

## **Council Meeting Minutes**

March 11, 2021

9:00am

Zoom

### **Members Attending:**

Jeff Vincent, Sativa Jones, Chris Reykdal, Evangelina Schreeve, Paul Francis, Jeff Charbonneau, Jan Yoshiwara, Alejandro Alcantar, and Terri Standish-Kuon.

### **Staff Attending:**

Michael Meotti, Don Bennett, Rachelle Sharpe, Heather Hudson, Amelia Moore, Weiya Liang, Savanna Navarro Kresse, Crystal Hall, Aaron Wyatt, Gail Wootan, Gray Sterling, Marc Webster, Isaac Kwakye, and Aaron Wyatt.

### **Meeting called to order at 9:00am**

#### **Consent Agenda**

Motion made to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

#### **January 13 Meeting Minutes**

Motion made to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

### **Enrollment and Affordability Challenges in Direct Enrollment from High School**

**Materials:** [Direct Enrollment](#)

**Discussion:** The Council, with input and guidance from stakeholders, discussed how the Council can play a central role in building broad consensus for the strategic direction that all partners and stakeholders can work on together to develop a stronger transition into higher education. Increasing enrollment is based on so many individual and organizational behaviors. That complexity makes it a particularly appropriate subject for high level statements that shape the direction and the success of this shared work.

- Should we adopt state policy identifying key principles to support direct enrollment from high school?
- Who are the potential partners beyond the Council to build a meaningful policy consensus?
- How can the Council help create and support experimental partnerships between high schools and institutions?

To combat the above issues the following was discussed as mechanisms to increase access to postsecondary education:

- Including BIPOC students in the direct enrollment principles, in reflection of WSAC equity goals.

- Emphasizing that messaging about college going affordability should be targeted and responsive to the needs of the communities served.
- Messaging should be clear and available for students starting in middle school.
- Strengthening the communication path between K12 and higher education.
- Prioritizing the partnership between K12 and higher education to ensure mutual understanding of financial aid and postsecondary admission process. This partnership will also work together to deliver programs aimed at reducing the summer melt.
- Providing BIPOC students with experiential learning opportunities that broaden their understanding of career possibilities and pathways.

Key considerations for next steps:

1. Evaluate policies and practices are needed to reach these aspirational principles.
2. Work to identify how the Council can put these policies and practices in place.

**Conclusion:**

WSAC staff will incorporate Council edits and feedback for review at the next Council Meeting. In the future, the Council will consider having these principles become part of a revised Strategic Action Plan that adapts to the needs of state residents.

**Washington’s Educational Attainment Goal and Racial/Ethnic Disparities**

**Presenter:** Jeff Vincent

The Council discussed editing the state’s postsecondary credential attainment goal to include communities of color to intentionally target and be responsive to the needs of communities of color.

- The Council, with input and guidance from stakeholders, supported the additional language to the state’s postsecondary credential attainment goal.

**Conclusion:**

Jeff Vincent will work with WSAC staff on the specific wording of the proposed addition to the state’s postsecondary credential attainment goal to ensure the goal reflects the intention of the Council.

The Council will review and consider the adoption of the edited postsecondary credential attainment goal at the following Council meeting.

**Equity Report and Recommendations**

**Presenter:** Melia LaCour

**Materials:** [Equity Report and Recommendations](#)

1. What reactions do Council members have to the recommendations?
2. Which of these resonates with you and why?

The Council discussed the Equity Report recommendations, including building capacity to lead this work, engaging in relationship building, being strategic about meeting locations, and utilizing an equity lens.

To combat the above issues, the Council, with input and guidance from stakeholders, discussed the following:

- Including an equity lens when onboarding new Council member.

- Creating a vision that WSAC staff can operationalize.
- Identifying how the Council can and will engage with stakeholders, specifically communities of color.
- Hosting listening sessions in many communities.
- Putting a call out for Council meeting locations to foster relationship building.

**Conclusion:**

The Council was in agreement and in support the recommendations, especially being strategic about meeting locations. Additionally, Jeff Vincent will act as the lead Council member to drive the equity work.

**Partnerships to Support Adult Enrollment**

**Presenter:** Rachelle Sharpe

**Materials:** [Partnerships to Support Adult Enrollment](#)

WSAC is working with institutional partners to provide coaching for interested adult. Coaches are trained on the Washington College Grant and work with each adult learner to identify opportunities and challenges each may face when pursuing higher education.

The Council discussed how best to support adult learners and expand partnerships to connect with adult learners, or disconnected learners. As well as, meeting people where they are by partnering with those that administer public benefits and are connected with adult learners.

**Conclusion:**

The Council will look into utilizing SBCTC census outreach contact information to connect with adult learners.

**Public Comment**

None

**Meeting Adjourned:** 11:55am

**Appendix A**[TVW meeting recording](#)**Appendix B**

09:23:18	From Brian Jeffries: Here is the CCER report Paul referenced: <a href="https://roadmapproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Creating-Paths-for-Change-Understanding-Student-Disengagement-and-Reengagement.pdf">https://roadmapproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Creating-Paths-for-Change-Understanding-Student-Disengagement-and-Reengagement.pdf</a>
09:30:17	From Gail Wootan: Yes, Jeff C! And that students who engage with postsecondary do not get bounced around to multiple offices to get their questions answered.
09:32:24	From Michael Meotti: the language/words here is a big challenge...."college" is a term that has a lot of "conventional wisdom" or expectations of what that means
09:32:44	From Michael Meotti: that means...and doesn't mean
09:41:14	From Nova Gattman, Workforce Board: I'm going back and forth on this, and open to ideas. What might be missing here is the "why" for students and families - in that direct enrollment from HS, understanding why postsecondary education is so critical. The exploration and preparation for careers, expanded knowledge, and eventual readiness for a successful transition into the economy.
09:41:29	From Nova Gattman, Workforce Board: Could consider adding or expanding this list to include that students have opportunities to explore the career potential that postsecondary education can provide for their future success in the economy.
09:50:47	From Paul Francis: A good reminder since Chancellor Netzhammer mentioned standardized tests that high school students in the Class of 2021 are not required to submit SAT/ACT scores in order to be considered for fall 2021 first-year admission. More information is available here: <a href="https://councilofpresidents.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Principal-Admissions.pdf">https://councilofpresidents.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Principal-Admissions.pdf</a>
09:51:51	From Jeff Charbonneau : I fully agree with George Bridges with the vision of these partnerships - now we need to figure out how to do this at scale so that every single high school in the state is guaranteed a partnership with a higher education institution and with other non-university route post-secondary programs - regardless of geographic location.
09:55:34	From Kim McDougall: would love to share what I am doing, which is exactly that, Scott! Admissions and I just presented to AVID at Skyview!
09:56:56	From Amelia Moore: The point George raised about direct admissions going beyond a letter is important. You'll see in the Direct Enrollment brief in the Council materials that all of the initiatives highlighted go beyond just sending students and families a letter, instead taking a holistic approach to address the multiple barriers that students face in pursuing postsecondary programs.
09:57:20	From Alejandro Alcantar: I agree - the schools that are already partnering with colleges are producing great results. Every student should have the same accessibility to programs like the initiatives led by Chehalis, LCC and WVC
09:59:52	From George Bridges: All: Thank you for inviting me to speak this morning. I must leave for another meeting and look forward to how we move ahead on these principles.
10:00:55	From Terri Standish-Kuon (she, her)   ICW: All Independent Colleges of Washington member campuses — Gonzaga, Heritage, PLU, Saint Martin's, SPU, Seattle U, University of Puget Sound, Walla Walla U, Whitman and Whitworth — have test-optional pathways. ACT/SAT scores are not required.

10:02:02	From Michael Meotti: George, thanks for participating. Your words were very helpful and encouraging.
10:04:04	From Shea Hamilton   ICW: Thanks for encouraging a more systems-oriented approach, Mercy! I love what Highline PS is doing around pointing out the barriers on websites. Such a good idea!
10:05:58	From Amelia Moore: Yes, thank you for sharing your insights Mercy! You raise critical points to consider in systems change.
10:07:16	From Paul Francis: Excellent work Kim! Thank you.
10:07:24	From Scott Friedman: Great work Kim!
10:07:32	From Julie Garver: +1 to Terri's comment. Same for Washington public baccalaureate institutions. In addition, all institutions have or are in discussions regarding permanent test optional. Also, we have and are increasingly using multiple measures for admissions.
10:08:33	From Sei Fleming: Thank you for speaking to the "summer melt" issues (Mercy). The loose hand-off from HS to post-plan transition is a major concern.
10:09:07	From Sativah Jones: Thank you Shea! The most powerful part of it has been Highline Colleges response and partnership to eliminate these barriers. They've also helped us understand how we can better prepare students for post-secondary transition. It proves how essential K-12 and post-secondary partnerships are.
10:14:24	From Michael Meotti: we've been in contact with the Chehalis Initiative going back 4 years.... I think before the direct admission work started. Kevin Smith and his brother were philanthropic leaders on this, and we speak with Kevin often.
10:17:20	From Rachelle Sharpe: Registration while in HS - allows for the seamless transition parallel to the MS to HS transition. Brilliant!
10:18:13	From Jan Yoshiwara: Thank you Robert and Brian, terrific work as partners, continuing to build year and year!
10:19:49	From Julie Garver: Critical to this work will be to ensure students have academic preparation and student supports so they can take this work and be successful in this transition.
10:23:42	From Michael Meotti: partnerships across colleges, universities and high schools would be a great way to address academic preparation issues.... we need to achieve both "college ready" students and "student ready" colleges
10:24:34	From Kim McDougall: I love that idea!!
10:27:01	From Julie Garver: Critical is that all of us are messaging to all students that if they want to go to college or do an apprenticeship program there is a place for them in Washington.
10:32:32	From Jeff Charbonneau: I was concerned with the topic title of changing the goals - but I am FULLY on board with the updates!!!
10:35:57	From Yazmin Aguilar: Moving from equality to equity is vital!
10:39:31	From Mercy Daramola: Is the goal intended to reflect that the credentials are from students/young people that have been educated by Washington State's K-12 and postsecondary systems?
10:39:33	From Scott Friedman: Completely agree with all that has been shared.
10:40:07	From Gail Wootan: I'd like to encourage that we go beyond this and also include what % we'd have to increase for each population.
10:41:57	From Rachelle Sharpe: @Mercy - good question - it does include adults that need to be re-engaged. All of what we have talked about today thus far to improve direct postsecondary attendance and reaching adult learners are key to reach the 70% across all racial/ethnic sub-groups.

10:42:29	From Gray Sterling: The sentiment makes sense, but I do want to reemphasize that the wording requires some work to make the commitment to BIPOC communities and the respective goal clearer.
10:44:36	From Kim McDougall: I have to leave but have really appreciated the portion of the meeting that I was able to make...I am happy to join continuing conversations and share what we are doing here at WSU Vancouver! Thank you all for your work and support! kmcDougall@wsu.edu
10:47:20	From Brian Jeffries: @Mercy - the WSAC/state goal is based on adults aged 25-44 includes ALL residents, not just those educated in WA K-12 and postsecondary systems. In other words, it's a census-based goal. Our Washington Roundtable 70% goal is specifically based on the percentage of students from our K-12 schools earning a postsecondary credential by age 26. That is one big difference between the two goals.
10:48:17	From Mercy Daramola: Thanks for the clarification Brian
10:49:28	From Michael Meotti: that difference may be more a matter of technical aspects of metrics. clearly all of WSAC's work and its strategic plan is focused on how to increase that metric through increased educational success of WA students of all ages.
10:57:10	From Melia LaCour: Thanks Jan!
10:58:12	From Mercy Daramola: Thanks Mike- that's what I was picking up on
11:01:54	From Jeff Charbonneau: I apologize, I need to attend to an emerging issue briefly - I will return. I am in agreement with the report and recommendations.
11:02:34	From Savanna Navarro Kresse: Absolutely, Yazmin.
11:04:41	From Michael Meotti: I learned a lot from Yazmin during her year on the Council....and continue to do so!
11:04:44	From Heather Hudson: Thank you, Yazmin-- appreciate all your contributions!
11:10:17	From Gail Wootan: Thank you to Melia for guiding both the Council and the agency on this work. It is imperative that the Council works with staff to move this work forward as Jeff is saying. Luckily, there are other models out there, like OR, in addition to Melia's excellent recommendation to make this happen.
11:39:01	From Rachelle Sharpe: <a href="http://www.compass.wa.gov">www.compass.wa.gov</a>