TO:　　　　　　Student Services Commission and Councils

FROM:　　　　　Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, Student Services

RE:　　　　　　**2022 Winter Student Services State Board Report**

Mental Health Counseling & Services Pilot Program

The four colleges selected for the 2021-2023 Mental Health Counseling & Service pilot program recently completed their first quarter of implementation. In October, Grays Harbor College, Lake Washington Institute of Technology, North Seattle College, and Wenatchee Valley College each received their first year funding allocation of nearly $125,000. The pilot programs have met twice and are implementing the early stages of their proposed plans. Each school is incorporating strategies designed to increase campus mental health counseling capacity and foster increased collaborations with community partners. The colleges have been engaged in hiring counselors, developing tools to assess services, and planning outreach to further increase awareness around mental health. Improving equity in counseling services is being closely examined. Data collection tools have been developed to provide mid-year and year end reports of progress. Promising practices and insights from the pilot schools will be shared system-wide.

Meet our SBCTC 2022 Legislative Interns

The SBCTC is excited to introduce our Legislative Session Interns! During the 2022 Legislative session they will be working virtually with the State Board's Legislative Director and other staff in support of our system's legislative priorities and goals.

Mirian Mencias, Legislative Intern, Student Services

Mirian Mencias is a first-generation student. She prefers to be called MJ. She is currently an Ambassador, a Passport Peer Mentor with TRIO, a member of the Equity First Strategic Team and Conduct Committee at Highline College. She is from Honduras la Ceiba, a multiracial student raised in Miami, Florida. MJ is the mother of five beautiful girls. One of her desires is to demonstrate to her daughters that it is possible to prevail in life no matter the circumstances. She has encountered many challenges, including a car accident that changed her life forever. MJ was left with no choice but to reinvent herself and return to school.

Her major is in Political Science. She is the proud recipient of the Martin Scholarship Program at the University Of Washington where she is looking forward to obtaining her double major in LSJ and Political Science. MJ believes knowledge is power, therefore the only way to help change the system is by knowing the rules of the games in society. MJ considers herself the voice of her people and looks to remove barriers by looking at policies through an equity lens. She invests her time learning and doing research in order to help others. MJ aspires to continue advocating for her community and help in whichever way possible by continuing to elevate their voices.

MJ's hobbies are reading, trying to learn, and when she is not reading or researching for fun, she loves to spend time with her family. She enjoys cooking, reading books, and watching anime with her girls. Her plan for the future is to help shape her community to represent them. MJ hopes to one day work with our government to make policy equitable.

<u>Melissa Littleton, Legislative Intern, Student Services</u>

Melissa Littleton currently attends Tacoma Community College where she serves as student body president. During her tenure, she has advocated for basic needs, improving the pipeline to employment, and Open Education Resources (OER). She served on WSAC Basic Needs Taskforce emphasizing the challenges students face on her campus. Childcare, housing, and mental health are areas of passion. She is also interested in improving retention rates, increasing internships opportunities, and awareness of professional organizations for students.

Melissa received her associate's degree in Entrepreneurship in 2020, won an idea pitch competition and is currently building a startup as she continues to pursue her BAS degree in project management. Melissa will graduate this spring which is bitter sweet because Tacoma Community College has been transformative, inspired confidence, and growth beyond her wildest dreams. Upon graduation, her goal is to continue doing work that makes a difference.

2022 Legislative Update

Here are some of the student services related bills we are monitoring in the 2022 Legislative Session. We often seek subject matter expertise from the field to inform our position on bills and provide testimony. Please contact Student Services Director, Joe Holliday if you would like to know more about these bills or wish to provide input.

HB 1601 – Expands Supports for Students Experiencing Homelessness (SSEH) Pilot all 34 colleges in the community and technical college system in order to provide supportive services to a greater number of homeless students in the CTC system.

HB 1642 – Update to National Guard Education Grants

HB 1659 – Administered by the WA Student Achievement Council, a "Bridge Grant" for maximum-WA College Grant-eligible students for educational and living expenses. Annual award for up to $1000 per year to cover books, lab fees, supplies, technology, transportation, housing, and childcare.

HB 1687 – Changes College Bound Scholarship GPA requirements for students entering into CTCs from 2.0.

HB 1736 – Establishes Washington State Student Loan Program administered by the WA Student Achievement Council.

HB 1751 & 1758 – New anti-hazing requirements including education programs for students and employees, reporting, and publicly available information on investigations and findings; includes stiffer criminal penalties.

HB 1755 - Establishes a hardship exemption to allow for extension of the 60-month time limits for TANF clients during times of high unemployment and amends RCW 74.08A.010.

HB 1805 - Updates to Washington State Opportunity Scholarship. Adjusts SAP to program requirements from the 2.0 GPA minimum.

HB 1835 – Funds marketing and outreach to increase FAFSA/WASFA filing; expands WCG eligibility to some public assistance recipients.

HB 1840 – Seeks to create a task force on improving diversity and equity and proposes expansion of mental health pilot program from 4 schools to 8. (amends RCW 28B.50.930)

For full Bill information, go to http://app.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/ and use the Search by Bill Number feature (no need to use HB or SB)

Student Support Programs Updates

The Student Support Programs (SSP) Team continues its efforts to integrate across programs, within Student Services, and across the Education Division. One recent opportunity involved staff presenting information about SSP at the Winter 2022 BEdA Cadre Meeting which engaged participants in rich discussion around gaps in service and how these programs may reach more BEdA students, along with intersections in supporting incoming Afghan refugees.

Governor's Poverty Reduction Work Group: Human Centered Poverty Reduction Design Team

The Human Centered Poverty Reduction Design Team (also known as HCPR) is responsible for creating a human-centered upward mobility system that coordinates the work of our agencies, empowers people experiencing poverty, treats them as customers, and measurably and equitably reduces poverty.

This goal is based on Strategy 6 of the Governor's Poverty Reduction Workgroup Strategic Plan, Reducing Poverty and Inequality in Washington State, a 10-year Plan for the Future: Build an integrated human service continuum of care that addresses the holistic needs of children, adults, and families.

There are 6 focus areas of Strategy 6: Shared Outcomes, Updating Standard of Need, Universal Intake, Increasing Cash Assistance, Smooth On and Off Ramps, and Instilling Hope and Resilience. Committees have finalized their charters and recently built work plans that outline the current state mapping, gap analysis, future state action plan, and recommendations for implementation.

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) can provide technical assistance.

Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness (SSEH) Pilot

Currently, there are 8 community and technical colleges and 4 public baccalaureate institutions participating in a pilot established by the Washington State Legislature to provide accommodations to students experiencing homelessness or were in foster care at the time of high school graduation. Participating colleges include: Clark College, Edmonds College, Highline College, Lower Columbia College, South Puget Sound Community College, Walla Walla Community College, Wenatchee Valley College, and Yakima Valley College. Included in the SBCTC's Operating Budget request to the 2022 Legislature and currently sponsored by Representative Leavitt, HB 1601 makes it possible for all colleges in the state to provide these services to eligible students.

Student Emergency Assistance (SEAG) Program

The Student Emergency Assistance Grant (SEAG) Program, allows community and technical colleges in Washington State to provide low-barrier monetary assistance to students experiencing emergencies that affect their ability to attend classes. The SBCTC received an additional $4 million per fiscal year for FY22 and

FY23, which funded 27 colleges to administer the SEAG Program for the biennium. To learn more about the students served, the types of emergency requests received and funded and program evaluation findings, please see this year's SEAG Program Legislative Report.

Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET)

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has recently released guidance allowing states to use SNAP Employment and Training Funds to provide subsidized wages to BFET participants in Work-based learning activities. The Department of Social Health Services (DSHS) has convened a work group with representatives from colleges, community based organizations, and the SBCTC to write Washington's plan for implementation of these new qualifying activities such as apprenticeships and internships. This is exciting news as it is one more way to engage students in BFET activities. The Student Support Programs SBCTC team will continue to provide ongoing updates.

Digital Supports has been added as a support category for eligible BFET students. If your college wishes to support students with digital supports they can spend up to $700 per student on devices and accessories for their programmatic success. Please note that your BFET budget must be updated to reflect the addition of Digital Supports category. If you have any questions, please contact the BFET Program Administrator, Kathi Medcalf.

WorkFirst Program

This year is the second year of delayed implementation of the WorkFirst Delivery Agreement Program Take Back and Funding Policies. The Redistribution Policy will be fully applied this program year to colleges who are underspent beyond the 10% variance as a result of December 2021 and March 2022 invoicing. The SBCTC will remove unexpended funds from college budgets and redistribute the funds out to the system. WorkFirst Program Administrators and Coordinators are receiving monthly email updates regarding grant award spenddown reports to prepare for Redistribution Policy.

Take Back Policy correspondence was sent to community and technical college presidents and chancellors in August announcing delayed implementation of FY22 Take Back application due to the continuation of impacts from the pandemic. Student Support Programs staff will continue to work with colleges who would otherwise fall within the Take Back Policy application to mitigate further implications of the Funding Policies as well as help with budget spending, planning and forecasting. FY23 will be the first year that Take Back will be applied.

The Winter Funding Survey is scheduled to release February 14, 2022 and submissions are due Friday, February 25. FY23 WorkFirst Delivery Agreement Grant application is due to release February 10 and applications are due March 24, 2022. The Student Supports Winter Training date is scheduled for March 3, 2022.

Dual Credit Taskforce

SBCTC staff has concluded their work with the Dual Credit Taskforce (DCTF) led by the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC). This taskforce was comprised of representatives from the higher education sectors, K-12, business/industry leaders, and community-based organizations. The overarching goals of the taskforce were to identify barriers preventing students from participating in dual credit, and to make recommendations for statewide policies by 2023.

To view the completed Dual Credit Legislative Report please see
https://wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-12-Dual-Credit-Legislative-Report.pdf

Guided Pathways

Kristi Wellington-Baker left her role as the Director of the Student Success Center and Strategic Initiatives in October 2021, and Laura Schueller has been serving in an interim role. Monica Wilson has been chosen to be the new director and will start on February 1st.

The 2022-2023 Guided Pathways Work Plan template was released on January 3rd for colleges to reflect on their current progress and make plans for the coming year. In addition to support from the Student Success Center, colleges are encouraged to make use of their Guided Pathways College Coaches as they identify their own priorities and capacities.

The Antiracist Curriculum Initiative launched in early January with faculty representing 31 of our colleges working to map their English& 101 ecologies and implement labor-based grading with support from Asao Inoue, the leading scholar in anti-racist writing assessment praxis.

A number of learning communities continue to work on issues including scaling corequisite mathematics and redesigning placement.

A group has started to meet to look at the Washington Course Checklist using an equity framework in order to support the continued development and refinement of this tool.

Four colleges were identified as IDEAL colleges for the third cohort of IDEAL fellows and have designated an IDEAL rep on campus to act as a liaison with students as they work on their projects. A 30 student cohort from a 340 student pool of applicants from these four colleges was selected in December, and the fellowship will run from February through April.

In partnership with EMSI-BG, the SSC has launched a system wide CTC alumni network project with the following objectives:

   a) Development of a robust alumni career network providing historically underserved students access to career support that works to decrease inequities in labor market outcomes and gives access to career opportunities.
   b) Support state and college communications designed to express the relationship between CTC students' trajectory into industry and the local and regional economic impact those investments have generated.

Accessibility

- [Accessible Design Training 101: Core Concepts](#) will take place on February 4th. Registration is now **CLOSED** with 100 attendees enrolled from across the colleges and SBCTC staff. The training will be recorded and we are working to times to offer it again.
- The Disability Support Services Council will hold its winter quarter meeting on January 26th and 27th.
- [The monthly ctcLink Accessibility Open Forum](#) will **NOT** take place in January and will restart in February 2022. Check the website for meeting updates.
- The [Committee for Accessible Technology Oversight](#) is working with Monica Olsson and other SBCTC staff to identify and discuss accessibility issues concerning Highpoint HCX mobile.
- On the horizon: Web Accessibility 101 training in development to be offered to SBCTC we developers and content creators. Event is slated for May 2022.

On the horizon: stay tuned to hear more about an upcoming month-long WA (Web Accessibility) Learning Lab training program and application details.