



Policy Development 2022

Stakeholder Engagement

July 16, 2021



Agenda and Objectives for Today

9:00am – 9:30am

Full Room: Introductions and Grounding

9:30am – 10:45am

Breakout Rooms: Emerging Policy Proposals

10:45am – 11:00am

Full Room: Debrief and Next Steps

- **Discuss and gather feedback** from diverse stakeholders on emerging policy proposals that will increase equity in postsecondary attainment
- **Learn about and elevate** local/regional policy proposals to increase equity in postsecondary attainment



Welcome! And, Zoom Considerations

- Full group portion and breakout rooms will be recorded for staff purposes
- Video on is encouraged (so we can see you!), but not expected
- Please allow space for all people to speak; notice if it's time for active listening or speaking up
- In any conversation, especially ones that inherently involve systemic power (race, class, gender, etc.), people will show up to the conversation with different backgrounds/real lived experiences and embodied expertise. Please be respectful and be mindful of the potential unintended impact of your language. Please take a moment to reflect on WSAC's equity statement



The Council



Jeff Vincent, Chair
CEO & President
Laird Norton Company,



Jan Yoshiwara, Vice Chair
Executive Director
State Board for Community and
Technical Colleges



Jeff Charbonneau, Secretary
Principal
Zillah School District



Evangelina Shreeve
Director
Pacific Northwest National
Laboratory



Paul Francis
Executive Director
Council of Presidents



Sativah Jones
Assistant Director of College
and Career Readiness
Highline Public Schools



Chris Reykdal
Superintendent
Office of Superintendent of
Public Instruction



Dr. Terri Standish-Kuon
CEO & President
Independent Colleges of
Washington

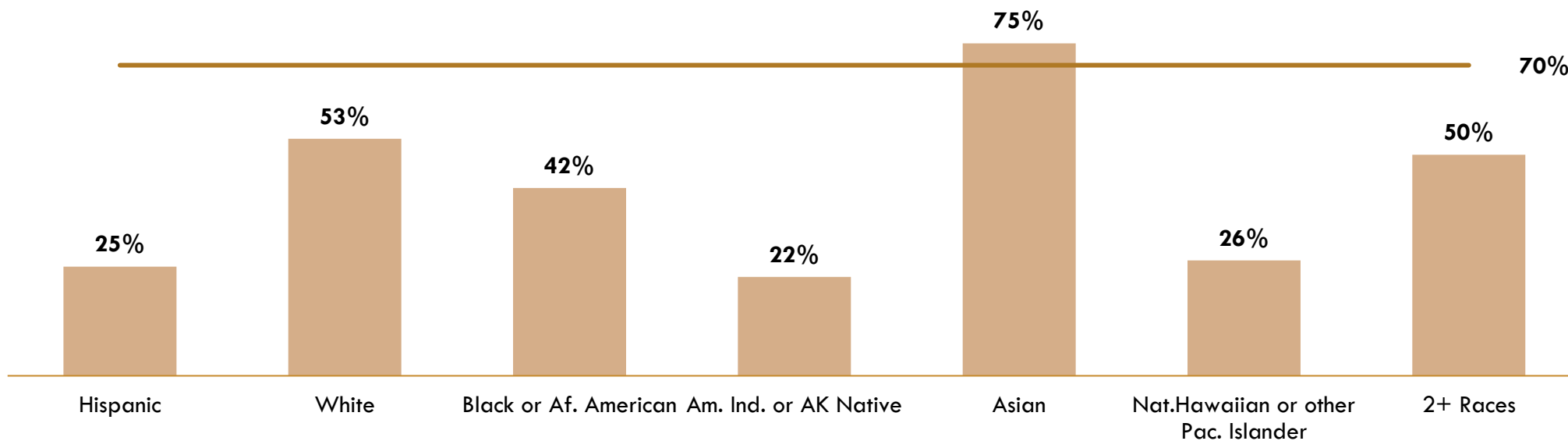


Alejandro Alcantar
Student
Central Washington University



Washington's postsecondary attainment goal

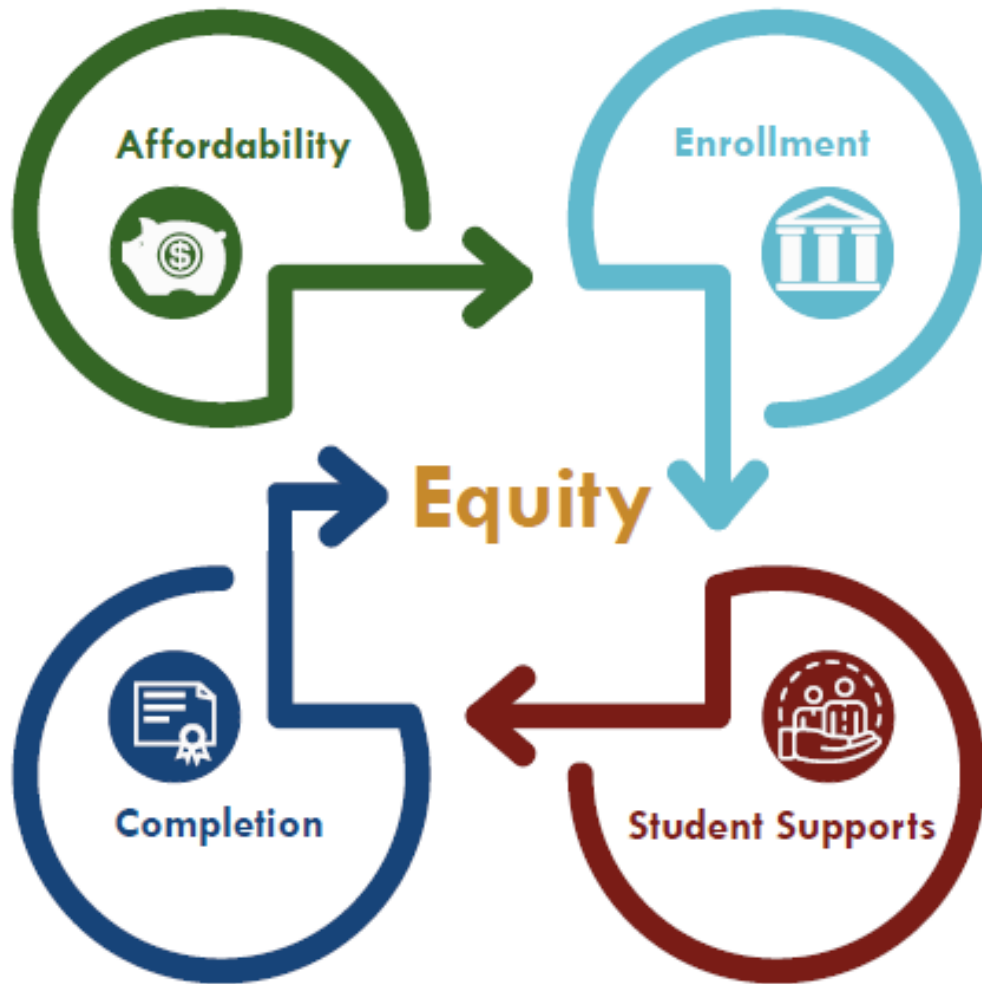
At least 70 percent of Washington adults, ages 25-44, within each racial and ethnic community and region, will have a postsecondary credential. Currently, an estimated 62% percent of Washington's adults have a credential beyond high school.



Proportion of WA adults, age 25-44, with postsecondary credentials, 2018.



Strategic framework



If we build an **affordable** and **supportive** educational environment, more Washington residents will **enroll** in and **complete** a credential-bearing program.

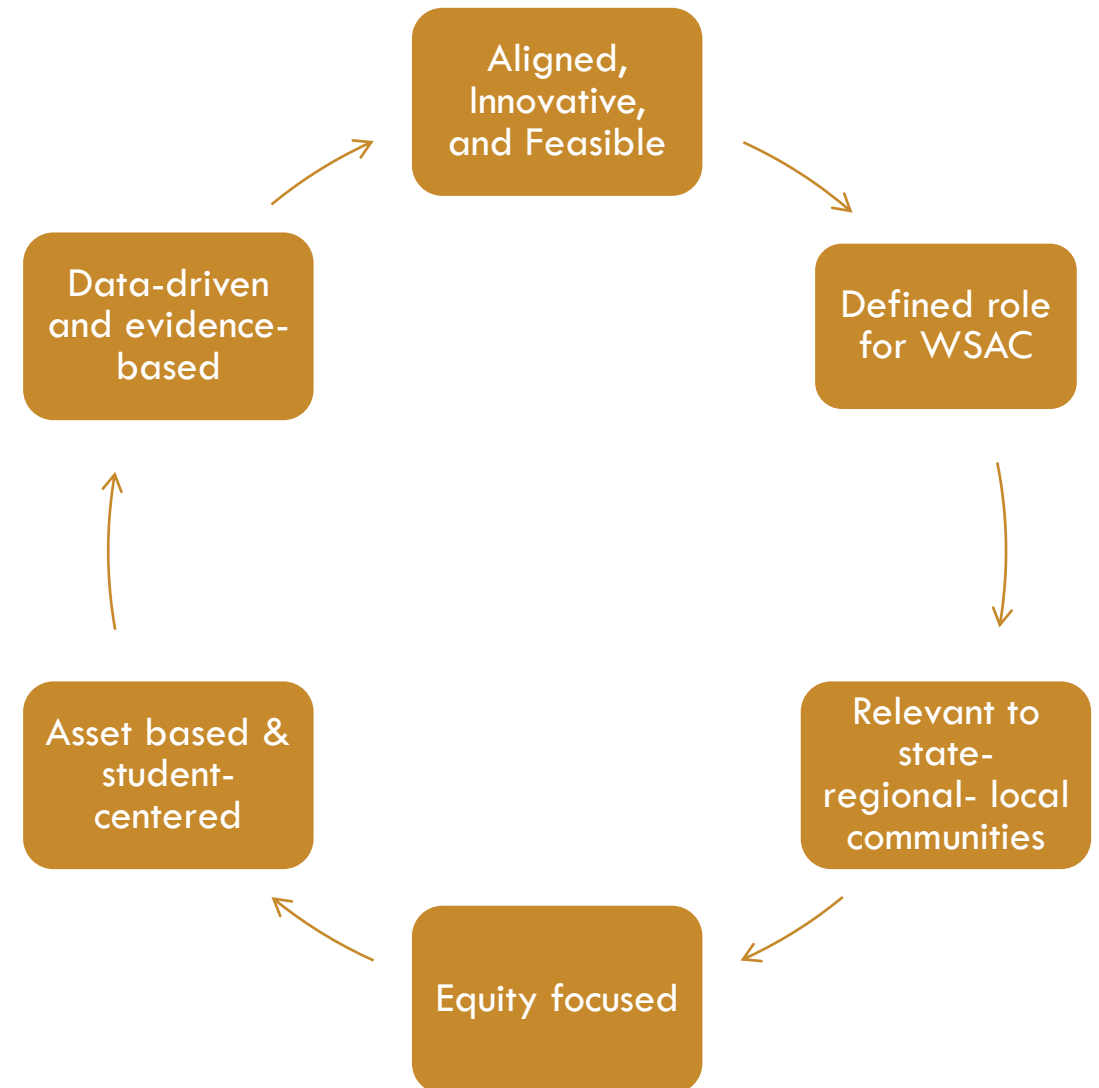
Equity is an outcome in which justice is realized within our society through a continuous, intentional process of identifying and abolishing racism and all forms of oppression designed to marginalize students, communities, and families who are Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, regardless of immigration status, and all oppressed groups.

WSAC Equity Definition



Approach for considering state policies

1. Will the policy help students of color and low-income students?
2. Is there evidence or data that the policy will advance the cluster?
3. Does the policy center and value students' experience?
4. Do regional and/or local communities or partners see value in the policy?
5. Is there a clear opportunity for WSAC and others to play a role?
6. Is it feasible to accomplish the policy (\$, political will, alignment with other initiatives etc.)?



Start the presentation to see live content. For screen share software, share the entire screen. Get help at pollev.com/app

How well is Washington doing in terms of increasing the postsecondary attainment rate?

Excellent **A**

Good **B**

Okay **C**

Not Great **D**

Very Badly **E**

How well do you think Washington is doing in terms of increasing equity in postsecondary attainment?

Excellent

Good

Okay

Not Great

Very Badly



Increasing Equity and K12 Postsecondary Enrollment

Context and Proposals



Equity and K12 Postsecondary Enrollment

- Students are experiencing **profound disruptions in learning, with disproportionate impacts on communities of color and low-income students**
- WA K12 direct **postsecondary enrollment has been stagnant - 60% for the past ten years**
 - Postsecondary enrollment in Washington was down 13% in the fall of 2020 compared to the prior year, with a greater decline in 2-year institutions and a greater decline for many students of color
- **FAFSA completion rates are down, and for low-income students and students of color, completion rates are disproportionately lower**
 - Less than 40% of high school seniors in the state completed a FAFSA by the end of March 2021—five percentage points lower than the statewide FAFSA completion rate in March of 2020.
- **Dual Credit programs can increase postsecondary enrollment for BIPOC and low-income students, but many students can't afford the cost and BIPOC and low-income students are not participating at an equitable rate**
 - For example, Hispanic/Latino students made up 20% of the class of 2017 but made up only 17% of CiHS and 14% of RS participants from the class of 2017.



Emerging proposals to increase equity and K12 postsecondary enrollment

1. Establish a Career and College Promise Community Challenge Fund to increase college going pathways for BIPOC and lower income students by investing in local communities

- WSAC would award grants to fund partnerships between districts/schools, higher education, and local community organizations to increase college and career readiness pathways starting as early as middle school (College Promise/Collective Action model)
- The state would use federal and state funds to create a dedicated fund of \$250M to provide challenge grants to existing and new community-based career and college promise collaborations and match local support (both cash and in kind) at a 4-to-1 rate
- Grant applicants would need to address key strategies shown to increase enrollment, focused on equity



Emerging proposals to increase equity and postsecondary enrollment

2. Create a Statewide College and Career Advising Fellowship to pay college students to be college and career planning peer and near peer mentors

- Students work closely with existing groups like College Success Foundation and WSAC to help students with FAFSA/WASFA, applying to colleges, navigating dual credit courses and accessing other college-going activities/resources
- Students would be representative of students furthest from attainment goal, including students from low-income backgrounds, first generation, and identifying as BIPOC
- Students would be representative of the geographic diversity of Washington and would be assigned to their local region and communities to work with K12, CBO's, and other community partners
- State work study could be used as a vehicle to support this by waiving the state employer match; with an investment of \$1 million, at least 300 students a year could be employed to increase equity and help more K12 students pursue and apply to financial aid and college.



Emerging proposals to increase equity and postsecondary enrollment

3. Invest in regional student data management systems that cross sectors to respond to real-time student progress and equity measures

- The State would make a one-time investment to develop technology systems in 3-5 regional partnerships.
- High school personnel could track student progress in concurrent enrollment courses in real-time.
- Students could track their college credits earned & understand how they apply towards a degree and/or career.
- The technology would support automatic, electronic sharing of student transcripts between K12 & higher education to ease burden of staff time.
- Integrate & improve the SERS database system for CCW and CTE Dual Credit.
- Embed equity measures to identify if racial or economic disparities exist and empower K12 and higher ed staff to respond to close disparities.
- State data on student financial aid applications could be embedded into system for K12 partners to see progress.



Emerging proposals to increase equity and postsecondary enrollment

4. Establish a statewide dual credit fund that is simple and transparent to ensure all high school students can access a dual credit program, at no cost.

- Start with increasing the state investment to fully fund CiHS so that all low-income students in 11th and 12th grade can access college credit for free
- Funds would cover dual credit tuition costs for all low-income 11th and 12th grade students; students cannot be charged for books or other related costs (K12 districts would pay for books and any other costs)
- The state funding could also cover alternative types of dual credit programs, like P-TECH, that support career connected learning and lead towards a postsecondary credential.
- In the future the state would cover test/exam fees for AP, IB and Cambridge for low-income students



Emerging proposals to increase equity and postsecondary enrollment

5. Extend OtterBot texting support to cover the full cycle of College Bound Scholarship students, from middle school through 12th grade

- Currently the AI texting service is only available to 12th graders; this proposal would increase funding to cover students from 7th -12th grade

6. Support statewide additional positions for regional technical assistance on financial aid (12th Year campaign)

- Currently WSAC has limited staff capacity to support all regions in the state; this proposal would increase funding to ensure each region had technical assistance with financial aid



Questions for break out discussion

- What do you think of these proposals and/or what questions do you have?
- What, if anything, is missing from these proposals?
- Do you think any of these proposals will have a particularly positive impact on BIPOC students, undocumented students, and other students furthest from our attainment goal?



Ensuring postsecondary students access to basic needs

Context and Proposal



Postsecondary Students' Basic Needs

- **Postsecondary students' basic needs are not being met, their circumstances have been exacerbated due to the pandemic, and racial inequities have been exacerbated**
- During the spring of 2020, almost three in five college students experienced some form of basic needs insecurity, including housing insecurity, food insecurity, or homelessness.
- In Washington (in the fall of 2019), 41% students reported food insecurity and 51% students reported housing insecurity.
- The pandemic has exacerbated inequities for BIPOC communities---of CTC students, 55% American Indian or Alaskan Native students, 54% of Black students, and 47% Hispanic or Latinx students said they struggled to put food on the table, compared to less than 40% of white students.



Emerging proposals to address postsecondary students' basic needs

- 1. Embed a model of funding in postsecondary education that would ensure students receiving WCG will also receive food**
 - All WCG low-income students would be informed of and supported to apply for SNAP
 - For eligible WCG students not enrolled in SNAP, colleges and universities would have extra “food funding” to guarantee food that could be automated upon enrollment
- 2. Fund statewide local navigators who guide and support all students and community members to access public benefits and other emergency or basic needs resources.**
 - Navigators could be housed by a community-based organization or higher education institution and would serve all postsecondary students and community members in the area
 - Navigators would serve as a single point of contact for individuals and gather data on students' basic needs to inform campus and community basic needs supports.



Emerging proposals to address postsecondary students' basic needs

3. Determine the prevalence of postsecondary students' unmet needs - for food, housing, childcare, mental healthcare, digital access- on campus, regional and state levels by implementing an annual coordinated assessment and conducting research on barriers to access.

- Unmet needs data would be disaggregated by race and ethnicity, income, gender, ELL status, and student status to reveal populations with disparate access and drive targeted solutions.
- Regional analysis of needs should serve as a foundation for regional partnership development and investments. Regional analysis can also point to approaches for coordinated data collection practices for longer-term impact.
- In addition to the annual assessment, a robust state-level landscape analysis and regional opportunity study should be developed on postsecondary access to housing, childcare and mental/behavioral health care.



Emerging proposals to address postsecondary students' basic needs

4. Support postsecondary students experiencing homelessness by expanding pilot grants for *Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness* to all public two and four-year institutions.

- Provide pilot grant funding opportunity for all public institutions to establish and coordinate innovative campus and community services, incentivize local partnerships and ensure students have housing stability through direct assistance and referrals.
- Pilot sites evaluate intervention impacts on students' persistence and attainment. Pilots complete an equity analysis of students served and services provided, which guides a formative evaluation and course corrections during the pilot. A broader range of institutions will inform a more comprehensive state report on findings in 2024.
- A quarterly statewide learning community engages cross-sector leaders on challenge areas and highlights effective partnerships to support students experiencing homelessness.



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What more should Washington do to address affordability, and ensure students persist and earn a credential?

Context and Proposal



Unemployment + Postsecondary Education + Pandemic

→ The high unemployment rates due to the pandemic presents an opportunity for many individuals to pursue a postsecondary pathway to earn a credential and improve their future potential earnings

- Unemployment rates have spiked, with BIPOC communities experiencing higher rates of job loss.
- In May 2020, the unemployment rate in Washington for those with only a high school diploma (18%) was almost twice the rate of those with a bachelor's degree (9%)
- Many jobs expected to be recovered after the pandemic will require at least some postsecondary education beyond high school
- Those with higher educational attainment are more likely to be employed in high-paying jobs



Additional proposals to increase equity and postsecondary attainment

1. Connect current students on-track to graduate with paid internships and other career connected learning opportunities

- Fund industry sector partnerships with business, labor and include postsecondary institutions to create pathways from college to career

2. Include adult learner projects as part of the Career and College Promise Community Challenge Fund proposal, specifically targeted on college going pathways for BIPOC and lower income adult students

- Address the unique needs of adult learners in recruitment and enrollment strategies through college partnerships with trusted community organizations serving BIPOC and low-income communities.
- Outreach strategies can include in-person and virtual events in partnership with trusted community organizations and in preferred languages of target BIPOC communities.



Additional proposals to increase equity and postsecondary attainment

3. Include adult peer mentors to support outreach and enrollment of adult learners, similar to the Statewide College and Career Advising Fellowship for K12 direct enrollment.

- Current adult students' representative of the target BIPOC and low-income communities would partner with colleges and community-based organizations for targeted outreach activities and mentorship of adults considering education and training.
- Adult student mentors would inform strategic planning for adult learner engagement within BIPOC and low-income communities. Adult student mentors would be compensated through Work Study funding.

4. Establish Children's Savings Account's (CSA) for every Washington baby born to make college affordable and support their postsecondary pathway

- CSA's could be automated by the child's birth certificate
- All families enrolled in TANF would automatically receive \$100 put into their account
- Local philanthropy could match accounts for families in certain regions with low postsecondary enrollment rates



Questions for break out discussion

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Thank you! And, Next Steps

- Exit Survey
- Two more stakeholder sessions:
 - **August 18th, 9am-11am**
 - **August 19th, 9am-11am**
- Council meeting discussion and vote in September