

Title	Student Perspectives
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Synopsis	Student leaders from the Washington Student Association, Washington State Community and Technical College Student Association, and the Graduate and Professional Student Senate will provide their perspectives on legislative priorities and issues related to access and success in postsecondary education.
Guiding questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are students' priorities related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The affordability of postsecondary education? - The 2016 Legislative Session? • What do students believe increases access, retention, completion and successful employment post-program?
Possible council action	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Adopt <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Documents and attachments	<input type="checkbox"/> Brief/Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Third-party materials <input type="checkbox"/> Other



David N. Ruiz Romero
Columbia Basin College

David N. Ruiz Romero is the President of the Washington State Community and Technical Colleges Student Association (WACTCSA). David is currently seeking his Applied Baccalaureate degree at Columbia Basin College in the Cyber Security program. He has a Bachelor's of Science in Informatics from the University of Washington and a returning student at Columbia Basin College.

David is an application developer for the Pacific Northwest National Lab. He works primarily on software development for the custom development team and cyber security customer at the lab.

He is a first generation college student and a son of Mexican immigrants who is no stranger to opportunity. His father always encouraged him to strive for his personal best and pursue all his academic goals. He recognizes that our student body has a wide and diverse population but at heart they are all here for the same opportunity, to complete their education.

He now hopes to be that same voice of encouragement for the larger WACTCSA family that he now leads. Pasco has been his home for many years and now he hopes to help his hometown thrive and grow as a community. As the newly elected WACTCSA president he hopes to make the organization more transparent, well organized, and he is determined to work together for our common benefit.



Washington Student Association

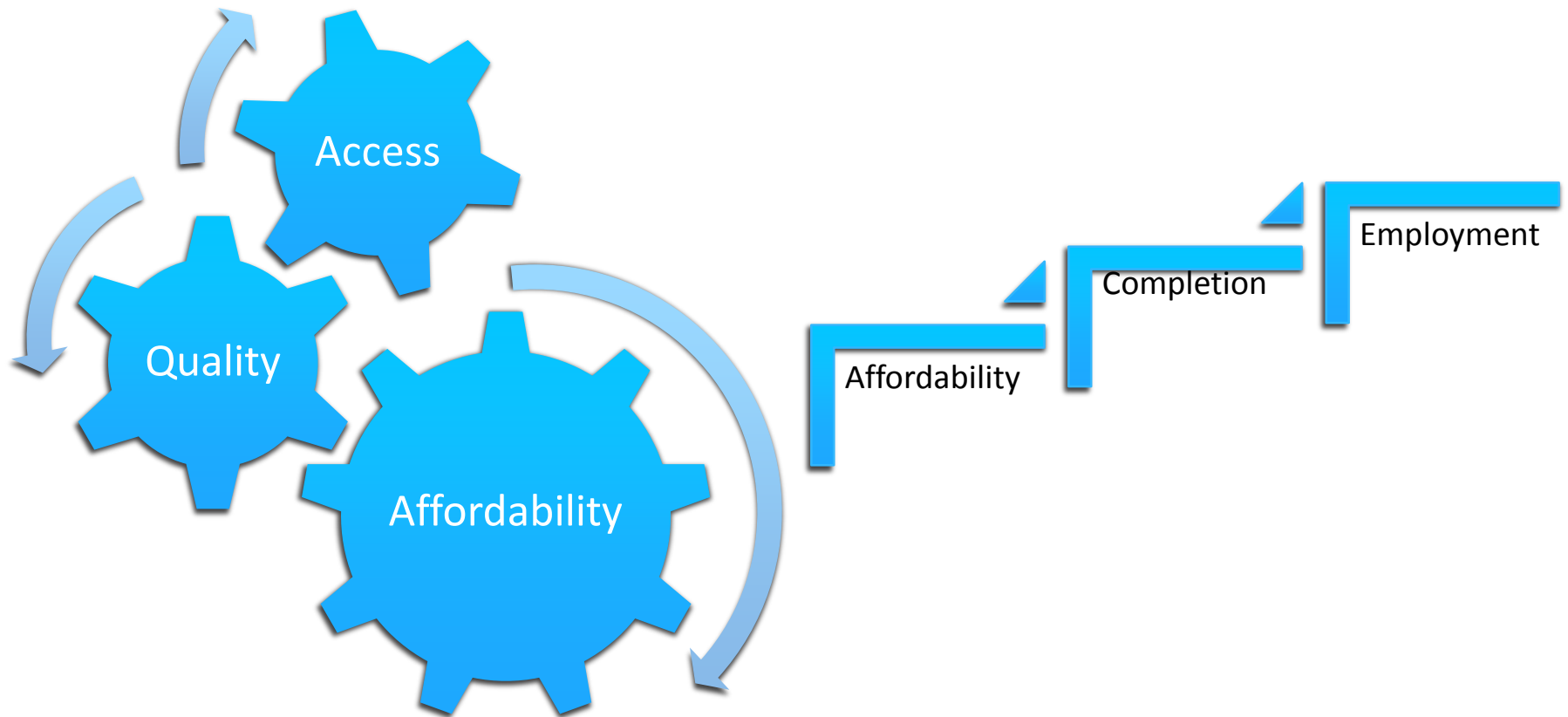
Elissa Goss, Executive Director



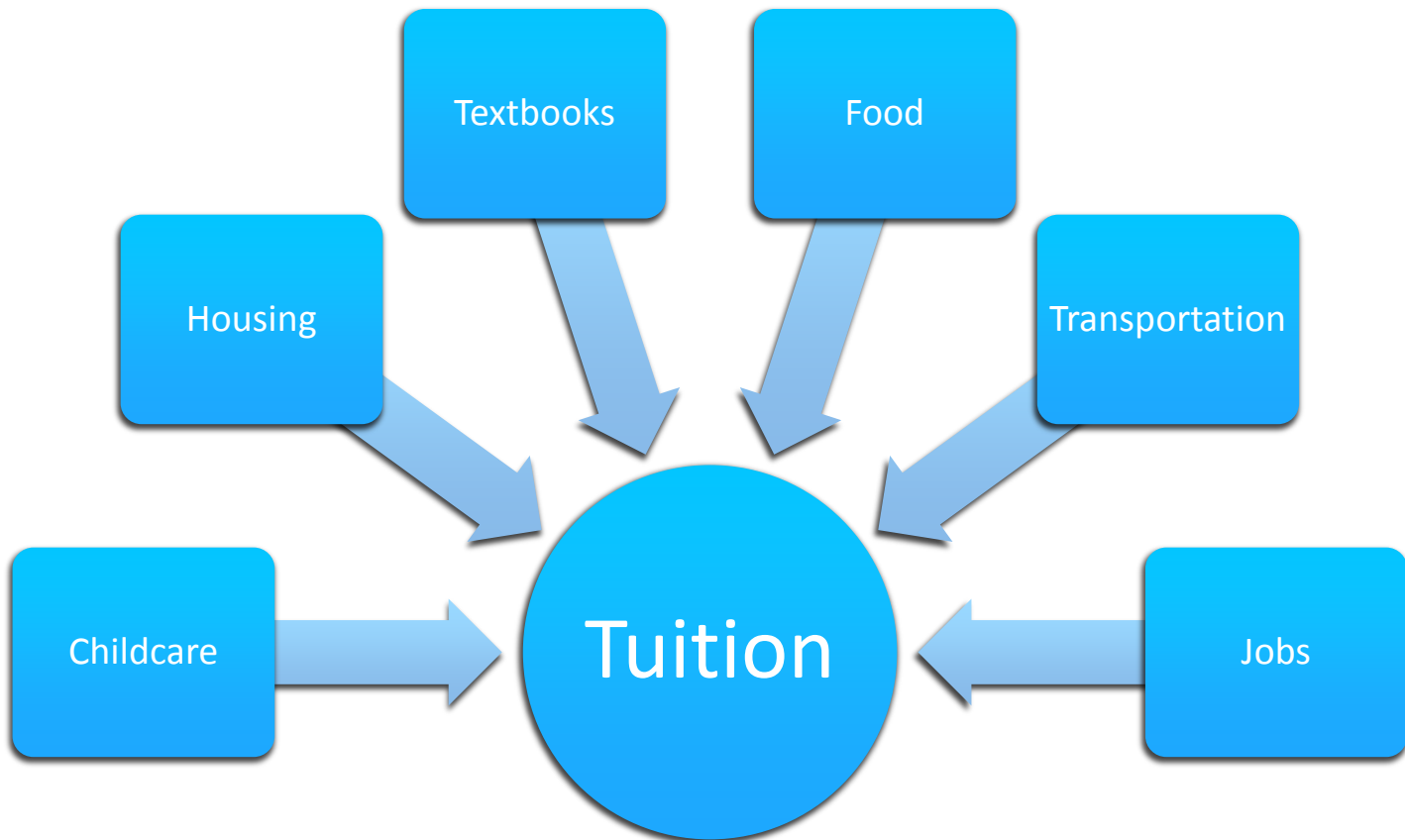


- Student created, funded and run
- 10 campuses and 13 members (150,000)
- Monthly Board of Directors meetings
- Only U.S. association with full-time student lobbyists

Mission



Affordability



Tuition

2014-2015

- Various affordability models being explored
- WSAC, ASUW, Lumina etc

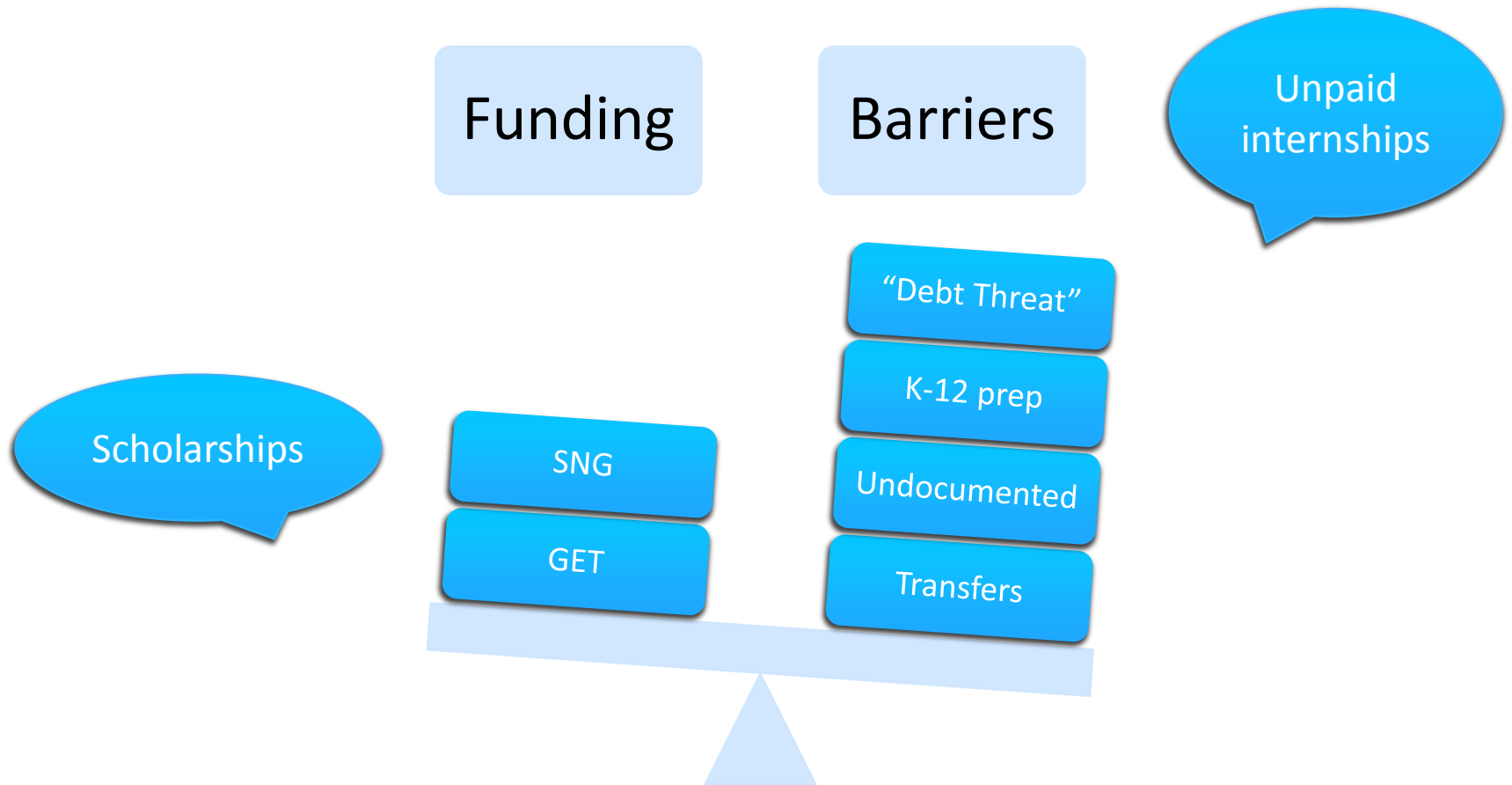
Fall 2015

- College Affordability Committee
- Representation from each member campus

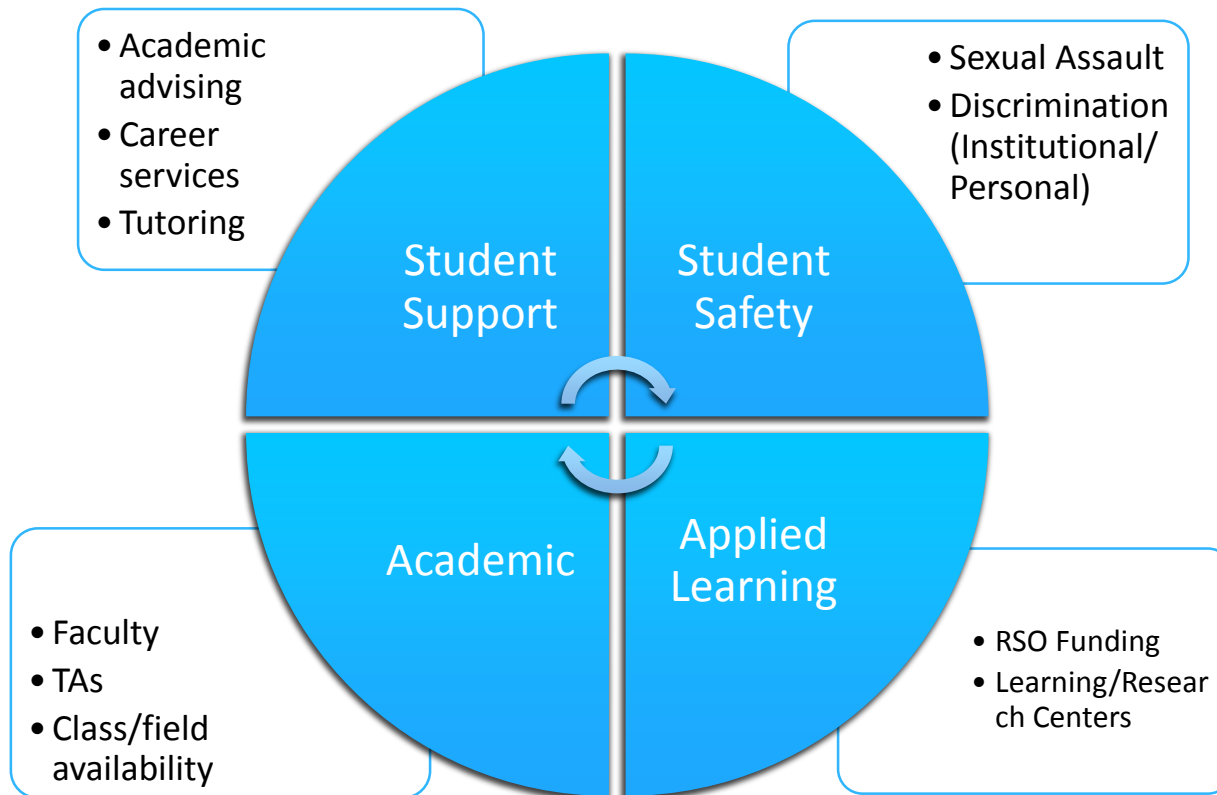
2016
Session

- WSA endorsed metric by December 12th, 2015
- Key aspects: Low tuition, tied to income, voluntary fees

Access



Quality



2016 Legislative Session

Affordability: Tuition level hold, State Need Grant, Graduate student expenses, Debt

Access: Voter registration, Students with disabilities

Quality: Advising support funding, Affirmative consent, Student Activity Fees

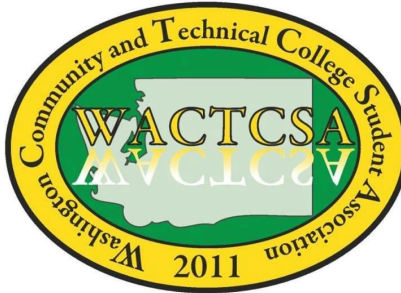


Further questions

Elissa Goss

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Washington Community and Technical College Student Association 2016 Legislative Agenda

The following issues were developed during 2015 Legislative Voice Academy by WACTCSA. This agenda represents the issues Washington State Community and Technical College students have identified as their highest priorities for advocacy during the upcoming year.

Post-Secondary Education for Inmates

National Studies clearly illustrate a clear correlation between educational opportunities for inmates and reduced likelihood to reoffend. Expansion of these educational opportunities has historically been a cost saver over time. Statutory action is required to address even the most basic steps to address this opportunity to increase public safety and ultimately free up resources for the state to reallocate to other areas of discretionary funding where it can serve other segments of the population as Higher Education.

Redefining basic Education as Kindergarten through Associate Degree (K-AA)

A basic education is a State Constitutional right for all Washingtonians. By 2019, Washington employers are saying two-thirds of the positions they will be seeking to fill will require at least one year of college education. By expanding the definition of basic education to include a post-secondary credential we are fulfilling our obligation to prepare students to meet the demands of our state's expanding economy.

Textbook Affordability & Open Educational Resources

The high price of textbooks and course materials has become a prohibitive barrier to student success. We support exploring options and funding solutions to this concern including further development and increased usage of open source materials.

EBT on Campus

by encouraging DSHS to seek waiver for Washington State Institutions of Higher Education to be recognized as EBT approved vendors, the State Legislature can send a consistent message that education is a path forward to self-sufficiency. Students should be able to purchase the same food using Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards on school campuses they can purchase with their card at off campus retail establishments. If this barrier is removed students will be empowered with more flexibility to utilize a broader range of campus services.