WASHINGTON STUDENT
ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL
EDUCATION · OPPORTUNITY · RESULTS

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Council Meeting Minutes
May 24, 2022
8:30am
Zoom

Members Attending (alphabetical by last name):
Alejandro Alcantar, Jeff Charbonneau, Paul Francis, Evangelina Galvan Shreeve, Sativah Jones, Chris Reykdal, Dr. Terri Standish-Kuon, Davon Thomas, Jeff Vincent, and Jan Yoshiwara.

Staff Attending (alphabetical by last name):
Don Bennett, Amy Buck, Abby Chien, Lindsay Cunningham, Crystal Hall, Heather Hudson, Carla Idohl-Corwin, Isaac Kwakye, Kara Larson, Ami Magisos, Michael Meotti, Luke Minor, Sean Morgan, Kara Larson, Daniel Oliver, Pablo Rodriguez, Stephanie Sampedro, Marcie Sample, Rathi Sudhakara, Katie Tallman, Becky Thompson, Marc Webster, and Sarah Weiss.

Meeting called to order at 8:32am

Consent Agenda
Motion made to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
Motion seconded.
Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes
Motion made to approve the March Council Meeting Minutes.
Motion seconded.
Motion carried.

Executive Director Update
Presenter: Michael Meotti

- o Received $1.5 million grant with CapitalOne led by Isaac Kwakye to expand Otterbot to 9th and 10th grades as well as fund evaluation and impact.
- o Partnered with University of Tacoma global designer Vivian McMillan to promote engagement in community using a proactive engagement mode that has been used in technology. WSAC is currently using this innovative approach to see if it can help improve work performance.

Regional challenge grants
Facilitator: Jeff Vincent
Material: Guiding Questions & Council Discussion Guide

Discussion: How do we bring this together? Today is all about seeking the guidance of the council and getting feedback to provide a guide for the questions we need to be thinking about or asking.

- o Added guided question to address how widely do we want these initiatives across the state? Should there be 3-4 areas in the state or should there be a wider dispersion?

- 60% of young adults currently move on post-secondary education. This is 9 points behind the national average and 16 points behind the east coast. We need to focus locally and find innovative solutions.
- Receiving $6 million in FY 2022-23 with a budget forecast to $8 million behind it for two years with hopefully endowments to partner alongside this.
- Draft of investment process in June with a chance of having a meeting in late July that needs to be schedule now and cancel it later if needed.

Comments, observations, and questions included:

- A lot less money than originally hoped for, so the geographic dispersion would depend on the investment. How much and how many grants over what amount of time would be a determining factor?
- In the initial year, show a smaller amount of demonstration grants with appropriate geographical dispersion and partnership that can be modeled and scaled up is the right approach to show the impact we are trying to see and be able to make the case for future funding.
- Don't leave out smaller communities. Being intentional about incorporating smaller community-based programs or make a new proposal to include them.
- Grants distributed across the state is compelling as we have policy makers across the state can be compelling. Including organizations that traditionally haven't participated in the higher education space could build and mobilize local support for this effort.
- Make the deliverables very few but important. In the proposal language ensure that language includes geographic distribution and have specific models that will be identified to show demonstration at different levels to show the impact as a demonstration pilot in more than one area.
- Are we thinking of making multi-year grants with this initial monies or are we assuming we are getting the future monies?
- We are launching quickly as we don't receive the money until after July 1, and we are going to hopefully have the RFP in the field by early September with the grant awards made by the end of the calendar year. We would probably do a year and a half or two year and half grant in this first phase so that we have trued up to the school year models and built up enough funds to do multi-year grants.
- Is the metric of students going not a systemic change? What are we trying to impact that will increase these results?
- In the long run our goal is to shrink the 40% that doesn't transition to college. We need to think about younger adults in the labor force that are not in a career pathway. The kind of supports they need are different. How do we change what we're doing in higher education to make it more relevant to a broader cross section of the population?
- Do we want to encourage or emphasize a couple proposals that are focused on adults? One avenue would be using an existing partner to expand it to adults or come in with a new partnership focusing on adults.
- There should be alignment between the population that the partnership is focusing on and who the partners are.

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Student supports: thinking beyond the COVID-19 pandemic
Facilitator: Jeff Vincent
Material: Student Supports Brief & Student Supports PowerPoint

Overview: How can Washington eliminate these barriers (housing and food insecurity, childcare, healthcare access etc.) of attainment for a student centered and proactive approach?

Comments, observations, and questions included:

- o   There is a post-secondary basic needs coalition that was launched in January and is building a strong foundation for state advocacy on basic needs for students with the steering committees being the Washington Student Association, United Way of King County, Communities for Colleges, and SBCTC.
- o   United Way of King County has a Benefits Hub is a one stop location that provides students with financial resources and tools to help them stay in school. This model looks at holistic support. Need to understand both short term and long-term support. How can we enroll people in basic food to give them the autonomy to make purchases to meet their needs and be a long-standing benefit? Cash assistance does provide the student with the most autonomy to meet their needs.
- o   Anti-Hunger and Nutrition Coalition sees the two biggest challenges for students as food security and housing security. Access to food stamps, SNAP, is the first line of defense and the most effective way to fight food security but it is a challenge for students to get food stamps. In the coming year, there will be more flexibility coming out from the USDA. How can we make sure that when students are on campus, they have access to food on campus?
- o   What would it take for us to accelerate this over the next couple years and get fundamental change around basic student support?
- o   The Washington Basic Needs Survey will be happening this Fall with the goal to have the data analyzed and a report ready in time for the legislative session.
- o   That survey is critical as we talk about how to help the state leaders and public understand this issue.

What would it take to make postsecondary education affordable?
Facilitator: Jeff Vincent
Material: Affordability Brief, Affordability Background & Affordability PowerPoint

Overview: Why are students not enrolling in two- and four-year institutions and other programs our there? Students don't see it as affordable. This begs the question of have we defined affordability correctly? Can we define affordability? How are our students defining that? What's making our young adults think school is not affordable right now?

Comments, observations, and questions included:

- o   Would it be beneficial to try to create, for the state of Washington, something to capture the affordability of higher education in Washington that cuts across a complex market of subsidy appropriations of institutions, financial aid, and tuition policy?
- o   It's not just about covering college going costs, it's about covering income support for the student and their family.

- o The conversation around what financial aid means is incomplete in regard to what aid is actually available to them, what they will get, what that process looks like, and how they can budget that. Once students can see that process students can see that post-secondary education is possible.
- o It's more than just the cost of tuition. We need to investigate not only grants for tuition but also sources like food stamps to help with the real cost of college.
- o How can we use WSAC's assets for the 529 plan for helping families who can save to save, but also this Future Fund idea so families have this incentive early on to be thinking about how they want to use that money?
- o How does affordability deter students from even starting college? In King County, 89% of students say they aspire to earn a two-year degree, yet only 29% had earned a degree by their mid-20's.
- o How can we build work into the post-secondary process as to not disincentive and actually encourage students to attend?

Conclusion: We need to educate and help students and families navigate what affordability means and that process. How do we not disincentivize people to be able to work as they go through that process? Can we find ways to do that without making themselves ineligible? On top of that, defining what affordable means and those costs.

Public Comment

See Appendix

Meeting Adjourned: 12:01pm

Appendix A
TVW meeting recording

Appendix B

08:32:03 From Executive Office to Waiting Room Participants:
        We will admit everyone soon... working on getting the hybrid meeting up and running.
08:39:27 From Chris Reykdal to Everyone:
        Audio is a bit faint from the main in-person room.
08:39:57 From Executive Office to Everyone:
        Will work to turn the mic up
08:40:13 From Wil Johnson to Everyone:
        I can hear the applause, but voices are difficult to hear.
08:41:07 From Lindsay Cunningham to Everyone:
        We can hear Chris on Zoom
08:41:11 From Brian Jeffries to Everyone:
        People on Zoom can hear Chris perfectly well
08:41:12 From Davon Thomas to Everyone:
        ^^
08:41:15 From Colleen Scovill to Everyone:
        I can hear Chris loud and clear. Council members faintly
08:41:16 From Wil Johnson to Everyone:
        Chris and Crystal were clearer.
08:41:20 From Pablo Rodriguez to Everyone:
        ^^
08:42:19 From Evangelina Shreeve to Everyone:
        This Evangelina I am here on video
08:48:32 From Shannon Ketcham to Everyone:
        We can hear on Zoom
08:49:09 From Lindsay Cunningham to Everyone:
        We can hear both Chris on Zoom and the Owl
08:49:56 From Larry Quintana, Reentry Navigator to Everyone:
        much better on the audio, thank you.
08:56:19 From Nova Gattman to Everyone:
        Can we get a mic for Mike (drum ... sorry) - I am catching every few words is all...
08:57:12 From Crystal (Host) to Everyone:
        meeting materials: wsac.wa.gov/meetings-2022
08:59:08 From Crystal (Host) to Everyone:
        Apologies to Evangelina Shreeve - we were having audio issues when we asked for
introductions. Evangelina, please introduce yourself in chat if you can.
08:59:30 From Crystal (Host) to Everyone:
        Welcome everyone, please introduce yourself in the chat: My name is Crystal Hall, WSAC staff
09:00:08 From Nova Gattman to Everyone:
        Good morning - Nova Gattman, Deputy Director for External Affairs at WA's Workforce Board.
09:00:34 From Lindsay Cunningham to Everyone:
        My name is Lindsay Cunningham, Administrative Assistant to the Executive Office at WSAC
09:00:39 From Ami Magisos to Everyone:
        Good morning! Ami Magisos, WSAC Policy & Planning
09:01:14 From Evangelina Shreeve to Everyone:

Good morning everyone - Evangelina Galvan Shreeve from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory - I am joining from an airport parking lot and will join you via audio and until about 10:30 am. Thanks.

09:01:19 From Katie Tallman (she/her) to Everyone:
      Katie Tallman, WSAC Communications

09:01:25 From Rathi Sudhakara to Everyone:
      Good morning! Rathi Sudhakara, WSAC Policy & Planning

09:01:32 From Brian Jeffries to Everyone:
      Brian Jeffries, Policy Director, Washington Roundtable

09:01:37 From Lindie Gardner to Everyone:
      Good morning. I am Lindie Gardner, Program Director at WWIN. We are a nonprofit that provides scholarships and career coaching to women in Washington state.

09:01:56 From Luke Minor to Everyone:
      Luke Minor, WSAC staff (college savings division)

09:01:57 From Jayme Shoun- Washington STEM to Everyone:
      Good morning- Jayme Shoun, Policy Manager at Washington STEM.

09:02:00 From Promise Partner, Kitsap Strong to Everyone:
      Good morning. My name is Promise Partner. I am the Future Bound Facilitator with Kitsap Strong/Graduate Strong.

09:02:04 From Molly Walker to Everyone:
      Hello! Molly Walker, Organizing Manager for the Washington Student Association

09:02:06 From Carla Idohl-Corwin to Everyone:
      Good morning! Carla Idohl-Corwin, WSAC Student Financial Assistance

09:02:27 From Marcie Sample to Everyone:
      Marcie Mills Sample, WSAC GEAR UP

09:03:06 From Daniel Oliver to Everyone:
      Daniel Oliver, WSAC Research

09:03:29 From Sean Moran to Everyone:
      Sean Moran, WSAC, College Access Initiatives

09:03:35 From Jon Stubblefield (he/him), Western Washington to Everyone:
      Good morning! Jon Stubblefield, Western Washington University, Resource Navigator for Basic Needs

09:05:19 From Shortt Sanchez to Everyone:
      Ellen Shortt Sanchez, The Evergreen State College Center for Community Based Learning and Action, we are a SSEH site with WSAC!

09:15:09 From Chris Reykdal to Everyone:
      A tough echo online at times. Multiple live mics are probably the source of the challenge. Perhaps no fix, but just letting the room know.

09:27:56 From Kara Larson (she/her) | WSAC Research to Everyone:
      It's difficult to hear some speakers; others, in comparison are very loud.

09:30:58 From Crystal (Host) to Everyone:
      Apologies for the sound, we are working out the kinks on how to get everyone connected both online and in the room.

09:34:12 From Kara Larson (she/her) | WSAC Research to Everyone:
      Can't hear the speaker

09:35:47 From Crystal (Host) to Everyone:

Live transcription is working and picking up the speakers in the room. I would encourage everyone to turn that on for themselves to aid in connecting to the room.

09:36:09 From Rathi Sudhakara to Everyone:

Was just going to say that, Crystal.

09:37:19 From Kara Larson (she/her) | WSAC Research to Everyone:

Thanks for the tip, Crystal

10:09:56 From Abby Chien she/her to Everyone:

Hi all - Abby Chien from the Policy Team (& the team working to facilitate this Regional Challenge Grant). If you have additional thoughts for feedback, we would love to continue to engage with you in the next few weeks! You can email me directly at abbyc@wasc.wa.gov

10:41:14 From Fred Kingston to Everyone:

https://cacollegepathways.org/data-initiative/

10:41:59 From Shea Hamilton to Everyone:

I appreciate your work, Fred! Thank you for sharing that student's story. I think it can be difficult for most people to put themselves in the shoes of individuals with limited resources.

10:42:22 From Joey Heilman (she/her) | Building Changes to Everyone:

There is no audio

10:42:58 From Fred Kingston to Everyone:

Thank you Shea! I agree. So important to listen to students as we think about solutions.

10:43:22 From Kara Larson (she/her) | WSAC Research to Everyone:

If someone is speaking, it's not getting captured. Could someone with a mic summarize?

10:44:04 From Chris Reykdal to Everyone:

No or low volume on most in the room

10:45:08 From Larry Quintana, Reentry Navigator to Everyone:

Good morning All, thank you for the invite. My name is Larry Quintana, Reentry Navigator at Tacoma Community College / WA State Dept. of Corrections (DOC). I am here to advocate for integrating a cultural competent tribal education for the incarcerated Native American Indian prison population. Thank you.

10:48:31 From Ami Magisos to Everyone:

Overview of the Washington Basic Needs Survey slated for Fall 2022: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1AeVuxIHvierfz6aoYlWdYnHRlWC70sKo/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=102786115036359363560&rtpof=true&sd=true

10:49:46 From Ami Magisos to Everyone:

Overview of the Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness Pilot (first 2 years, 6 institutions): https://wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-12-Supporting-Students-Experiencing-Homelessness-Pilot-Year-Two.pdf

10:52:16 From Ami Magisos to Everyone:

WA Postsecondary Food Insecurity report (ERDC/WSAC): https://erdc.wa.gov/publications/student-outcomes/exploring-food-insecurity-postsecondary-students-washington

10:52:36 From Fred Kingston to Everyone:

Yes Terri, Fostering Scholars is the "gold standard" in our state for students who have experienced foster care.

10:54:01 From Kara Larson (she/her) | WSAC Research to Everyone:

https://www.seattleu.edu/fosteringscholars/

10:55:21 From Fred Kingston to Everyone:

We also know most students who have experienced foster care currently enrolled in post-secondary are at community and technical colleges where resources tend to be more scarce. At Treehouse we are thinking through how to advocate for systems changes with equity in mind.

11:55:34 From Claire Lane, Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition to Everyone:

Jan is talking about the federal SNAP Education & Training program (in WA, BFET: Basic Food Education & Training program). BFET can provide support services (e.g. child care subsidies, transportation, tools/supplies/books, etc.) to people enrolled in food stamps. This is a great reason to ensure that eligible students are enrolled in food stamps because it helps them access other support services that help w/ persistence & completion. Currently, it's available only for CTC students (because of federal rules).

11:04:42 From Claire Lane, Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition to Everyone:

Unfortunately right now, kids enrolled in dual credit programs who qualify for free or reduced price school meals are rarely able to get those meals -- becuase they are at their college campus and can't access the meals they're entitled to from their high schools. We need to fix that gap for low income students who are trying to bridge that gap to college.

11:05:07 From Jake Garcia - NW Harvest to Everyone:

+1 Claire

11:06:56 From Fred Kingston to Everyone:

Beautiful Laura

11:08:29 From Crystal (Host) to Everyone:

Short break, we will continue at 11:20am

11:22:33 From Samie Iverson (she/her) Building Changes to Everyone:

Thank you all for letting me be a part of the Student Supports conversation. Looking forward to seeing what's next for supporting students in the post secondary space. I have to jump to another meeting and hope you have a great rest of the week.

11:23:07 From Crystal (Host) to Everyone:

Thank you, Samie! Really appreciate you joining us.

11:26:59 From Crystal (Host) to Everyone:

Please utilize hand raising in the virtual world to help us call on you.

11:34:19 From Chris Reykdal to Everyone:

Affordability is a function of price (housing, food, tuition, fees, transportation, etc., and "lost" income while going to college), AND it's a function of time. At our minimum wage (plus pay increases), four years of working right out of high school plus the present value of the costs to attend 4-6 years of college is now a $250,000 differential between the student who goes straight to work versus the one who goes straight to college. Add student debt for 10 years after college and the number grows even bigger. Generally that is made up over time, but students/families are losing trust that "any" B.A. will pay off over time. They tell us more and more that they want to work and earn their college credits and promotions while they learn on the job from their employer. We can have a huge impact on this calculation by shrinking the time to degrees and credentials.

11:37:38 From Wil Johnson to Everyone:

Agreed. The concept of any additional financial burden is a barrier.

11:40:39 From Wil Johnson to Everyone:

I would look at it through a lens similar to the concept of being "house poor" students and families are in a situation of being potentially "school poor".

11:42:49 From Wil Johnson to Everyone:

Middle school emphasis for families and students on financial management and planning.

11:43:11 From Wil Johnson to Everyone:

Not waiting until junior or senior year, if then.

11:53:06 From Crystal (Host) to Everyone:

Wonderfully said Evans Kaame!

11:56:12 From Crystal (Host) to Everyone:

Thank you, Emily

12:01:02 From Wil Johnson to Everyone:

Thank you for this conversation today.

12:01:08 From Victoria Hill to Everyone:

Thank you!

12:01:14 From Shannon Ketcham to Everyone:

Thank you!

12:01:14 From Lindsay Cunningham to Everyone:

Thank you all!

12:01:21 From Emily Portillo to Everyone:

Thank you!