



COUNCIL CONVERSATIONS

WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2017 EDITION

WSAC TOURS STATE WITH WORKSHOPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Each fall, the Washington Council for High School-College Relations (WCHSCR) hosts a series of workshops for high school counselors across the state. The [Washington Student Achievement Council \(WSAC\)](#) is a partner in that work, providing updates on college access programs, financial aid, and related resources available to students and counselors. Attendees also hear from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and from public and private colleges throughout Washington.

Visit the [WCHSCR website](#) to register for any of the free workshops:

- Sept. 11: Western Washington University – Bellingham
- Sept. 12: Clover Park Technical College – Lakewood
- Sept. 13: Seattle Pacific University – Seattle
- Sept. 14: University of Washington – Bothell
- Sept. 15: Wenatchee Valley College – Wenatchee
- Sept. 18: Eastern Washington University – Spokane
- Sept. 19: Columbia Basin College – Pasco
- Sept. 20: Washington State University – Vancouver
- Sept. 21: Saint Martin's University – Lacey

PAVE THE WAY REGISTRATION OPEN

[Registration is now open](#) for Pave the Way 2017. The conference will take place October 19 at Central Washington University in Ellensburg.

The annual [Pave the Way conference](#) focuses on strategies to advance equity, increase college readiness, and broaden access to higher education in Washington State. Pave the Way aims to ensure students receive the support they need to succeed, regardless of income, race, or other potential barriers.

Pave the Way brings together educators, policymakers, and community partners from across the education system, from preschool through college. It features interactive group sessions and offers workshops focused on policy and practice in college and career readiness, culturally responsive teaching and learning, student transitions, collective impact, and more.

FINANCIAL AID REMINDERS FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

- [FAFSA](#) and [WASFA](#) financial aid applications for 2018-19 open October 1.
- 7th and 8th graders from low-income families may be eligible for the [College Bound Scholarship](#). Students can [sign up online](#) or talk to their school counselor for more information.
- [12th Year Campaign](#) events statewide help high school seniors and their families with applications for college admissions and financial aid. Schools wishing to participate as 12th Year Campaign sites can [sign up online](#).

INITIATIVE AIMS TO HELP ADULTS RETURN TO COLLEGE

The [Washington Student Achievement Council \(WSAC\)](#), along with partners from the education and business communities, has embarked on a statewide initiative to reengage adult students who have some college credit but have not yet completed a postsecondary certificate or degree. The Washington Adult Reengagement Framework will provide infrastructure and support for former students to achieve their academic and career goals.

The framework comprises three major components:

1. **Communications:** Outreach to potential returning adult students, and an online student portal for information and guidance.
2. **Cost:** Resources to address affordability-related obstacles, including access to financial aid and barriers related to student debt.
3. **Completion:** Collaboration with regional employers and higher education institutions to create career-focused and adult-friendly pathways to a meaningful credential.

The Washington Adult Reengagement Framework project is supported by grant funding from the [Lumina Foundation](#).

TRANSFER STUDENTS: FROM TWO-YEAR COLLEGE TO FOUR-YEAR DEGREE

In the 21st Century, there is no one right way to get a bachelor's degree. Many students find that the best fit for their lifestyle and goals is to start at a two-year college and later [transfer](#) to a four-year college. Students may prefer the proximity, cost, or smaller class sizes of their local community or technical college. And having completed a two-year degree can lead to better jobs as they continue their education.

Washington is a national leader in transfer policy. Since 1971, Washington's public community and technical colleges have offered [associate degrees that easily transfer](#) to four-year colleges and universities. Students generally enter with junior standing, sometimes with priority admission status.

Students with transfer degrees complete bachelor's degrees at a higher rate than students who transfer without a degree. Forty percent of bachelor's degree graduates from Washington's public colleges and universities transfer from the state's community and technical colleges.

Students who want to transfer from one college to another should talk to academic advisors at both schools. And they should make sure they understand their [rights and responsibilities](#) as a transfer student.

Students and counselors can find more information about [transfer opportunities](#) on the Washington Student Achievement Council's website.