



# SBCTC - Education Division

# Common Messaging - Winter 2025

##

Basic Education for Adults Winter 2025

BEdA Continuation Grants

BEdA continuation grants for the Basic and Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education (IELCE) grant are due March 6th, 2025. Information has been shared with the Council for Basic Skills.

Billing Guidance

With uncertainty at the federal level, we have received many questions about billing. SBCTC is recommending colleges continue to bill monthly (preferred) or quarterly based on expenses that are related directly to the budget narrative in your approved application.

Professional Development Calendar

The PD Calendar has been released and shared with the Council of Basic Skills (CBS). This is in response to the membership request to have the PD calendar available during grant application time. We have only a few in-person trainings this year, but there are many exciting virtual options including new Communities of Practice for both English language and HS+ programs! As always, all required training courses are provided online and free of charge

.

Dear Colleague Letter

The Department of Education issued a [“dear colleague”](https://www.ed.gov/media/document/dear-colleague-letter-sffa-v-harvard-109506.pdf) letter expressing its intent to withhold federal funding from colleges and schools that “use race in decisions pertaining to admissions, hiring, promotion, compensation, financial aid, scholarships, prizes, administrative support, discipline, housing, graduation ceremonies, and all other aspects of student, academic, and campus life.” SBCTC is in frequent contact with the Attorney General’s Office, the Governor’s Office, state and federal agencies, and national organizations to stay informed and responsive. As we seek clarity and legal advice, we remain dedicated to moving forward with our work, our programs, and our services in alignment with our system’s mission and values.

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 Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges recently initiated a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a course sharing solution. Only two third-party providers were identified as capable of integrating with ctcLink, and of those, just one submitted a response. Unfortunately, the solution proposed did not meet the established functional requirements. Innovative and alternate options are now under active exploration in collaboration with system-wide executive leadership. Further updates will be provided as progress continues toward identifying a platform that meets the needs of both students and faculty.

### AI Initiatives

The Educational Resources and Innovation division is proud to support the Student Success Center in its partnership with the League for Innovation in the Community College to explore the transformative potential of artificial intelligence in Guided Pathways work. This collaboration aims to help colleges innovate their approaches to enhance student experiences and improve success outcomes. To facilitate this exploration, a one-day summit is scheduled for April 17th, providing a dedicated space for colleges to engage with emerging AI tools and strategies that align with the goals of Guided Pathways. This initiative underscores our commitment to leveraging innovative technology to advance student success across the system.

The Educational Division’s AI Taskforce is excited to announce an upcoming pilot program that will allow employees to explore the use of generative AI in completing daily work tasks. This initiative aims to gather valuable insights and feedback from participants to help determine the most effective AI tool for future division-wide adoption. By engaging in this pilot, we hope to not only enhance efficiency and critical thinking but also address any apprehensions about generative AI and normalize its use as a supportive tool in our work. The survey distributed a few weeks ago will help identify participants for the pilot, and the taskforce is finalizing the duration and specific details, which will be shared soon. Stay tuned for more updates as we embark on this innovative journey together!

### Washington Open ProfTech Project

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education through a Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) grant, the project is progressing smoothly thanks to the collaborative efforts of faculty authors, support staff, and project leadership. The first grant, awarded $1.8 million in 2021, supported the development of six open textbooks for professional technical (ProfTech) programs, which are now set for campus evaluation this fall. The second grant, awarded $2.1 million in 2023, focuses on creating seven additional open textbooks for ProfTech courses. The authoring process of the second grant is advancing steadily, reaching the 50% development milestone in February.

### OER and Low-Cost Labeling Policies

The implementation of Open Educational Resources (OER) and low-cost labeling policies has continued to deliver significant savings for students in the 2023-24 academic year. Specifically, during this period (Summer 23, Fall 23, Winter 24, Spring 24), 10,520 OER-labeled class sections enrolled 124,038 students. Moreover, 6,340 low-cost sections (materials priced at $50 or less) enrolled an additional 72,059 students. Together, these efforts resulted in an estimated total savings of $19,609,700 for students. To further support this initiative, the OER & Low-Cost Compliance and Engagement Team (OCET) is conducting a survey to evaluate the current status of labeling implementation across campuses.

### Micro-pathway Fellowship

Educational Resources & Innovation and Workforce Education recently completed a [**12-month fellowship program**](https://eddesignlab.org/community-college-growth-engine-fellows-program/)facilitated by[**Education Design Lab**](https://eddesignlab.org/), and [**Community College Growth Engine**](https://eddesignlab.org/project/growthenginefund/) to explore micro-credential and micro-pathway design at the systems level. As part of this work, our design team participated in a [**T-profile**](https://eddesignlab.org/microcredentialing/t-profile/) session with the [**Cybersecurity Center of Excellence**](https://coecyber.io/) and [**WaTech**](https://watech.wa.gov/) to define and validate critical IT/Cybersecurity skills. We are now preparing a funding concept note and drafting an implementation plan to support the next steps.

### 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**](https://www.ada.gov/resources/2024-03-08-web-rule/)**.** Key information about this ruling was presented to the Washington State Student Services Commission (WSSSC) and the Instruction Commission (IC) in September by Monica Olsson. Michael Hanscom (Committee for Accessible Technology Oversight/CATO Co-Chair) and Monica presented to the State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) and aim to provide a high-level overview to the college presidents at the Washington Association of Community and Technical Colleges (WACTC) in October. All colleges must follow the new regulations by April of 2026.

The [**ctcLink Accessibility open forums**](https://www.sbctc.edu/colleges-staff/it-support/erp-support/accessibility-forum.aspx)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**](https://emma.lib.virginia.edu/home/welcome), Educational Materials Made Accessible.

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

### eTutoring Update

Bellingham Technical College joined on 1/1/25, so all WA CTCs are now active members of eTutoring.

## Policy Research Updates

### 2024 WSAC Basic Needs Survey

The Postsecondary Basic Needs Act (2SHB 1559 2023) legislatively mandates the WA Basic Needs Survey 2024. 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.

WSAC released a [report](https://wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2025.BasicNeedsReport.pdf) on the 2024 basic needs survey in January 2025. The survey was completed by 11,320 students from 46 Washington colleges and universities. SBCTC Policy Research staff are in the process of distributing college-level results so CTCs can explore more localized findings from the survey. SBCTC Policy Research staff are also partnering with the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) on an additional survey focused on basic education for adults’ students. That survey closes on February 21st, 2025.

#### Gainful Employment

##### The deadline for Gainful Employment/Financial Value Transparency reporting was January 15, 2025; however reporting deadlines were extended to September 30, 2025, due to technical issues experienced by colleges when attempting to submit their data. SBCTC Policy Research staff are partnering with the Research and Planning Commission to refine the reporting process in anticipation of the next deadline in September 2025.

### Fall 2024 & Winter 2025 Preliminary Enrollment

Washington CTC headcount enrollment increased 6% in fall 2024 compared with fall 2023. On a full-time enrollment (FTE) basis, enrollment improved 8%. Running Start headcount improved 13%, or 11% on an FTE basis. Academic transfer programs saw 7% more students this fall, or about 82.3 thousand students. Professional/Technical student counts increased to 60.1 thousand students, up 7% compared with fall 2023. Finally, Basic Education for Adults headcount enrollment increased by 11%, largely driven by enrollment in English language acquisition programs.

College enrollment is tabulated at the end of the quarter, so winter 2025 quarterly enrollment is not yet available; however, counts as of the 10th day of the quarter signal continued enrollment improvement in winter 2025. Preliminary headcount data this winter quarter is up 9.6% compared with winter 2024, while preliminary FTE enrollment is up 9.9%.

Improving Data Quality for College in the High School

In 2023, the Washington State Legislature passed 2SSB 5048, which enabled students who enroll in a College in the High School (CiHS) course at a public high school to also enroll for college credit at a CTC at no cost. While assembling the 2SSB 5048 legislative report, SBCTC research staff became aware of an issue where roughly 3% of CiHS enrollments were missing in 2022-23 due to enrollment after the census date. Policy leads collaborated with Policy Research and Data Services staff to proactively reach out to colleges whose Fall 2024 CiHS enrollments were lower than Fall 2023 and correct the counts. This outreach occurred prior to the data warehouse snapshot so that colleges would have an opportunity to correct coding issues and capture eligible enrollment for official reporting.

Additionally, a Q&A session was held in early winter to support college registrars, CiHS administrators, and support staff with information to set up courses and enroll students prior to the census dates. Policy Research staff will continue to monitor enrollment data and work with colleges to ensure accurate CiHS counts.

Student Services & K12 Alignment Updates

New Staff Updates

Jessica Perez, Interim Policy Associate of Student Services & K12 Alignment

Jessica Perez began her higher education career in 2011, and over the past 13 years, she has built a foundation of knowledge and expertise across various aspects of higher education, with a particular focus on financial aid. With more than seven years dedicated specifically to financial aid administration, Jessica’s experience spans a wide range of financial aid policies, processes, and student support systems. This background allows her to bring a wealth of knowledge to her current role as the interim policy associate for financial aid.

Before joining SBCTC, Jessica served as the district director of financial aid at Pierce College, a position where she led efforts to improve student access to financial resources and enhance overall student success. In this role, she worked to streamline financial aid processes, ensuring that students had timely access to the financial support they needed to persist and thrive in their academic programs.

Outside of work, Jessica enjoys spending quality time with her family and her dogs. She can often be found exploring various hiking trails.

Kristen Jaoui, Program Administrator of Student Services & K12 Alignment

Kristen began her higher education journey in 2009 as a student assistant supporting the political science department at Cal Poly Pomona. She later worked in the College of Education & Integrated Studies at Cal Poly Pomona before moving to Washington, where she held roles in the Student Learning Department at Cascadia College and the Foundation at Edmonds College.

She joined the Bridge to College team in January 2024 as a part-time contractor before transitioning to a full-time role at SBCTC in October 2024 as the program administrator for student services and K-12 Alignment. Her primary focus is the Bridge to College program, which provides transition courses in mathematics and English. These courses help high school juniors (English course only), and seniors strengthen their skills and confidently prepare for success in college-level coursework.

In addition to her work with Bridge to College, Kristen supports SBCTC’s Dual Credit initiatives, including Running Start, College in the High School (CiHS), and the Math Placement Grant.

When not at work, Kristen can often be found cozying up with a good cup of coffee or tea and a fun fiction book, experimenting in the kitchen, or spending time with her husband, two dogs, and her community of friends and family.

Dual Credit and K12 Alignment Updates

Washington One of Seven States Selected to Lead National Dual Enrollment Policy Efforts

The [College in High School Alliance](https://nacep.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4db978532df4a66a47bb21c73&id=5d4639d884&e=1666cebdcb) (CHSA) is pleased to announce the selection of seven states to develop and implement policy plans that will make them national leaders in dual enrollment policy, as part of the Next Phase of Dual Enrollment Policy Cohort. Minnesota, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington will receive tailored technical assistance and funding to advance dual enrollment policies that maximize the benefits for students of being able to begin taking college courses in high school.

This two-year project is made possible with support from the ECMC Foundation, Joyce Foundation, and Strada Education Foundation. The selected states will work alongside national experts from the College in High School Alliance to develop and implement action plans aimed at enhancing dual enrollment policies to ensure that more students have access to college courses while in high school.

The [Next Phase of Dual Enrollment Policy](https://nacep.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4db978532df4a66a47bb21c73&id=40218bc158&e=1666cebdcb) aims to ensure that by 2030, all states will have eliminated participation and success gaps in dual enrollment for underrepresented students and will have developed sustainable systems to support students through their college in high school experiences.

The press release can be found [here](https://collegeinhighschool.org/seven-states-selected-for-next-phase-dual-enrollment-cohort/).

Running Start Virtual Series for CTC Running Start Staff

Each session will include updates from SBCTC Dual Credit/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](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLremT3vkrxVYZvA5Fta69asX28Moz2Qxs) playlist.

2025 Schedule:

•February 19th 1-3pm<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84631186462> - \*Student Financials Focus

•March 19th 1-3pm<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84324053028>

•April 23rd 9-11am<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88981857767>

•May 21st 9-11am<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85638541517>

•June 18th 9-11am<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89319519186>

College in the High School Webinar Series for K-12 Partners

The Council of Presidents and the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges will be hosting several webinars for K-12 College in the High School Partners. The webinars are structured to be peer to peer CiHS program leads presenting and engaging with K-12 colleagues. The intent is to create a shared understanding of the CiHS program to both answer emerging questions and address any areas of misunderstanding.

Save The Dates!

* **February 26th 11-12:30 PM CiHS Webinar: CiHS Process 101 and Responsibilities**

[**February 26th Zoom Link**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81889423985?pwd=G71hsok7ux9zgtKD7PoOzTx28bBvEk.1&from=addon)

Meeting ID: 818 8942 3985

Passcode: 785162

* **April 30th 11-12:30 PM CiHS Webinar: Advising and Guidance**

[**April 30th Zoom Link**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86450434594?pwd=koAWRIIwPLV1bFGU1gudanXZMJ2yws.1&from=addon)

Meeting ID: 864 5043 4594

Passcode: 357415

* **June 4th 11-12:30 CiHS Webinar: Legislative and State Level Updates**

[**June 4th Zoom Link**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83546956261?pwd=ddNNsbCgiLLyadmJp4HTG8aPi9wpzj.1&from=addon)

Meeting ID: 835 4695 6261

Passcode: 220047

For questions about this series or help troubleshooting technology issues, please contact Kristen Jaoui at kjaoui@sbctc.edu.

Math Placement Project Grant Updates

Math Placement Summit, November 7-8th at Everett Community College

63 people from 23 colleges, SBCTC, and OSPI attended the math placement summit in Everett last November. Attendees learned about current research out of California regarding math placement via high school transcripts, directed (or guided) self-placement models used in local Washington CTCs, and more. Presenter slides are hyperlinked in the [summit agenda](https://docs.google.com/document/d/19ttuKiJxXrxMN3kuajp5SdMCNBqhKtuR/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=104752357846140187177&rtpof=true&sd=true).

What's Next?

Pilot colleges are currently considering two changes to SBCTC’s High School Transcript GRID:

1. Add GED scores in order to provide placement options for returning adults and students previously incarcerated.
2. Expand the timeline for high school transcripts beyond the current two-year period as suggested by Dr. Hetts’ presentation at the math placement summit.

\*An additional update, we welcomed Columbia Basin College and Peninsula College to our pilot college group!

Pilot Colleges:

* Cascadia College
* Columbia Basin College - new pilot college!
* Everett Community College
* Lower Columbia College
* Peninsula College - new pilot college!
* Renton Technical College
* Shoreline Community College
* Tacoma Community College

If you are interested in joining us as a pilot college in year-two, contact Stephanie Rock at srock@sbctc.edu. Learn more at<https://www.sbctc.edu/colleges-staff/grants/math-placement>

Bridge to College Update

In November 2024, Bridge to College brought together K-12 teachers and higher education professionals at Tacoma Community College for a one-day workshop. The event focused on instructional strategies, assessment, college readiness, and the evolving post-COVID-19 landscape—exploring how these factors should shape the Bridge to College curriculum. The team plans to host a similar event on the eastside at Spokane Community College in early May.

Meanwhile, the Bridge to College team opened registration in early February for the 2025-26 school year. Districts can register through June 2, 2025. While registration is underway, the team is also actively preparing for the June Leadership Planning Retreat and the August Teacher Institute.

The WA Student Experience Survey

The [2025 Report on the Washington Student Experience Survey](https://wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2025.BasicNeedsReport.pdf) was recently made available by the Washington Student Achievement Council. The report focuses on data collected statewide from college students this past fall.

From the [press release](https://wsac.wa.gov/media-2025-02-03-wa-student-experience-survey) regarding the report:

*“The Washington Student Experience Survey (WSES) considers food insecurity, housing insecurity and homelessness. The rate of students reporting food insecurity is 14 percent higher than in the last WSES in 2022, while the overall rates of housing insecurity and homelessness remain high.”*

The survey was distributed to students at 46 colleges and universities in Washington, with 11,320 students participating, a 16 percent in responses from the first WSES in 2022.

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

Important dates for SEAG and SSEH programs:

* March 19, SEAG and SSEH funding application release in Canvas for 2025-2026
* March 19, SEAG planning funding application release in Canvas for 2025-2026
* March 24, SEAG and SSEH FY26 funding application [webinar](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89218900713?pwd=hez3esT7exfQm0CGNa1CKv0y9fBZbI.1) 10-11 AM
* April 1, Data Warehouse Snapshot Date for Student Group Coding
* April 30, SEAG and SSEH Winter Quarterly Report due
* May 5, SEAG and SSEH FY26 funding application deadline

Low-Income Campus Housing Study

SBCTC was awarded a legislative budget proviso to fund a fiscal year 2025 study of low-income student housing development on community and technical college campuses. A Campus Housing Study Advisory Task Force consisting of representatives from the college commissions and councils as well as SBCTC staff will contribute to the project by engaging with research findings generated by a contracted researcher; deepening the work by contributing their perspectives, knowledge, and experience; engaging with stakeholders; and communicating results.

The Advisory Task Force is finalizing membership and preparing for their first meeting in early March. The RFP for the research vendor is now open, and SBCTC intends to have the vendor selected by the end of February.

Commission & Council Winter Calendar

* ACC – May 1 – 2 Renton Technical College
* ARC – April 23 -25 Edmonds Community College
* WSSSC – May 8–9th Spokane Falls College
* VMSC – Virtual Water Cooler Sessions each Thursday (reach out to the VMSC listserv for zoom link)
* FAC – April 23 – 25th - TBD
* CUSP - May 7– 9th Skagit Valley
* MSSDC - April 23 – 25th - TBD

Student Success Center

Guided Pathways Funding

In 2019 the Washington State Legislature passed The Workforce Education and Investment Act, an historic investment of ***state funds***  to our system to [implement Guided Pathways](https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=28B.50.925). The system investment for this year alone is over $40 million to advance minimum requirements as defined by the legislature:

* Comprehensive mapping of student educational pathways with student end goals in mind;
* Dedicated advising and career counseling that helps students make informed program choices and develop completion plans;
* Data analysis of student learning as well as program and service outcomes. Data must be used to inform program development, the creation and further refinement of student pathways, and to provide opportunities for early intervention to help students succeed; and
* *A student success support infrastructure effective in closing equity gaps among historically underserved student populations and improving completion rates:*
	+ *Equity competent academic advising services;*
	+ *Equity competent career development programming;*
	+ *Clear information regarding financial aid and financial literacy; and*
	+ *Inclusive curriculum and teaching practices.*

Emphasis is added to the bullets in the final section to highlight that the Washington state legislature wrote equity into the work of Guided Pathways. Although there are aggressive attacks on DEI at the federal level, our state mandate is clear.

Student Success Platform RFP Update

In Fall 2023, Presidents and Chancellors across the state voted to pursue a system-wide Request for Proposals (RFP) for student success software, supported by SBCTC and designed for two-way integration with PeopleSoft. Over the past year, a dedicated workgroup has defined the purpose and functional requirements for the RFP. This fall quarter, a small team of system representatives (listed below) reviewed and scored 11 submitted proposals. In January, the top four vendors—ConexEd, EAB, Frequency Foundry, and HighPoint—conducted product demonstrations, shared accessibility features, and participated in Q&A sessions with stakeholders.

Next Steps

* Finalizing Individual Scoring Adjustments – Scoring team members may submit any final adjustments by February 7, 2025
* Accessibility Testing – Scheduled between February 6 and February 20, 2025 (tentative)
* RFP Work Group Meeting – To discuss findings, next steps, and outstanding questions on February 17 or 19, 2025
* Notification of Apparent Successful Vendor – Expected by February 27, 2025 (tentative)
* Vendor Debriefing Requests – Vendors may request a debrief by March 3, 2025 (optional)
* Vendor Debriefings – Scheduled for March 4-6, 2025 (if requested)
* Contract Approval & Signature – Expected in March 2025 (TBD)

Once the process is finalized and a contract is signed, colleges will have the option to opt for use of the selected software. Key details regarding cost, pricing, and implementation are still being determined and will be discussed at the February meeting of Presidents and Chancellors.

Further updates will be shared as they become available.

Guided Pathways Advisory Council

[GPAC](https://www.sbctc.edu/colleges-staff/programs-services/student-success-center/guided-pathways-advisory-council) reports to the Education Services Committee of the [WACTC](https://www.sbctc.edu/colleges-staff/commissions-councils/wactc/). Throughout the remainder of the year the council will:

1. Propose Guided Pathways performance targets for WACTC consideration and adoption.
	* We continued this conversation at our January 17th meeting (notes are available [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OliUC7HtW0arvrhjvQlJZMJgRpm5lMH6dpe55v7VlVU/edit?usp=sharing)). Please respond to this message with any feedback or input you would like added to the discussion!
2. Collaborate and shape a Guided Pathways roadmap for continuous improvement and stronger institutional practices.
	* ***ACTION NEEDED:*** Help shape the story of Guided Pathways for the legislature! Share your feedback on system work plans by completing this [quick survey](https://forms.gle/nCJ3HpXczDBnjjtv9). Your input ensures our work reflects system needs and makes a meaningful impact.

Student Success Center Events

Check the [2024-2025 Peer and Professional Learning Calendar](https://www.sbctc.edu/colleges-staff/programs-services/student-success-center/peer-professional-learning) often for updates and check out the following in person events!

[Smart Scheduling Summit](https://eventactions.com/eareg.aspx?ea=Rsvp&invite=0w2v2083vzw1d4rwp6tdjwbupv2ne3vd6bndazym5wekarsmtfnj)

March 5-6 (Wed-Thurs)

Everett Community College

Join us for a dynamic summit with Ad Astra, where cross-functional teams unite to learn, collaborate, and act on data-driven course scheduling. Discover strategies to maximize student credit accumulation and persistence.

[Innovation and AI in Guided Pathways](https://eventactions.com/eareg.aspx?ea=Rsvp&invite=gwp8bs99v0uh726asb6g0gbp4ttgvvgshgfuy0nk2n495kb49u9h)

April 17 (Thurs)

Clover Park Technical College

Explore how AI can transform Guided Pathways and student success! Learn how to navigate the human side of AI adoption and foster an inclusive culture of innovation in the rapidly evolving landscape of higher ed

[Assessment, Teaching and Learning Conference](https://www.sbctc.edu/colleges-staff/programs-services/student-success-center/faculty-development-ensured-learning/atl-conference)

April 29 - May 1 (Tues-Thurs)

Vancouver Hilton in Vancouver, WA

Join faculty from Washington’s community and technical colleges for a two-day event on assessment, teaching, and learning with a focus on centering students.

Workforce Education

Aerospace & Advance Manufacturing Pipeline Advisory Committee

The Fall Aerospace Pipeline Committee meeting was held virtually on October 15, 2024.

The meeting had new members representing the CTC system, President Jim Lemerond from Bellingham Technical College, Kayla Coffee representing Aerospace Future Alliance, Matt Poischbeg representing the WATR Center, and Nikki Malcom representing the Pacific Northwest Aerospace Alliance.

Apprenticeship Communities of Practice

As part of the focused work from E2SSB 5764, 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 participated in a Workgroup of college assisting SBCTC and the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) in the development of a process for implementing the Washington College Grant for Apprentices (WG-A).

This work group collaborated with financial aid and registrar team members to develop a process for apprenticeship programs to process an online student application. The work is on track to implement in the 2025-2026 academic year.

Career Launch Endorsement

As of September 2024, the Career Launch endorsement online application has been revised and is available online on the [Career Connect Washington (CCW) Website](https://careerconnectwa.org/apply-for-career-launch-endorsement/).  The application has been significantly streamlined for ease of application without lessening the rigor required by [statute](https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=28C.30.020) 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.

Career Launch Enrollment FTES

The FY25 Career Launch Enrollment FTES Redistribution opened for application on August 15, 2024, and accepted applications until October 10, 2024. There were 24 FTES available for bidding and following a review process will be allocated in January 2025.

Centers of Excellence (COE)

The Construction COE co-hosted a Diversity & Inclusion Summit in November offering insights on relevant relationship-building such as mentorship, crucial conversations, and harassment prevention.

The Information and Communication COE offered free access to Coursera’s Generative AI Academy to faculty and staff and launched a GenAI Community of Practice for system faculty and staff.

The Agriculture and Natural Resources COE partnered with Edmonds on a conservation career employer roundtable with 14 industry partners, 4 colleges, the Latino Education and Training Institute, and a workforce development partner.

The Marine Manufacturing COE partnered with 2 other COEs to develop a framework for high-demand welding and fabrication with 3 rural colleges and a rural K-12 network.

The COE for Homeland Security and Emergency Management hosted the Criminal Justice Leadership Workgroup in October with 8 colleges attending.

Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) Resources

WA CDL Fund resources were fully allocated to 10 CTCs for FY25. A separate application process is also open for private career schools.

CTE Dual Credit

SBCTC, in partnership with Northwest ESD 189, completed our required legislative report specific to our CTE Dual Credit proviso. The findings and recommendations of this report can be found at <https://www.sbctc.edu/resources/documents/colleges-staff/programs-services/legislative-outreach/2024/dual-credit-report-2024.pdf>.

Customer Advisory Committee (CAC)

The Workforce Training Customer Advisory Committee (CAC) held their fall meeting at Olympic College. The committee engaged in discussions related to the upcoming legislative session and regional needs. Olympic leadership and students provided insights into their support for worker retraining and job skills program students and their partnerships with WIOA/WorkSource.

Customized Training Program (CTP)

The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee made its final report on the Customized Training Program in December, recommending the legislature extend the tax credit (HB1883, companion SB5682) and that SBCTC make efforts to expand the regions and industries served by the program.

Early Achievers

In Fall 2024, an additional 30 FTES were awarded to the 12 colleges who requested additional FTES. Eight colleges received Responsive Pathways funding, totaling $219,829, to develop and implement ECE initial certificate courses in Spanish or, increase equitable access to education that is culturally and linguistically contextualized for students who have diverse language skills by developing and/or procuring educational resources and tools in multiple languages, improving translation quality that is culturally contextualized by fluent/native speakers, or working with tribal members on course review and design to be culturally contextualized.

Job Skills Program (JSP)

FY25 funding was fully awarded in a second round of applications Fall Quarter.

SBCTC approved a maintenance request for an additional $4.8 million to be included in the system’s decision package submitted to the Office of Financial Management.

Perkins

SBCTC awarded additional funding to Perkins Plan ($840,900), Perkins Corrections ($65,791), and Perkins Special Projects ($104,600). Perkins desk audit and program review monitoring has been completed for 25 community and technical colleges.

Any state that receives Perkins funding must establish their State Determined Performance Levels (SDPLs) (or in Washington State these are known as State Targets) for each of the performance indicators: 1P1—Post College, 2P1—Degree Completion, and 3P1—Non-Trad Enrollments.

Final approval of SDPLs will be voted on by the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board after the required public comment period. [Carl Perkins & CTE | Washington Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board](https://wtb.wa.gov/about-us/carl-perkins-cte/)

Professional Technical Faculty Skill Standards

Colleges have until June 30, 2025, to transition into a new faculty to using the updated standards.

SBCTC and the Workforce Education Council are developing additional training and resource materials to support colleges in utilizing the new standards to support faculty.

The new standards can be found at <https://www.skillstandardswa.org/>.

Student Support Programs
Integration Efforts

Student Support Programs (SSP) staff are continuing their collaborative work with our colleagues in other areas:

* Jan 15th, 2025, BEdA and SSP national presentation hosted by the National Council for Workforce Education (NWCE) on Ability to Benefit and SNAP/Student Supports
* Jan 22nd, 2025, SSP Team presented to the Running Start Professionals and held a meet and greet for the Benefits Navigators.

The WA Student Experience Survey

In fall of 2024, the WA student Experience Survey (WSES), also referred to as the Basic Needs Survey was administered to students at 45 community and technical colleges and universities. More than 11,000 students responded to the survey; the results of the student census survey clearly show that what was once considered a pandemic issue, is in fact, not a pandemic issue:

* 53.4% of students at CTCs experienced some sort of insecurity, a 6.6% increase from 2022
* 51.3% of students at universities experienced some sort of insecurity, a 5.1% increase from 2022.

This survey did not include Basic Education students. The SBCTC is administering the same survey to Basic Education students Feb 3-21, 2025.

Free Reduced Price Meal Pilot Program

The pilot programs have been working with SBCTC, WSAC, and UW to build and implement a survey tool to pre and post survey students accessing the meal pilot. This survey was conducted in the winter quarter. The data collected will help us to analyze the impact of the meal pilot and better understand how food security can increase retention and completion rates.

BFET and WorkFirst Programs

WorkFirst Fiscal and Program Monitoring is concluding in Feb for the FY25 and BFET fiscal and program monitoring is beginning in Feb for FFY25.

* Winter Funding Survey:
	+ Releases 2/10
	+ Due 3/7

Workforce Education Council (WEC)

The Workforce Education Council (WEC) held their fall meeting at Whatcom Community College.

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.

Worker Retraining (WRT)

Fall 2024 the WRT guidelines were amended to update the displacing event for qualifying a displaced homemaker to 48 months instead of 24 months. This took effect immediately for FY25 and is consistent with eligibility for Dislocated Worker having exhausted UI benefits and veterans separating from service.