

Postsecondary Student Supports for Basic Needs Advisory Group

May 20, 2021, 9am – 12 pm

Hosts: Ami Magisos, Alex Markley,
Kristina Pogosian, Charlotte Gavell,
Savanna Navarro Kresse



WASHINGTON STUDENT
ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL
EDUCATION · OPPORTUNITY · RESULTS



Student Supports for Basic Needs

Today's Objectives:

- Explore recent legislative developments in postsecondary basic needs with cross-sector advocates
- Engage cross-sector leaders in the development of a statewide vision and action agenda for supporting postsecondary basic needs
- Consider next steps for advancing statewide support for basic needs.



Washington Student Achievement Council: Who We Are



We advance educational opportunities and attainment in Washington. In pursuit of our mission, the **Washington Student Achievement Council:**

- Leads statewide strategic planning to improve educational coordination and transitions
- Supports Washingtonians through the administration of financial aid, a college savings plan, and support services
- Advocates for the economic, social, and civic benefits of postsecondary education



The Council



Jeff Vincent, Chair
CEO & President
Laird Norton Company,



Jan Yoshiwara, Vice Chair
Executive Director
State Board for Community and
Technical Colleges



Jeff Charbonneau, Secretary
Principal
Zillah School District



Evangelina Shreeve
Director
Pacific Northwest National
Laboratory



Paul Francis
Executive Director
Council of Presidents



Sativah Jones
Assistant Director of College
and Career Readiness
Highline Public Schools



Chris Reykdal
Superintendent
Office of Superintendent of
Public Instruction



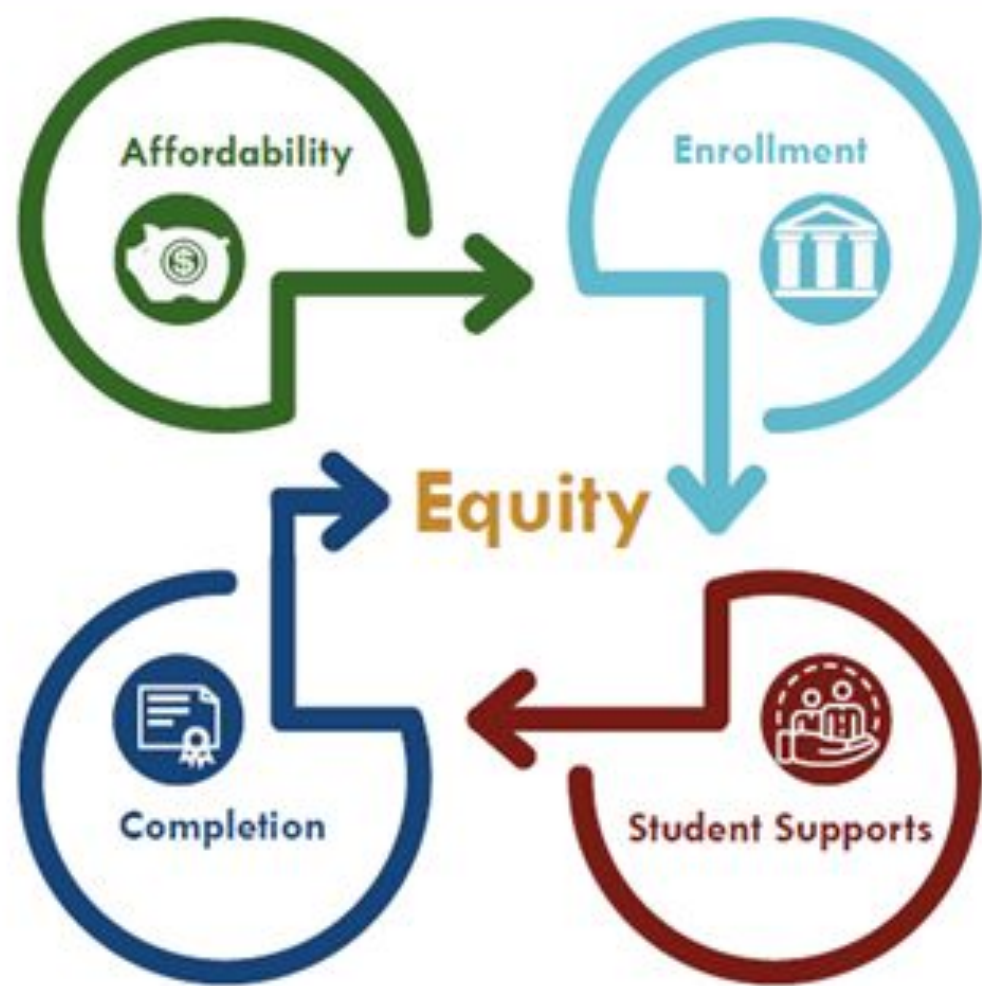
Dr. Terri Standish-Kuon
CEO & President
Independent Colleges of
Washington



Alejandro Alcantar
Student
Central Washington University



Strategic framework and focus on equity



If we build an **affordable** and **supportive** educational environment, more Washington residents will **enroll** in and **complete** a credential-bearing program.

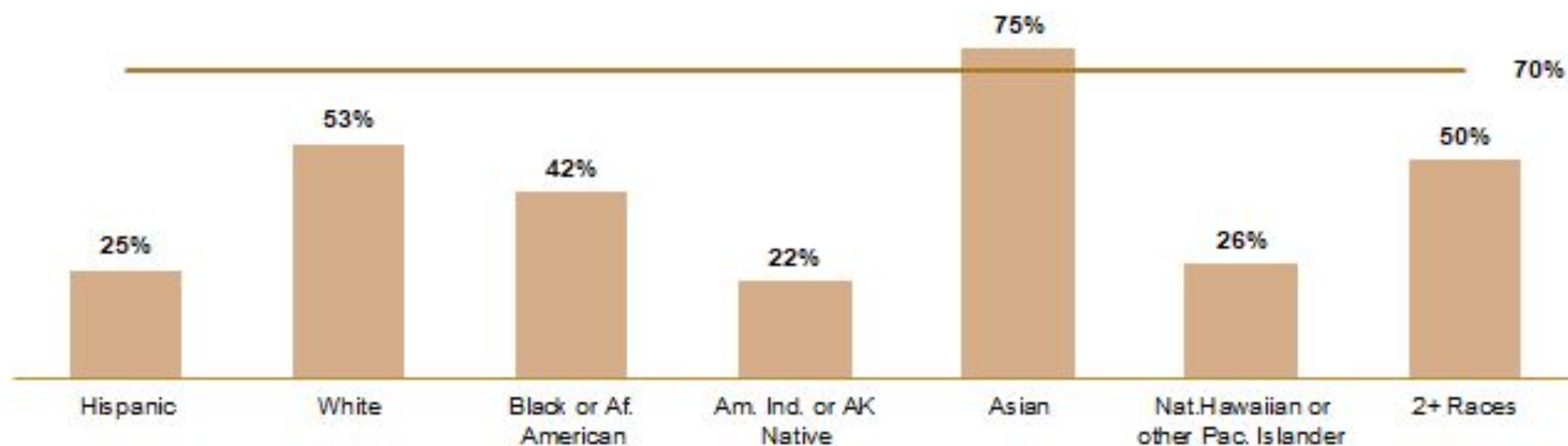
Equity is an outcome in which justice is realized within our society through a continuous, intentional process of identifying and abolishing racism and all forms of oppression designed to marginalize students, communities, and families who are Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, regardless of immigration status, and all oppressed groups.

WSAC Equity Definition



Washington's postsecondary attainment goal

At least 70 percent of Washington adults, ages 25-44, within each racial and ethnic community and region, will have a postsecondary credential. Currently, an estimated 62% percent of Washington's adults have a credential beyond high school.



Proportion of WA adults, age 25-44, with postsecondary credentials, 2018.



How COVID-19 is Impacting Postsecondary Students

Students are struggling academically

In Spring 2020, 9 in 10 students reported concern over the abrupt shift to online learning

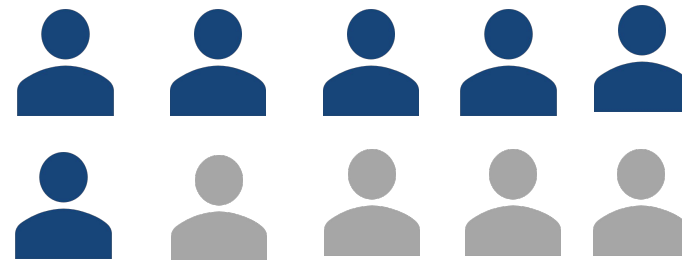
Students are struggling financially

In Spring 2020, more than 7 in 10 students reported losing their source of income

Basic Needs Insecurity by Race



Students' basic needs are jeopardized



In Spring 2020, almost 6 in 10 college students faced basic needs insecurity

Sources: Survey by California Student Aid Commission; May 2020; sample includes 76,000 students
Survey by The Hope Center; April 20-May 15; sample includes 38,602 students





Postsecondary Food and Housing Security

- 2019 Legislation:
 - 2SHB 1893
 - 2SSB 5800
- Data on Prevalence of Unmet Basic Needs
- Statewide Learning Community: Effective Partnerships



Recent Advances

- 2021 State Legislative Advances:
 - Housing: SSB 1166
 - Mental/Behavioral Healthcare access
 - Emergency Aid
 - Childcare
- Basic Food Communications / Marketing
- Data: Prevalence of Unmet Basic Needs planning



Lessons from advocacy on postsecondary basic needs

- **Charles Adkins**, City of Everett Rethink Housing, former WSA
- **Joel Ryan**, Washington Association of Head Start and ECEAP
- **Jude Ahmed**, Washington Student Association, WWU
- **Jamie Traugott**, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges
- **Nelly Evans**, United Way of King County





**Postsecondary
Basic Needs
Vision and Action
Agenda**



Vision and Action Agenda

Why a Vision and Action Agenda?

- WSAC Strategic Action Plan
- Stakeholder-developed “north star” vision and priority roadmap can guide us forward in the state

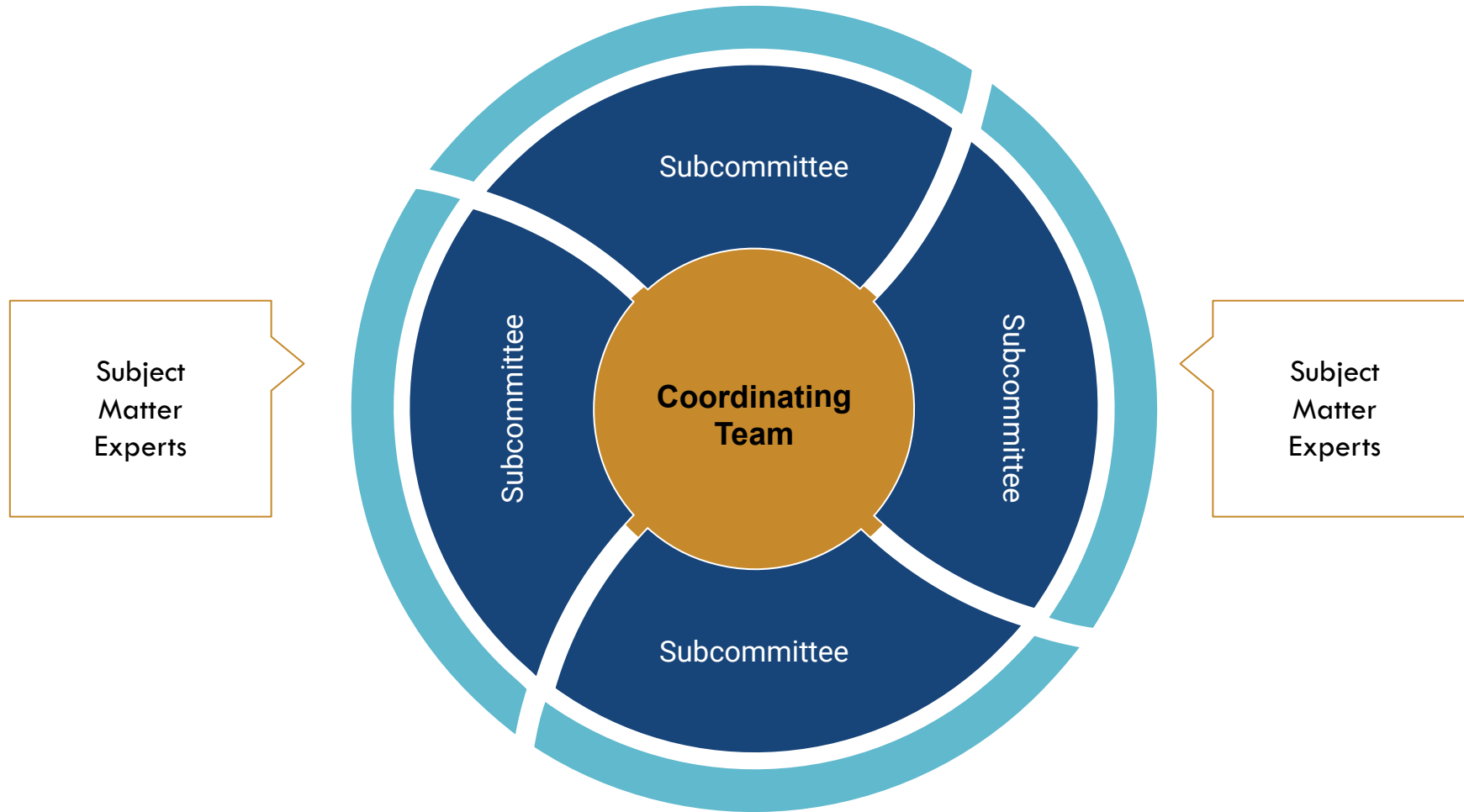


The Task Force: Vision and Action Agenda

- Stakeholders across Washington State
- Process of engagement
 - What do we know
 - Challenges, strengths, opportunities, partners
 - Problem statements and action items



Task Force Structure





What will the task force be creating together?





The Task Force: A Statewide Vision

Postsecondary basic needs in Washington encompass but are not limited to food and housing security, access to quality, affordable child care, and access to health care including mental/behavioral health care. Washington envisions a future where racial justice, economic justice and educational equity are centered in building basic needs security for all postsecondary students:

*As Washington **eliminates barriers** to basic needs for postsecondary students, **pursues equitable outcomes** and **reduces disparate impacts**, all students will have access to basic needs resources, leading to better academic outcomes, higher rates of persistence and completion, and greater stability to pursue their goals in the workforce and in further training and education.*



How were actions generated and prioritized?

Landscape

- Available definitions and data
- Assets and model programs
- Challenges and gaps
- Current state policy

Problem statements and actions

- Synthesis of key problems
- Brainstorm of possible actions

Prioritization

- What actions are most important to move our state forward?
- Statewide
- Without regard to who will implement



The Task Force: Action Agenda Development

Data

Developing a stronger awareness of the problem;

1. Establish institutional and statewide data gathering practices on basic needs insecurity prevalence, impacts, access, and disparities, including retention and completion impacts, outcome benchmarks, and shared data definitions.



The Task Force: Action Agenda Development

Investment

Deepening commitment to established approaches and new solutions;

1. Expand access and funding for student emergency aid programs, such as the SBCTC Student Emergency Assistance Grant Program.
2. Identify non-federal funding to eliminate the barriers for immigrant students.
3. Increase the minimum wage.



The Task Force: Action Agenda Development

Partnerships

Fostering a community approach to addressing basic needs insecurity;

1. Form partnerships between institutions and existing government or community groups who can address basic needs insecurities for postsecondary students.
2. Explicitly connect DEI goals with basic needs work at state, institutional, and organizational levels



The Task Force: Action Agenda Development

Outreach

Connecting students with basic needs supports;

1. Develop orientation programming, workshops, informational campaigns, and outreach to educate students on basic needs insecurity, destigmatize experiences of basic needs insecurity, and provide information on state and campus basic needs programs.
2. Embed basic needs connections in Enrollment Services (Admissions, Financial Aid). Communicate benefit eligibility to students based on FAFSA/WAFSA results.



The Task Force: Action Agenda Development

Access

Reducing barriers to basic needs supports;

1. Reassess or eliminate benefit eligibility barriers unique to postsecondary students; including work requirements, income limits, residency status, and other eligibility barriers.
2. Improve and simplify basic needs benefit application processes, including better support those with lower English language proficiency and other accessibility needs.
3. Establish designated basic needs resource navigator systems within institutions, including case management support.



Meeting Agreements

- Success depends on participation (share ideas, ask questions, draw others out)
- Share your unique perspective
- Allow every voice to be heard
- Listen to understand
- Respect each others' thinking and value their contributions
- Listen for understanding – inquire (ask) before you advocate (persuade)
- Treat everything you hear as an opportunity to learn and grow
- Speak your truth, without blame or judgment
- Be intrigued by the difference you hear
- Expect to be surprised
- Ask “what’s possible?” not “what’s wrong”?
Keep asking
- Listen for the future to emerge
- Challenge cherished beliefs
- Seek common ground and understanding (not problems and conflict)
- Articulate hidden assumptions



Breakout Discussions

- **Housing Security - Kristina Pogosian**
- **Food Security – Alex Markley**
- **Mental/Behavioral Healthcare – Charlotte Gavell**
- **Childcare access – Ami Magisos**

Survey and Break





Breakout Insights and highlights

- **Housing Security**
- **Food Security**
- **Mental/Behavioral Healthcare**
- **Childcare access**



Postsecondary Basic Needs

What are our next steps to advance statewide support for
Postsecondary Basic Needs?



Thank you and call to action

- Stay engaged—follow up with us, ask questions and tell us what you think
- July 15: WSAC Council meeting on Postsecondary Basic Needs
- Oct 14, 2021 9am - 12pm: Next Advisory Group meeting

Thank you for participating!

For more information:

Ami Magisos Amim@wsac.wa.gov

Alex Markley marale17@evergreen.edu

Kristina Pogosian k.s.pogosian@outlook.com

WSAC Team:

Heather Hudson: HeatherHu@wsac.wa.gov

Savanna Navarro Kresse: Savannak@wsac.wa.gov

WSAC Student Supports webpage:

<https://wsac.wa.gov/student-supports>

