



COUNCIL CONVERSATIONS

WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2018

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ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOLS:

Sign Up Now
to be a 2018-19
12th Year Campaign Site

Applying to college can be complicated, especially for students who also need to apply for financial aid.

High schools can help students navigate these processes by signing up to be a 12th Year Campaign site. Sites receive free printed resources, professional development opportunities, and more!



Learn more and register at:
bit.do/12th-year



Expanded Passport to Careers Program Supports Foster and Homeless Youth

The 2018 Legislature passed **Senate Bill 6274**, establishing the Passport to Careers program to help more Washington students—specifically, those who have been in foster care or who have experienced homelessness—prepare for careers.

The bill adds to the existing Passport to College Promise program, which has provided college scholarships and support services for foster youth who have been dependents of the state. Changes implemented as of July 2018 include expanded eligibility to youth in federal and tribal foster care and to students in pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships. The bill also adds eligibility for homeless youth beginning in 2019.

The **Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC)**, which administers the Passport program, is in the process of finalizing program details, updating materials, and working with partners to inform impacted students. WSAC will add **more information** to its website as changes are implemented.



CTE Students Can Make a Video—and Win a Prize!

The state's **Workforce Board** is sponsoring the *Get Real* Video Challenge, encouraging Washington's Career and Technical Education (CTE) students to shoot their own videos to help promote CTE. The first three students who create videos that **meet contest guidelines** will win \$25 gift certificates, up to \$75 per team.

In order to qualify, videos must showcase the value of hands-on learning. High production value is not a requirement—cell phone and other home videos are acceptable. All approved videos will be featured on www.CareerBridge.wa.gov, so even for those who don't win a gift card, fame is guaranteed!

The contest deadline is June 15, so don't delay! Get **video contest rules and more details** on the Workforce Board's website.

Students, Communities, and Policymakers Are Working Together to Reach State's Goals

By Peder Digre, UW Graduate Student and Member of the Washington Student Achievement Council



My term as student member on the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) coincides with the halfway point for the **Roadmap**. While the Roadmap's educational attainment goals are ambitious, they are achievable. My time on the Council has allowed me to observe the passion and commitment of students, parents, teachers, administrators, and community members to improve educational attainment in Washington and meet the needs of our state's growing economy. As a Council, we have a responsibility to harness this commitment to ensure the growth in attainment is equitable—making educational opportunities accessible and affordable for all.

During my time on the Council, I have been excited to be a part of conversations developing six lenses that frame WSAC's work to achieve the goals set forth in the Roadmap. These lenses—promoting equity, learning from a regional perspective, leveraging networks, aligning educational and career opportunity, understanding student experience, and harnessing innovation—provide us with tools to analyze our toughest problems and push for progress. I am particularly excited about the development of innovative **interactive dashboards**, which allow anyone to learn about their community's progress toward meeting the Roadmap goals.

This year has also seen major steps forward in the State Legislature for improving access and affordability, while also ensuring students who need the assistance of student loans are adequately protected during repayment. We received a pledge from legislators to fully fund the State Need Grant by 2021. The State Need Grant program has not been able to provide aid to all qualifying students since 2009. We also saw the Student Loan Bill of Rights passed and signed into law by Governor Inslee. The law increases oversight for student loan servicers and creates an advocate for the 800,000 citizens of Washington who collectively owe more than \$24 billion in student loans.

As the student member of WSAC, my role is unique. Student members are, in fact, full-time students and are only appointed for one-year terms. While this can be a barrier to crafting long-term initiatives at WSAC, it does not diminish the need for student voices at the table. I am proud to have been appointed to provide a student perspective, and I look forward to working with future student members who will bring valuable perspective and diversity of thought to the Council.

State Board of Education Invites Feedback for Strategic Plan

By Randy Spaulding, Executive Director of the State Board of Education

The **State Board of Education (SBE)** is actively engaging with partners to inform strategic priorities and initiatives that support student success. We are reaching out across the state to hear about the hopes and dreams of young people in our communities and what might need to change to fulfill those desires.

What is working in our communities that would benefit from support from the state? What are the barriers that policymakers could address to make our school system more responsive to the needs of students? The responses to these questions will inform the Board's priorities for the **2018 Strategic Plan** and guide our work over the next several years.

We anticipate that some of what we learn will impact policies and initiatives the Board is already engaged in. For example, we are collaborating with OSPI to implement a new accountability system—the Washington School Improvement Framework. We are working with partner organizations to enact a communication plan to advance the successful implementation of **Next Generation Science Standards** and continued sustainability of high-quality science education in our state. We are engaging with the Governor's Office and other agencies to increase opportunities for high-quality, relevant work-integrated learning opportunities, and to identify needed policy supports. In the coming months the Board will also be exploring competency-based education as a way to both personalize learning and make learning more relevant for students.

The Board remains committed to high standards for all students and advocacy for needed supports to better serve students, such as funding for student well-being programs, academic support programs, supports for ELL and special education, and resources to support educator training and professional development.

Right now is a fantastic time to engage with the Board, as we will be developing our priorities for our strategic plan over the coming months. Please join us for one of our regional forums or by sharing your thoughts using our **online feedback form**. A complete schedule of our meetings can be found on the **SBE website**.



2018 Timeline for Developing A New Strategic Plan

More information: www.sbe.wa.gov



Next Council Meeting:

August 15, 2018
Seattle

Our Mission: 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.