aim Higher Washington

In partnership with the Washington Student Achievement Council, the Independent Colleges of Washington, and the Council of Presidents has launched the Aim Higher Washington initiative. This initiative seeks to leverage the dramatic increase in college affordability created by the new Washington College Grant, and to help prospective students of all ages and their families to complete financial aid applications.

The goal is for campus and community partners that interact with prospective and current students to be well positioned to support financial aid application filing. Through training we hope to empower more campus professionals to support our work to increase financial aid application (FAFSA and WASFA) filing rates across the state.

This includes a new round of trainings, strategy sessions, and increasing involvement of community-based organizations as we spread free training, tools, and support for students throughout Washington communities.

In the past two months the Aim Higher Washington team has provided two re-engagement sessions with participants from last year's events, and hosted a new series of financial aid basics trainings. Later this spring and summer there will be strategy sessions provided to target student groups such as first-time college students, returning adults and transfer students. For more information please visit the website, <https://wsac.wa.gov/aim-higher>.

## Students of Color Conference

On April 15 & 16th, the Multicultural Student Services Council hosted the 31st Annual Students of Color Conference. This year the planning committee was able to transition from in-person to virtual. This year's theme was "Hear our voices: Resilience Empowered Change", and featured wonderful speakers including Senator Emily Randall, Natasha Burrows, Roxana Pardo Garcia, Gerry Ebalagoza-Tunnell, Isabel Wilkerson, Dr. Raymond Reyes and some of the amazing MSSDC members Rashida Willard and Melissa Williams.

Students from across the state were able to participate and engage with each other through this zoom conference. In wake of the previous year's conference being cancelled due to COVID-19, this planning committee was able to successfully provide an amazing conference for students. This conference gave participants a space to engage with one another, a place to explore and understand their identities, and the ability to explore how the impacts of white supremacy and racism can be addressed. With the completion of an incredibly successful conference, the Students of Color Conference Planning Committee deserves a well-earned break and many congratulations.

## CTC Legislative Action - Spring Academy

CUSP is preparing for the upcoming Legislative Action - Spring Academy which is planned for Friday May 14th. This two-hour legislative summit will bring together CTC system stakeholders to discuss the current legislative session and its impact on students, develop student advocacy strategies to impact legislative issues, and to get involved with state-level CTC legislative action next year. More information will be available in mid to late April.

## Legislative Update: Selected Student Services Bills

Below is a status report on student services related bills that are being implemented this year.

Bill	Description	Status as of April 16
HB 1016	Establishes June 19 <sup>th</sup> (Juneteenth) as a state holiday	Passed House and Senate
HB 1166	Expands Supports for Students Experiencing Homelessness (SSEH) pilot	Signed into law by Governor
HB 1213	Expands access to affordable childcare/early childhood education programs	Passed House, in Senate Ways & Means
HB 1302	Expands College in the High School to include 9 <sup>th</sup> graders	Passed House and Senate
HB 1368	Appropriates funds for state COVID-19 relief supported by federal funding, including undocumented student relief grants	Signed into law by Governor
HB 1425	Expands Opportunity Scholarship Program opportunities for community and technical college students, removing barriers	Passed House and Senate
SB 5194	Mandates guided pathways and student success support and creates pilot program to implement counseling best practices	Passed Senate and House
SB 5214	Expands eligibility for exemption to the 60- month lifetime limit for temporary assistance to needy families (TANF). Includes non-compliance-based termination within exemption. Allows family to keep income while receiving assistance. Enables TANF orientation via phone.	Passed Senate and House
SB 5227	Requires DEI/anti-racism training for all faculty, staff, and students	Passed Senate, in House Rules
SB 5241	Creates grant program for local communities to promote equity, economic inclusion, and a financial foundation for people experiencing poverty, with a focus on people of color and people in rural counties; grants of \$200,000	Passed Senate, in House Appropriations
SB 5431	Creating the Rosa Franklin legislative internship program scholarship.	April 12: Delivered to Governor
2SHB 1044	Creating prison to postsecondary education pathways.	April 9: Striker amendment

**VA Education Benefits Changes** - In January 2021, Congress passed HR 7105. This bill requires public institutions to give resident tuition to veterans using the GI Bill® who live in Washington. **The requirement is effective for any term that begins on or after August 1, 2021.** It does not apply to veteran dependents or active duty military. Additional guidance forthcoming.

## SBCTC 2021 Legislative Interns



State Board legislative interns Da'Mea Birdsong and Sydney Sharp will complete their 2021 legislative internship on April 22. In response to COVID-19, the House and Senate made operational changes to adhere to public health guidance which resulted in Sydney and Da'Mea completing a full legislative session virtually through remote testimony on Zoom and public viewing through TVW. Both interns quickly learned how to adapt to an online legislative environment without hesitation.



Over the course of their 15 weeks at the State Board, Da'Mea and Sydney learned the legislative process from the inside out. They followed bills from when they were dropped to the finish line at the governor's desk. This included understanding each step of the legislative process, tracking bills and their amendments, writing and giving testimony, meeting with policy associates and, with the legislative director, members of the Legislature, and attending committee hearings and floor debates. They also learned about the community and technical college system. They met with State Board department directors to understand how each piece, whether it be budget and finance or instruction and student services, work together to deliver students the best education possible.

Throughout the internship, Da'Mea and Sydney demonstrated a passion to learn about the legislative process and about how the State Board works with the college system, government, and other partners. Both interns served as strong advocates for our CTC system and students. Their overall performance, coupled with the pandemic complications, were impressive. We are going to miss their engagement and enthusiasm. However, we are looking forward to what is next. Da'Mea has recently completed her two-year transfer degree at Whatcom Community College and will be headed to Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies at Western Washington University in the fall. Sydney is currently enrolled at Skagit Valley College finishing her prerequisites in physics and bioengineering. We wish them the best of luck in their new endeavors!