



Common Messaging - Fall 2024

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BEdA

I-BEST in Corrections Team Teacher Training

In partnership with the Department of Corrections (DOC), SBCTC will facilitate an I-BEST and Corrections Team Teacher Training. This training, focused on the unique Corrections Education environment, will provide strategies, tools, and resources for faculty, staff, and navigators to develop strong professional-technical career pathways for justice-involved students

Ability to Benefit: Eligible Career Program Pathway Regulations

The U.S. Department of Education has released new regulatory information on Eligible Career Pathway Programs (ECPPs) for institutions offering Ability to Benefit. SBCTC will release further guidance and resources in November 2024.

Professional Development

Basic Education for Adults (BEdA) continues to offer professional development opportunities centered on racial equity for all program faculty, staff, and administrators. Key offerings include:

- ABCs of Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion
- Navigating Through Conference
- Leading with Racial Equity
- Teaching Skills That Matter (TSTM) Framework
- Integrating College and Career Readiness Standards
- Reading Apprenticeship and Artificial Intelligence
- English Language in a Multilevel Corrections Classroom
- New Administrators, Faculty, and Navigator Orientations

2024 BEdA Biennial Conference

The 2024 BEdA Biennial Conference, themed "**Literacy & Justice for All**" and held at the Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick, WA, over 380 attendees joined in-person, 50 expert presenters, and 65 sessions. The theme underscored the transformative power of literacy in promoting social and economic justice.

Navigating Through Conference: Navigating with CARE

On October 24-25, 2024, the **Navigating Through Conference: Navigating with CARE (Connect, Affirm, Respect, Empower)** will be held in person at Wenatchee Valley College. This event will focus on helping participants reflect on their role in supporting students and developing advocacy skills.

Prison Education Programs and Pell Grants

The reinstatement of Pell Grants has expanded access to higher education for incarcerated students, allowing them to utilize federal financial aid. Washington State colleges are working to gain

approval from the U.S. Department of Education to become Prison Education Programs, complementing existing state-funded programs in the 11 state prisons.

Off-State Network (OSN) in Corrections

All 11 Washington State correctional facilities are now equipped with the Off-State Network (OSN), a secure internet infrastructure within the prison system, including access to a corrections-approved version of the JSTOR library. This marks a significant improvement over the offline resources previously used in corrections education classroom.

Educational Resources and Innovation

Course Sharing

The procurement process for a course sharing platform is progressing well. A work group consisting of representatives from various colleges, the eLearning Council, and SBCTC staff, has collaboratively identified the necessary functionalities for the platform. These requirements have been communicated to the agency's contract specialist, and the request for proposals (RFP) will commence on October 1, 2024. The objective is to evaluate and select a platform by the end of Fall 2024.

Washington Open ProfTech Project

Funded by the US Department of Education through a FIPSE grant, the project is progressing smoothly, thanks to the combined efforts of our faculty authors, support staff, and project leadership. The first grant, awarded \$1.8 million in 2021, has completed the development of six open textbooks for professional technical (ProfTech) programs and is preparing for campus evaluation this fall. The second grant, awarded \$2.1 million in 2023, began this June and aims to develop seven additional open textbooks for ProfTech courses. Seven faculty author teams, along with support staff in Instructional Design and OER, have been selected for this phase.

OER and Low-Cost Labeling Policies

The implementation of OER and low-cost labeling policies has continued to result in significant savings for students for the 2023-24 academic year as well. During the 2023-24 academic year (Summer 23, Fall 23, Winter 24, and Spring 24), 10,520 class sections were labeled as OER courses enrolling 124,038 students. Additionally, 6340 class sections using low-cost materials (priced at \$50 or less) enrolled 72,059 students during this same period. It is estimated that the total savings for students amount to \$19,609,700 for the 2023-24 academic year.

Micro-pathway Fellowship

In collaboration with Workforce Education, Educational Resources & Innovation is participating in a [12-month fellowship program](#) facilitated by [Education Design Lab](#), and [Community College Growth Engine](#) to explore micro-credentials and micro-pathways from the systems level. Our design team is using “Design Thinking” to drive the development process and explore the IT/Cyber Security sector. We are currently working on building [learner personas](#) and completed a statewide Learner

Experiences & Needs survey in June with 499 responses! Next up is engaging with employers to complete a [T-profile](#) that defines validates in-demand skills.

Early Childhood Education Online Courses Update

The Early Childhood Education online courses are moving off of the older WAOL course sharing platform, though courses are taught on Canvas as before! Our staff are working with the ECE coordinator and the ctcLink Campus Solutions team on improved processes, documentation, and reports, to aid in managing online programs in our consortium.

Accessibility Update

In collaboration with the eLearning Accessibility Task Force, SBCTC is updating accessibility checklists to add to the Micro Courses. The checklists will include Word, PowerPoint, Canvas, PDF, and Email.

In a landmark ruling this spring, the Department of Justice updated regulations for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act to include web and mobile accessibility requirements. The regulations use WCAG 2.11AA as its technical standard for compliance, and you can learn more at the [ADA Fact Sheet](#). Key information about this ruling was presented to WSSSC and IC in September by Monica Olsson. Michael Hanscom (CATO Co-Chair) and Monica presented to STAC and aim to provide a high-level overview to WATC in October. All colleges must follow the new regulations by April of 2026.

The [ctcLink Accessibility open forums](#) continue every second Tuesday of the month.

Highpoint HCX version 24.2.1 will be released on November 2nd and this version brings the application closer to WCAG 2.1AA conformance than ever before.

During its upcoming fall meeting, the Library Learning Council will receive a presentation from the creators of [EMMA](#), Educational Materials Made Accessible.

The Disability Support Services Council meets this October and continues to advocate for improvements to disability coding practices in ctcLink.

Policy Research

2024 WSAC Basic Needs Survey

The WA Basic Needs Survey 2024 is legislatively mandated by the Postsecondary Basic Needs Act ([2SHB 1559](#) 2023). The survey, which is administered biannually to all students enrolled in public higher education institutions in Washington State, provides institutions, systems, and the legislature with data about the current level of unmet basic needs experienced by Washingtons higher education students.

The Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) is partnering with Western Washington University (WWU) to serve as Lead Partner Institution for administration, analysis, and reporting. WWU received IRB approval for administering the survey, analyzing the data, and reporting on the findings. For 2024, WWU will enter into a single data sharing agreement with the SBCTC for the transfer of student contact information, basic demographic and enrollment data, and distribution of aggregate and summary findings for SBCTC system colleges. This alleviates individual colleges from the workload of individual DSAs and data extraction.

WWU will administer the survey from 10/28/2024 until 11/22/2024. The survey will be distributed via email to current students enrolled in credit-bearing, apprenticeship program and adult basic education courses at all of the SBCTC system colleges, with the exception of students enrolled in Department of Corrections programs. WSAC and SBCTC are working on preparing guidance for colleges on additional marketing and communication strategies to maximize the response rate.

WWU, in partnership with WSAC, will conduct the initial analysis and prepare a draft report. SBCTC will work with WWU to produce local data reports for colleges.

Gainful Employment

The deadline for Gainful Employment/Financial Value Transparency (GE/FVT) Reporting has been pushed back to January 15, 2025. Here at the SBCTC, staff will continue our support for colleges to meet the revised reporting deadlines, including:

- Policy Research is liaising with the National Student Clearing House for provision of baseline reports and preparing reports for those unable to access the NSC service.
- ctcLink financial aid and query development experts are preparing queries colleges can use to extract and upload data not provided by NSC.
- Policy Research and the Workforce staff are working with colleges to identify programs that may be impacted by the metrics, and by changes to the 150% rule if it is re-enacted.

We will produce a more detailed calendar of steps and guidance for the January 15, 2025 deadline once we have time to meet with NSC and adjust the schedules. Please let me know at skenesson@sbctc.edu if your college would like an update at any fall meetings.

Tableau Server Upgrade

SBCTC has renewed the system tableau contract for a further five years. Concurrent with the contract, the tableau server was upgraded, enabling colleges to update the version of tableau in use for college dashboards. Over this 5-year period, the research and planning commission will be reviewing alternative data visualization tools to inform subsequent strategies for college and system data visualization.

System IRB

A system-level Institutional Review Board is concluding development and will be available this fall. The system IRB will serve the following purposes:

- Provide colleges that do not have their own IRB, or that need additional IRB resources, with an IRB service
- Provide individual colleges and college consortia with an IRB service for grant applications and research proposals
- Provide an educational function, including 'mock IRB' opportunities as schedule permits, training and development for faculty that wish to learn more about the IRB process or serve on an IRB, and opportunities to support inclusion of IRB experience in undergraduate research projects.
- Develop a resource center for faculty, staff and students to learn more about the IRB process.

More information will be available on the SBCTC Research web pages this fall.

Student Services & K12 Alignment

HB 2112: OPIOID EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Approved by the Legislature in 2024, [HB 2112](#) requires higher education institutions to:

- Provide opioid and fentanyl prevention education and awareness information to all students, including information on Washington's Good Samaritan law. Education may be delivered in person or electronically.
- Education must be posted on each institution's public website for students, parents, and legal guardians to access.
- Make fentanyl test strips and naloxone available in locations that are accessible to students, such as wellness centers, student union buildings, and student housing.
- Train staff working in residence halls how to administer naloxone.

Legislative Intern Update

SBCTC is preparing for the next round of Student Interns for the 2025 Legislative Session. The Government Relations and Students Services teams have partnered to enhance the internship with two distinct roles for student leaders to intentionally include the student perspective across the agency and community college system. One intern will focus on supporting the Government Relations team and supporting the legislative work and advocacy of SBCTC. The other will focus on student advocacy engaging in supporting WACTCSA, and other student civic engagement partners for a coordinated student voice. As a team they will be able to lean into their student experience and expertise to elevate student voice.

Please contact Sam Herriot sherriot@sbctc.edu or Yokiko Hayashi-Saguil hayashi-saguil@sbctc.edu with any questions.

Financial Aid Updates

This summer colleges began processing 2024-25 financial aid awards for students after significant delays from the Department of Education related to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The ctcLink and college financial aid teams were able to pivot and adapt to implement strategies to get financial aid awards prepared and out to students. Colleges' financial aid teams were able to process the same amount of financial aid awards within a significantly reduced timeline and technical difficulties. More information can be found on the SBCTC website at: [2024-25 FAFSA Resources | SBCTC](#)

FAFSA Application for 2025-26

The Department of Education announced this summer that the opening of the FAFSA form will be released on December 1st, 2024. This delay is set to allow for beta testing of the application functionality throughout the fall term. The intention is to have a fully functional application to reduce the risk of technical errors and delays for students and families.

The Financial Aid Completion Pilot Expansion

The Financial Aid Completion pilot was provided funding to expand the program to the Capital Region in ESD 113. This expansion will bring 5 new financial aid outreach staff across the region at Centralia College, Grays Harbor College, and South Puget Sound Community College.

Student Emergency Assistance Grant (SEAG) and Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness (SSEH)

Big thanks to over 70 student support and student services staff from across the colleges and universities who engaged in practice-sharing topical discussions in July and presented highlights from our discussions at the SSEH Learning Community Convening in August. Four new colleges have launched their SSEH programs this year at Clover Park Technical College, Peninsula College, Skagit Valley College, and Whatcom Community College! We're also excited that our final two colleges, Bates Technical College and South Seattle College, are engaged in SSEH Planning Grants this year to develop their own programs.

SEAG planning grants for 2024-25 are open to bring the remaining 7 colleges who are not currently offering the SEAG program. If our remaining colleges accept, all 34 colleges will be eligible to apply for SEAG funding in FY26.

Important dates for SEAG and SSEH related programs -

- **Oct. 3rd, 1-2:30 PM - SEAG and SSEH FY25 Quarterly Report Release webinar.**

Use Zoom meeting ID: 879 1940 2437, password 282769 to join.

- **Oct. 8th, 10-11:30 AM - McKinney-Vento: Building Bridges for a Warm Hand-Off**

This cross-sector statewide webinar is intended to promote successful collaboration between K-12 McKinney-Vento liaisons and college staff (SSEH case managers, Passport Designated Support Staff, and Basic Needs/Benefit Navigators) who support intersecting student populations. Please join this networking opportunity at the following zoom meeting link:

[McKinney-Vento Building Bridges for a Gentle Hand-Off](#)

- **Nov. 17-23 is National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.**

Colleges are encouraged to imagine and host activities and events related to **Basic Needs Awareness Week** during this timeframe that could increase awareness of student basic needs insecurity and available resources, reduce stigma, and promote participation in the student basic needs survey.

Dual Credit and K12 Alignment Updates

Fall 2024 Dual Credit Webinar

In collaboration with OSPI, SBCTC will offer a Dual Credit Webinar open to all for systemwide dual credit updates.

10/23 9:30-11am <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81497951056>

College in the High School (CiHS) Updates

College in the High School (CiHS) 2023-2024 Review cycle has been completed. Any additional evidence needed for approval for continued program implementation is due October 15, 2024 to The Standards Review Report and Process Committee.

The first College in the High School Legislative Report in response to 2SSB 5048 is available now.

SBCTC staff is submitting the 2023-2024 CiHS report on course enrollment to the Office of Financial Management this fall. Colleges should expect to receive their reimbursement in the January 2025 allocation.

Running Start Virtual Series

SBCTC Dual Credit has offered with much positive feedback monthly virtual sessions to Community and Technical College Running Start staff effective January 2024-June 2024. Each session has included updates from SBCTC/OSPI and space for Running Start college staff to come together and connect. The presentation portion of each session is recorded and posted to the [SBCTC Dual Credit YouTube](#) playlist.

2024-2025 Schedule

- 10/23 9:30-11am <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81497951056> *Dual Credit Webinar w/ OSPI
- 11/20 9-11am <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82548189941>
- 12/18 9-11am <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81935739426>
- 1/22 1-3pm <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88082015508>
- 2/19 1-3pm <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84631186462>
- 3/19 1-3pm <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84324053028>
- 4/23 9-11am <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88981857767>
- 5/21 9-11am <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85638541517>
- 6/18 9-11am <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89319519186>

Math Placement Project Grant

The **Math Placement Project Grant** is managed by SBCTC and generously funded by College Spark Washington. Washington community and technical colleges continue to work towards more equitable placement practices.

The **Key Focus** includes moving away from standardized testing and focusing on high school transcripts evaluation and implementing guided self-placement models designed for students to reflect on prior experiences with reading, writing and math. Although colleges have made significant strides in placement assessment, inequities still exist, especially for historically underserved student populations and BIPOC students.

The **purpose** of this project is to create a cohort of colleges who are willing to share and learn from each other as they invest in examining and revising their current practices to ensure that all students who are currently eligible for placement into college level courses are being enrolled into those courses. Additionally, this work should support colleges in moving forward towards common practices that are consistent and transparent for students.

Grant Resources

- [Math Placement Project Grant | SBCTC](#) – SBCTC webpage
- [CTC Mathematics Placement GRID via WA High School Transcripts](#)
- [Math Placement Grant Guidance](#)

Pilot Colleges

- Cascadia College

- Everett Community College
- Lower Columbia College
- Renton Technical College
- Shoreline Community College
- Tacoma Community College

Contact Information

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Math Placement Summit 2024

[Registration](#) is now open for the **Math Placement Summit at Everett Community College November 7-8, 2024**. The event will be a space for the Community & Technical College system to come together to learn and discuss equitable math placement practices and what the future can look like for our students. We invite faculty and staff to join us, registration will close October 18th, 2024, at 5:00pm. Each attendee must register separately to ensure an accurate headcount.

Bridge to College Update

Since 2015, Washington high school students who do not initially meet college-ready benchmarks on assessments have had the opportunity to achieve college readiness through the Bridge to College Math and English courses. Students who earn a grade of B or higher in these transition courses are eligible for automatic placement into college-level courses at any of Washington's community and technical colleges, as well as Eastern Washington University. These courses align with state learning standards and are grounded in career and college readiness expectations, offering students a critical pathway to post-secondary success.

For the 2024-2025 school year, the Bridge to College community welcomed 82 new Math and English teachers from over 50 school districts. These new teachers join 252 returning teachers from over 100 districts across the state. In early August, all Bridge to College teachers attended the Teacher Institute in Yakima, WA, where they explored the program's structure and requirements,

connected with course leaders and Communities of Practice members, and engaged in meaningful pedagogical discussions with their peers. Throughout the year, new and returning teachers will receive ongoing support through their Communities of Practice, a statewide network designed to foster collaboration and professional growth.

Commission & Council Fall Calendar

- ACC – October 21-22, Renton Technical College, hybrid
- ARC – October 16-18, Whatcom Community College, hybrid
- WSSSC - October 9-11, Wenatchee Valley College
- VMSC – Virtual Water Cooler Sessions each Thursday (reach out to the VMSC listserv for zoom link)

Student Success Center Updates

Guided Pathways Coaching

All colleges have been assigned Guided Pathways Coaches for the 24-25 Academic Year to support change efforts aligned with student success efforts. Coaches have reached out to presidents at each institution, please be sure to respond and set up your initial coaching conversation to plan for how your coaches can support you.

The 24-25 Academic Year will be the final year that SBCTC will manage a comprehensive coaching program for the colleges. Instead, the Student Success Center will be focusing energy and resources toward building institutional and cross-college capacity and leadership toward Guided Pathways implementation through the Student Success Middle Leadership Academy. Colleges that are interested in continuing to work with their coaching team are encouraged to work directly with their coaches to negotiate a successful arrangement.

Student Success Middle Leadership Academy

The Student Success Middle Leadership Academy will launch in the summer of 2025 at no cost to the colleges. This academy is built upon the Aspen Framework for Student Success to build the internal capacity of those closest to Guided Pathways work on campuses. The curriculum includes the following focus areas:

- The Essential Roles of Leadership in Student Success
- Keeping Student End Goals in Mind
- Student Experience
- Leadership Traits to Drive Change
- Managing and Advancing Institutional Change
- Effective External Partnerships and the Leadership Journey

Applications for the academy will open in winter 2025 and will contain recommendations for appropriate faculty and staff participants.

Student Success Tool Request for Proposals

The Student Success Tool RFP Taskforce has been meeting regularly to draft the associated functional requirements and evaluation needs. The RFP will select vendors to satisfy the following functional requirements: student goal planning and progress, communication, case management tool, accessibility and equity, data and analytics, technology integration, and client support. The RFP timeline is below.

EVENT DATE	TIME
RFP issued	September 26, 2024
Optional Letter of Intent Due	October 8, 2024
Vendor Pre-Proposal Teleconference	October 8, 2024
Demo Accounts Active Date	October 10, 2024
Response to Pre-Proposal Conference Questions Posted	October 10, 2024
Final Vendor questions, comments, and complaints due	October 21, 2024
Written responses to final Vendor questions, comments, and complaints	October 23, 2024
Vendor Responses and Client References due	October 29, 2024
Evaluation of Responses & Conclusion of Testing Vendor Solutions	October 30 - November 8, 2024
Optional Vendor Presentations & Demonstrations (TBD)	November 12-14, 2024
Notification of Apparent Successful Vendor	November 19, 2024
Vendor requests for debriefing due (Optional)	November 22, 2024
Optional Vendor debriefings	December 3-5, 2024
Contract Approval & Signature	TBD by March 2025

Guided Pathways Advisory Council

The purpose of GPAC in 2024-2025 is to ensure members are engaged in moving our collective work of Guided Pathways implementation forward throughout the system. This year members will have the opportunity to provide insight and feedback on the development of system performance targets and

a Guided Pathways implementation map which will serve as the foundation of future Guided Pathways work plans. The draft schedule for the meetings are below:

Friday, October 25th from 9:00-10:30 am on Zoom

Friday, January 17th from 9:00-10:30 am on Zoom

Friday, April 16th from 9:00-10:30 am on Zoom

Artificial Intelligence in Teaching and Learning

The Student Success Center was proud to support Clover Park Technical College's Teaching and Learning Center with their inaugural 2024 AI Institute. The event was a great success with over 400 registered attendees and a phenomenal line-up of speakers and workshops. Student Success Center and Educational Resources and Innovations staff are engaged with the Instruction Commission and eLearning Council, who are both prioritizing AI and a system mapping of AI efforts. For immediate guidance, colleges are encouraged to provide syllabi guidance to their faculty and work on other policies in teams with faculty, instruction staff and students.

Newsletters

The Policy Associates in the Student Success Center have developed newsletters to keep the system updated on professional development opportunities, research, and success stories in the system.

- [Math Pathways and Placement Newsletter](#)
- Teaching and Learning Newsletter
- [Student Success and Pathway Navigation Newsletter](#)

Workforce Education

Aerospace & Advance Manufacturing Pipeline Advisory Committee

The Fall Aerospace Pipeline Committee meeting will be held virtually on October 15, 2024. The meeting will have new members representing the CTC system, President Jim Lemerond from Bellingham Technical College replacing Dr. Suzanne Johnson from Green River College, Kayla Coffee representing Aerospace Future Alliance replacing Emily Wittman, Matt Poischbeg representing the WATR Center replacing Larry Clumpf, and Nikki Malcom representing the Pacific Northwest Aerospace Alliance.

Apprenticeship

Communities of Practice

The Apprenticeship Community of Practice continues to meet monthly to develop common business practices that enhance the system's ability to serve our apprenticeship community.

A subset of the Community of Practice colleges consisting of Bates Technical College, Columbia Basin College, Everett College, Renton Technical College, Spokane Community College, and South Seattle College are participating in a Workgroup of college assisting SBCTC and WSAC in the development of a process for implementing the Washington College Grant for Apprentices. This process entails the development of an online student application and program sponsor application and is on track to roll out to the entire system for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Career Launch Endorsement

The Career Launch endorsement online application has been revised and is available online on the [Career Connect Washington \(CCW\) Website](#). The application has been significantly streamlined for ease of application without lessening the rigor required by [statute](#) to become a Career Launch endorsed program. Notification of changes to the application have gone out to colleges in the system and to the broader CCW Network.

Centers of Excellence (COE)

CTC instructors teaching cybersecurity can now access up to \$2,500 through the Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (CCoE) for professional development, beginning this summer! The deadline to apply is June 1, 2025, apply [HERE](#).

Coordination of the Prof/Tech Boot Camps have transitioned to the Center of Excellence for **Careers in Education** at Green River. These three-day intensive courses for new or less experienced instructors in professional technical education will be held virtually for at least the first few quarters. Recognizing the increased demand for DACUM facilitators, the COE's have partnered with Ohio State University to **offer DACUM training in Washington from January 27-31, 2025**. The COE's will soon be seeking commitments to ensure we meet the minimum of six and maximum of twelve participants required to run the training.

The Center of Excellence for **Information & Computing Technology** will assess the current landscape of artificial intelligence education at community and technical colleges to inform a set of recommendations on AI curriculum, faculty training, industry alignment, and more. We expect to share the recommendations with the system by January 2025.

The Center of Excellence for **Marine Manufacturing & Technology** is leading a welding & fabrication cross-sector pathway project with the **Construction and Agriculture/Natural Resource** industries. The project will develop an open-source, cross-sector welding and fabrication model framework focused on the maritime, agriculture & natural resource and construction industries. It will be accessible, scalable, and adaptable to other industry sectors and regions statewide. It involves three rural serving community colleges (Grays Harbor, Walla Walla & Skagit) and three educational service districts (Capital, Northwest & Mid-Columbia). Starts summer '24 and ends Spring '25.

Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Resources

State funding has enabled both CTCs and PCSCs to expand the geographical availability of instructional programs and student financial assistance, enhancing access to training programs

across a diverse array of locations and contributing to workforce development in urban and rural communities.

Locations Served by CTCs through the WA CDL Fund: Adams, Asotin, Clallam, Cowlitz, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Lewis, Lincoln, Mason, Pierce, and Spokane counties.

Locations Served by Private Career Schools through the WA CDL Grant: Benton, Franklin, King, Kitsap, Pierce, Spokane, Thurston, and Yakima counties.

In FY23, the WA CDL Grant helped 311 students at private schools, increasing to 546 in FY24. Through the WA CDL Fund, CTCs assisted 122 students in FY23 and 261 students in FY24.

“Without the WA CDL grant, I wouldn’t have been able to afford CDL training. Since obtaining my CDL, it has helped me grow my career and gain stable employment that allows me to provide for my family. This wouldn’t have been possible without the WA CDL grant.”

Trey Brown, WA CDL Grant Recipient FY24

CTE Dual Credit

SBCTC is engaged in joint discussions with OSPI to inform shared dual credit priorities in preparation for the legislative session.

SBCTC has renewed our interagency agreement with NWESD to continue our partnership on the CTE Dual Credit proviso. This initiative is focused on creating articulations in IT, Computer Science, and Manufacturing pathways. In addition, the proviso is focused on building common practices and resources for statewide use.

Customer Advisory Committee (CAC)

The Workforce Training Customer Advisory Committee (CAC) held their spring meeting

May 20 & 21, 2024 at Big Bend Community College. May 20 was focused on engaging local leaders and industry partners, including college administration, board members, local legislators, CAC committee members, SBCTC team members, and business/industry representatives. This engagement allowed Big Bend CC to showcase their programs, facilities, students, faculty, and regional workforce impact.

May 21 was the CAC business meeting, providing committee members with an opportunity to receive system updates from Paul Francis, discuss legislative session outcomes, engage with staff and students, learn about holistic college supports offered by BBCC, and receive Workforce Education updates. The committee members received information and took action on items specific to Worker Retraining and Job Skills Programs.

The Fall meeting is scheduled for October 21 & 22, 2024 at Olympic College.

Customized Training Program (CTP)

As of September 1, 2024, the Customized Training Program's revolving loan fund is fully utilized.

One new project was funded at \$60,000 for a business contract with Green River College. There is a queue for projects waiting to be funded. Please [contact CTP program staff](#) if you have a potential project and need to know the status of funding and queue of projects.

Workforce Education staff worked with the Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee (JLARC - the legislature's auditor) on their **audit of the B&O tax credit associated with CTP**. The [preliminary report recommends the tax credit be extended](#) beyond its July 2026 expiration date and SBCTC is recommended to **explore how to make the program more available to businesses outside the Puget Sound region and manufacturing sector**.

Early Achievers

The Early Achievers Grant is a student financial aid program for employed childcare providers and early learning educators to complete required certificates and associate degrees in early childhood education. It is offered in partnership with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF).

For FY25, 27 colleges submitted applications, and all applications were fully funded. A total of 737 FTES were awarded, and all colleges that applied received an additional allocation of \$25,000 to assist with staffing costs related to the program via a proviso from the legislature. Colleges who indicated they had a waitlist received additional staffing funds from the proviso. DCYF also made available Responsive Pathways funds to create System Shared Courses in languages other than English. One college applied, and that application is still in review status.

High Demand Program Funding

The legislature appropriated \$2M in FY23-25 to maintain and expand these previously funded High Demand programs, including Clark - Medical Assisting, CBC - LPN to BSN, GRC - LPN, Highline - SUDP, NSC - Pharmacy Tech, RTC - Computer Science, Shoreline - Nursing Assistant, SPSCC - Cybersecurity and Network, TCC - Respiratory Therapy, WWCC - Welding, and WVC - BSN.

Approval of the original projects were made in alignment with the review committee recommendations, prioritizing projects within the following evaluation criteria: high demand, enrollment expansion, equity, timeline and budget. For continued funding, colleges completed a program application identifying the use of 21-23 funding and project outcomes, in addition to proposed 23-25 program budget, program maintenance and expansion, and elimination of equity gaps.

Hospital Employee Education and Training Grants (HEET)

The Hospital Employee Education and Training Grant (HEET) provides funding for the development or expansion of innovative training programs in partnership with labor and employers that support incumbent healthcare workers to advance their careers in the healthcare field while meeting the

rapidly changing workforce needs of our healthcare system. The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) received eight applications from Washington State Community and technical colleges for HEET funding. A committee consisting of education, labor, and employer representatives reviewed and approved seven applications totaling \$1,993,169 in awards.

Job Skills Program (JSP)

Business demand for this matching grant program continues to exceed available funds. \$1.5M in funding was available for FY25 Round 2. Applications were submitted through August 30, 2024, and are currently under review for recommended funding. Round 2 applications will be awarded with an October 1, 2024 start date. We are not projecting funding to be available for FY25 Round 3.

Program web page: [Job Skills Program \(JSP\) Grant](#)

Program Approval Request (PAR)

Colleges have been using the new online Plan Approval Site since April of 2024 for approval and modification of professional technical programs. We are currently collecting college user feedback to inform future enhancements, ensuring the site is easy to understand and navigate. We are also working with the SBCTC application development team to incorporate approval of registered apprenticeship, BAS, and transfer programs. Please refer to the [Professional-Technical Programs](#) website for any updates.

Perkins

On August 13th, Workforce Education hosted a training, presented by The Bruman Group, focusing on Perkins allowability, Uniform Grant Guidance (UGG), Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), and the new federal changes that will be implemented on awards issued after October 1, 2024. The training was intended for any college staff that directly works with or provides oversight for Perkins federal grants. The recording can be found in the Perkins Webinar section of our website: [Perkins Plan | SBCTC](#).

Final awards for FY25 Perkins Plan are expected to be updated in OBIS by October 2, 2024. Additional details will be sent via email, in September.

Twenty-six colleges will be participating in Perkins monitoring in October or November through a desk audit or program review. Monitoring reviews performance achievement in non-trad enrollment, degree completion, and post-college college or career placement, faculty certification, advisory committees, award management, and professional development.

Professional Technical Faculty Skill Standards

At their spring 2024 meeting, Instruction Council voted to adopt the 2024 Professional Technical Faculty Skill Standards and integrated DEI Competencies. These standards and the final report are available on the SBCTC [website](#). The Workforce Education Council and Instruction Commission will partner in the implementation of these updated standards. Next steps include:

Build and share a toolkit to support colleges in implementing the skill standards; the toolkit may include an explanatory slide deck suitable for use in faculty meetings; a short video; recommended ways of incorporating DEI competencies into PD plans; exemplary PD plans; sample timelines and PD policies, etc.

A summary of professional development resources related to culturally responsive teaching and inclusive programming

Professional Technical Faculty Certification is required under [WAC 131-16-094](#).

Student Support Programs

Integration Efforts

The Student Support Programs (SSP) Team continues its efforts to integrate across programs, within Student Services and Workforce Education. Additionally, we are working on building connections across the SBCTC Education Division. Student Support Programs staff are continuing their collaborative work with our colleagues in Basic Education for Adults in supporting the content development and presentation sessions. Rebecca Kay, will be presenting at the upcoming [Navigating Through Conference](#) in October.

Dylan Jilek has rejoined the SBCTC and is serving as the Integrations Coordinator for the SSPs. The agency is happy to welcome them back and again be able to share their talents and skills with the college system.

The WA Student Experience Survey

The basic needs student census survey required by the [Postsecondary Basic Needs Act](#) (2023) which also provides legislatively required data for Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness will be fielded October 28 – November 22, 2024. The survey will be centrally administered by SBCTC and students will be emailed directly. This survey provides critical information about the prevalence of basic needs insecurity among students that impacts their ability to remain engaged in their studies. Strong response rates will deepen the understanding of student experience and inform future efforts and advocacy to address barriers and equity gaps. Please help to inform your college contacts of the survey and encourage student participation.

Campus Hunger Free and Basic Needs Strategic Plans and Benefits

Navigation

For FY25 and beyond, colleges received an increase of \$16,250 to their allocation for their Benefits Navigators. This is an increase to the current proviso for the .75 FTE required for Benefits Navigation.

Free Reduced Price Meal Pilot Program

Funding was appropriated to the SBCTC at \$960,000 annually for FY24-FY26 to implement the Meal Pilot. Funding for each college was up to \$240,000. There are six selected colleges (four CTCs and two Universities) who have successfully implemented their approved approaches.

The SBCTC, partnering with WSAC, is working with the pilot colleges to determine the process for

pilot evaluation in the 3rd and final year of the pilot.

BFET and WorkFirst Programs

The BFET program has transitioned from monthly billing to quarterly billing in OBIS. Rebecca Kay and Sheila Acosta will be supporting the CTCs in this transition through a series of system trainings that focus on invoicing and billing in BFET. At this time, WorkFirst will remain on a monthly billing cycle.

WorkFirst has delayed the Take Back Policy (approved by Presidents in 2018) throughout the pandemic and the transition to post pandemic. FY25 was the first year that the Take Back Policy was implemented. We are excited to share that with the increase in WorkFirst enrollments and the intentional work budget work the SBCTC has done with colleges, no college was subject to take back!

The BFET and WorkFirst FFY/FY25 fiscal and program monitoring calendar has been finalized and all colleges have confirmed their monitoring dates.

- Monitoring for WorkFirst will be November - February.
- Monitoring for BFET will be January - July.

Workforce Education Council (WEC)

The Workforce Education Council (WEC) held their spring meeting at Columbia Basin College on May 9-10, 2024. This meeting provided members with a number of engagement and learning opportunities: panel discussion on Serving Special Populations, presentation and discussion on DEI Faculty Fellows, and focused discussions related to strengthening workforce system partnerships.

The membership elected a new chair, Michael Reese (Bellevue), and vice-chair, Keri Lobdell (Columbia Basin). The new leadership is guiding the development of the FY25 work plan, including the following projects:

Implementation of the 2024 Skill Standards and related professional development.

On-boarding and orientation programs for new workforce deans.

Inform development and implementation of ESD's new data tools and LMI resources.

Engagement in CTE Dual Credit proviso recommendations for improvement.

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WEC fall meeting is scheduled for October 17 & 18, 2024 at Whatcom Community College.

Worker Retraining (WRT)

The Worker Retraining program plays a major role in Washington state's economic development by providing funding for eligible dislocated and unemployed workers in training or retraining that will assist them in regaining employment. Funds are awarded to Washington state's community and technical colleges and private career schools each year to serve eligible students in this program.

Last year SBCTC staff convened a workgroup, comprised of an even number of representatives from WEC, IC, and the Presidents to evaluate the WRT funding model. The group recommended that the formula elements (base, 2-year performance, unemployment) stay intact, but base allocation be recalculated using 75% of each college's 5-yr average WRT enrollments. On March 1, WACTC voted for this recommendation with a three-year phased roll out. This is Year 1 of the phased roll out. WRT program will suspend the redistribution policy during this 3-year period.

Workforce Development Funds

13 projects are funded in FY25, including 2 manufacturing-related ones that are partially supported by the new Invest in Washington account. These 1-time projects help prof-tech programs adapt to changing needs of students and industry. This year's projects include:

- Instructional technology enhancements for dental education (Bellingham)
- Modernization of forensic tech instructional equipment and curriculum (GRC)
- Conversion of MA program to cohort model (Highline)
- EV Technician Certification buildout (LWT)
- Cyber Defense Designation & IBEST expansion (North Seattle)
- Manufacturing/welding equipment modernization (Olympic)
- Welding/Fabrication modernizing (Peninsula)
- Firefighter collaborative/Pathways to Promotion (Pierce Ft. Steilacoom)
- Construction Management curriculum updates centering on equity (Construction COE @ Renton)
- Behavioral Health pathways development (Seattle Central)
- Craft Brewing & Distilling equipment and faculty development (SPSCC)
- Hybrid, EV, and high voltage expansion of Diesel & Heavy Eq Tech (South Seattle)
- Nursing curriculum revision (Whatcom)